



# Ferguson Report



Vol. 3 No. 3

*"Go ye unto all the world"*

March 2006

## Mary's Expenses Raised

When we first began the process of raising support for Mary's expenses to travel with me to Chimala in May, I honestly had no idea how quickly the response would be. But brethren, your responses have been overwhelming and very humbling. Two weeks had probably not passed before the first funds were received. After that first response, it seemed almost daily that funds were either coming in, or we would get a call or e-mail stating that funds were on their way. When the total funds she needed were raised, I began offering to return donations that were still coming in; but I was allowed to keep the amounts for my future trip expenses. Just recently, an elder or member would ask how Mary's fundraising was going and if she still needed anything else. All we want to do is God's will, and the Lord has answered, "Yes." From the bottom of our hearts, we are extremely grateful.

All this reminds me of a great Bible principle that is harder to practice than to understand: God wants us to claim His promises, and He is well-able to provide the means to do just that. As Israel was poised just east of the Jordan River valley in the plains of Moab, God told them to go across and take the land of promise, "*for I have given you the land to possess it*" (Num. 33:53). God had given it to them but they had to go in and claim it. In another example, while Joshua contemplated the great walled city of Jericho, the Lord encouraged him, "*See, I have given into thine hand Jericho*" (Josh. 6:2). Before the first step had been taken to march around that city, God said, "*It's yours.*"

God is the same Provider today as He was then. He still tells us to "*Go*" and "*make disciples.*" He gives the duty, the means, and the promises. All we need is to lay claim to what He already wants us to do. Then, do it! He will provide. It's that simple. The real challenge is with our faith (cf. 2 Cor. 9:8-10).

As I have said in the past, I have confidence in my brethren. You have not let me down in the past and I don't expect you will in the future; for we are the "*body of Christ.*" Christ, the Head, works through His body, the church. Once we see what God sees, and want what God wants the means will be given. Howell

## BVBID Extension Program News

As readers of this newsletter already know, the BVBID extension program is a work of the Bear Valley church of Christ in Denver, Colorado. The Chimala Bible College in southern Tanzania of which I am the coordinator, is one of a number of our foreign preacher training schools. We call them "our" schools not in the sense of establishing or controlling these fine mission works, but in the sense of what we offer them. We incorporate our Bible college program in partnership with selected mission points that seek our assistance in the overall task of training and developing nationals to take the gospel to their native peoples. We are able to acquire the services of preachers and teachers within our great brotherhood who are not only qualified academically, but more importantly, men who are also sound, experienced, and do care. And all this is done on a voluntary basis. We believe it is a work worthy of support as well as bright in its future.

The Chimala Bible College in southern Tanzania is currently in its 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter for this year. There are six new students with five enrolling in the undergraduate program and one student from Zambia enrolling in the Master's program. I am also told there are several men from Malawi who are interested in enrolling in the fall. As word continues to spread we anticipate having the CBC filled to capacity (25) in a very short amount of time.

Probably you remember from last year's newsletters that we purchased and shipped an assortment of housing and office furnishings to Tanzania for CBC. The New York Ave. congregation ships containers occasionally as is needed. After the container arrived in Dar-es-Salaam there were a number of odd circumstances that delayed the clearing of the container. Finally, after ten months of wrangling and praying the container was finally cleared and trucked to Chimala. In addition to the things we shipped, there was also a Risograph machine, a brush mower, a commercial washing

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to:

**WESTSIDE CHURCH  
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***“Ferguson Mission”***

Monthly commitments and one-time  
donations still needed

***Bear Valley Bible Institute of  
Denver***

A work of the Bear Valley Church of  
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machine for the hospital, and many other specialty items. Anyone who has ever lived in a foreign mission field knows how valuable these containers are.

The visit Mary and I plan to make to Chimala in May/June is just around the corner. While Denton Landon and I are teaching short courses at CBC, Mary will be teaching the student wives and teaching “Bible Knowledge” at the Chimala Primary School. Just recently, brethren Wayne Burger and Michael Hite, both instructors at BVBID, returned from teaching short courses at Chimala. The responses from the Chimala brethren to their classes have been very complimentary. Bernard Kulanga wrote in an e-mail: “Truly, you sent us the giants of the Bible...please send them again.” Thank-you Wayne and Michael!

Other BVBID extension schools that are currently in operation include the Andrew Connally School of Preaching in Arusha, Tanzania; the Kramatorsk School of Biblical Studies in Kramatorsk, Ukraine; the National Bible College in Chennai, India; the Bible School of the Americas in Panama City, Panama; and the Bible School of the Americas in Lima, Peru. If you are interested in receiving updated information on these schools contact BVBID at (303) 986-5800. You will be given the contact information for the particular coordinator of that school.

David Hamrick, the director of the BVBID

extension program, is always on the look-out for potential opportunities around the world to establish new preacher-training schools. The extension school in Lima, Peru is the latest addition to the list. Other hopeful locations include Romania, Cambodia, Zambia, Surinam, and Chile. Recently, David returned from Cambodia with exciting news about the need for an extension school in that part of Southeast Asia. In fact, David is often “stretched” pretty thin traveling around the world in response to continuous invitations to look at prospective school locations. Consequently, the rest of the BVBID extension staff is sometimes called upon to conduct a survey trip. Lord willing, I will be traveling to Guyana and Surinam this summer to survey a potential opportunity in that part of the world. In addition, there are at least two possibilities that I am aware of for an extension school in Zambia.

In April, the extension staff will have a planning & brain-storming meeting in Denver. In Aug-Sept., I will likely be traveling back to Chimala for two more short courses. Later in Nov., I have tentative plans to teach a short course in Panama. And these are only the trips that I am aware of!

Seventy extension schools in fifty years is Bear Valley’s dream. As you can see, with God’s blessings the dream is on its way to becoming a reality!

Howell