Wagner October/November 2026 Mission Report

ZIMBABWE/MALAWI/TANZANIA



On October 12th, my wife and I travel from Memphis to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe for a 10th anniversary graduation ceremony. I was proud to be invited to attend and speak during the momentous event. I was able to meet several key church leaders from Zimbabwe and even some unexpected friends! During the event, we were even interviewed for an online program.



After visiting Zimbabwe for their graduation ceremony, we (Donnie Estep and my wife and I) flew from Bulawayo to Lilongwe, Malawi. We wanted to stay the night in Lilongwe due to the late hour of arrival but also to visit a school there that brings in families to train the family unit instead of just only the husband. While this format has challenges, they seem to be doing fairly well with this program.

After Lilongwe, we drove the long 6 hour drive from Lilongwe to Ekwendeni. Did I say 6 hours? Actually, our fuel line burst 2/3 of the way to Ekwendeni so we say on the side of the highway for 4 hours waiting on a mechanic! We finally had to be pulled with a tow rope, in the dark, the final 1/3 of the way. The Lord provides, surely!

While in Ekwendeni, we had quite a schedule every day. On the first day, we visited Davison Ndhlovu who is a older, but well-respected preacher working with many of the smaller churches in the area. During the day, we went for a seminar at one of those churches

where several churches had gathered together. We also shared a meal with the preachers that day. I first met Davison several years ago on a exploratory visit and we have stayed in touch over the years.





When we lived at Chimala, Tanzania, I had a former student at Chimala who was originally a Malawian. Since then, he has returned to Malawi and started a family. We spent the day speaking to the new church plant near his home and visiting his family.



On Saturday, October 24th, we had the graduation ceremony at Ekwendeni. It was a simple, but meaningful ceremony with several of the village chiefs in attendance.





Following the graduation at Ekwendeni, we drove up to Karonga which sits along the shores of Lake Malawi. It is quite a nice drive save for the serious road construction! While in Karonga, I was able to visit Lyton Mhongo and his family. I also taught a class in their small preacher school they have there. That school services a remote area where the churches are many but lack preachers. We also worshipped with the church on that Lord's Day.



Following Karonga, we travelled over the border to Chimala, Tanzania, where we lived as full-time missionaries. We thank the mission for their hospitality and work in southern Tanzania. While at Chimala, we were able to visit a few projects we are involved with in that area. First, we traveled to Njombe where Remmy Mfaume has planted the church there. He has built his family house there and planted an avocado farm to support his family. I have agreed to help him some small money buy some avocado seedlings for the new planting



season (December). We also had a 1-day seminar at the church where people from the church and the community came for a seminar and fellowship.

On the next day, which was Sunday, we travelled to Makambako. Makambako is a city which sits at a major crossroads – but lacked a Church of Christ! We had several members of the church in that city but lacked a place to worship. We have rented a house and have Joseph Haonga travelling each weekend there to preach. He seems to be doing well and has plans to build the church up to have an established preacher there. We are looking at two different plots to purchase to put up a church building.



Following that, we travelled to Dar es Salaam along the Indian Ocean coast of Tanzania. Dar is my personally favorite African city. One of the reasons I like the city so much is the churches in the city. We traveled to Dar for two main reasons: the Tanzania Great Workshop (like we do in Nigeria) and graduation ceremony for the preacher school there.

Like we do in Nigeria, we held the **2026 Tanzania Great Workshop** at the Mbagala Church of Christ. We enjoy a great working relationship with those elders and several churches in that area. Due to budget concerns, we limited the invited attendees to 100 but 120+ preacher attended with 29 churches represented during the workshop. I am thankful for Dr Mike Udam and Dr Biodun Owolabi, both from Nigeria, to also



be able to attend the workshop as well. I think it is important to have Africans speaking to Africans…and Nigerians love to speak! Actually, they both did a marvelous job during the workshop. All attendees were thankful for their presence and presentations.



Since we were in Dar for two Sundays, we visited two different churches. The first Sunday, we visited the Chanika Church of Christ, a new church plant in a growing area of Dar. They are trying to build a new building and they are currently worshipping in a makeshift tin shack. The next Sunday, we worshipped at the Mbagala Church of Christ. After worship, we had the 2026 graduation ceremony for the preacher school there. We had 9 graduate from that program and all went well.



All in all, the entire trip went well to the Glory of God! We are thankful that God has carried us the entire trip and kept us in His care. We are also thankful that we've had a positive impact on the churches and schools that we were able to visit on this trip.





