

June 2015

Larson Mission Update

LOOKING BACK...

*“Therefore you shall be  
careful to do as the LORD  
your God has commanded you;  
you shall not turn aside to the  
right hand or to the left.”  
Deuteronomy 5:32*

...MOVING FORWARD



# ***“The Word’s Proper Place”***

God commands us to give His Word the proper, prominent place in our life (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). In Isaiah 55:8-9 God says that His ways and thoughts are infinitely greater than ours. When we live life on God’s terms, He works for us and we receive His best, but when we insist on living on our own terms, we end up settling for something less than His best. Since we face many challenges, burdens and difficulties in life, it helps to understand that these trials and storms are best faced with the Lord on and by our side. This is the essence of living victoriously, and the choice is ultimately ours.

***“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.”***

**Psalm 118:8**

The same can be said for the church. The one that chooses to minister in God’s way, to His glory, will bear lasting spiritual fruit. The church that faithfully gives God’s Word its proper place will endure the challenges and hardships that come its way. This is the point of the Lord’s parable about the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7:24-27. As we minister in villages across Tanzania, this is the urgent point we

try to make in our Inductive Bible Study seminars, both to individuals and to churches, represented by their leadership. Churches are built in many ways, but only the Lord’s way works, with His Word as the foundation and at the center of the various ministries.

***“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”***

**Psalm 127:1**

It is very easy to drift away from sound biblical principles given the strong pull of worldly ideas and the tempting allure of teachers who twist God’s Word while speaking nice-sounding promises that are not grounded in Truth.

This is the result we often find upon arriving at a particular church. Leaders have either never placed the Word in its proper place or have allowed the church to drift away from its biblical roots. Either way, a correction is needed and must be implemented with firm resolve and a sustainable commitment to examine and restore things in accordance with Scripture.

***“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”***

**Hebrews 2:1**

We had an insightful discussion with one of our trusted

ICM-TZ missionaries recently. In his various roles interacting with other pastors and church leaders, he sees, hears, and experiences things which we cannot. He is also familiar with other western-sponsored ministries and has developed a good sense for what works in this culture and what is not helpful in the long term. Most importantly, he is a candid person who will provide us sincere and honest feedback to help us adjust the ministry approach for maximum

effectiveness in the context of this culture. He affirmed it is good we are not “spoiling” Tanzanian pastors as other large organizations have by paying for pastors to work for us or attend our teachings which usually provide opportunities for selfishness, pride, and corruption to take over.

As the ministry work has evolved, we trust these ICM-TZ ministers to speak boldly and confidently in the Lord’s name and in such a way that those hearing the teaching will have an open heart to heed what is taught. Each minister begins with a convicting call for God’s people to see the importance of understanding and applying biblical truths to their lives, then to closely examine themselves to determine where God’s Word is situated in their life. Tanzania is a non-confrontational culture so it takes gifted, spiritually mature pastors to speak the



**Pastors Silas & Loth**



clear, hard truth in love without closing hearts to the IBS teaching (Ephesians 4:15). Sometimes they have to use the Word of God as a hammer to break through hearts of stone, otherwise no spiritual transformation can take place. (***"Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"*** Jeremiah 23:29)



**Pastor Edward**

Clearly, there are individuals and churches who feel this "new way" is not for them. They are not spiritually ready to accept Truth or reject the worldly ways that have taken over their life or church. But for those who commit to adopt God's way, the results speak for themselves. Instead of focusing inward, the church realizes it can make a difference in its community without relying on western help or influence, both of which often fail to take into account cultural nuances or the long-term

dependency improper external aid can foster. As our minister shared how he has personally seen that helping churches bring God's Word back to its proper place is bearing great fruit in many villages, we could also see the conviction in his own heart over how the Lord had transformed his views regarding such aid. When the national pastor says some of these well-meaning organizations are unintentionally destroying pastors and the churches in his beloved country, we must listen and take notice, then examine our own ministry approaches.

***"But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."***

**1 Corinthians 2:9**

ICM Tanzania continues to petition the Lord to help us with this rigorous self-examination (2 Corinthians 13:5) lest we fall into complacency. It has not been an easy road and has resulted in some turnover of ICM-TZ ministers in the last 12 months. Even as we extended the right hand of fellowship to each one as they moved on, we felt in our heart that when we come through this season of the Lord's work of testing, we "shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

Your continued prayers and support are helping us do God's work in God's way to God's glory!



**Learning the different classifications of the books of the Bible at an IBS seminar.**



**The various levels of discipleship teaching are well attended all across the country.**



**Pastors Elisha & Jeremiah**

**Catch up on our personal journey through our website news, and find many more pictures there.**

**[www.thelarsons.webs.com](http://www.thelarsons.webs.com)**



# PICTURE OF THE MONTH

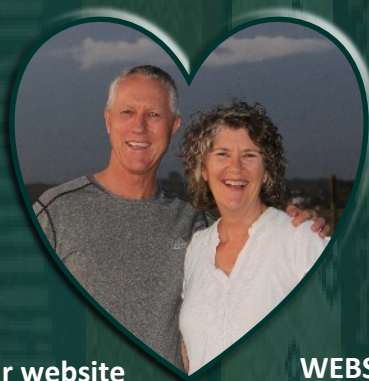


There are no toy stores in most villages, and not really any extra money to buy toys, but there is no lack of ingenuity! A great little car/truck built from an empty oil jug, sticks and bottle caps. It's the simple things in life that can bring great joy!

## CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

Intensive Care Ministries  
P.O. Box 109  
Mentone, CA 92359-0109

Note "LARSON" in Memo of check



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## PRAYER ITEMS

- The inaugural Women's Training Center is this month, June 10-20. Janice and I both will be teaching, as well as some of our other instructors. Please keep this new work covered in your prayers.
- We will graduate 36 students from 3 MKPTC classes between May-August. Most have expressed desire to join the ministry. Be praying for those who are truly called to join this work and for our discernment in whom to accept.
- Praise that all is going well at both of our church campuses. The secondary students will be on break this month, but programs will continue at the main church.
- Praise for the reading glasses for pastors we received from a supporter! Thank you for reading our "Needs" section of the website and responding so generously.
- Prayers for scheduling visits with supporting churches and individuals in the US this October through December in Oklahoma, Florida, Tennessee and North Carolina.