

HEART FOR AFRICA



March 2015

Larson Mission Update

"Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!"
Psalm 27:14

The Fruit of Waiting on the Lord



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One of the most important spiritual disciplines for the missionary to master is the skill of waiting on the Lord. The ability to faithfully and prayerfully wait is important to finding and remaining in God's will, especially when it comes to contemplating transformation in a ministry approach or expansion of the ministry's footprint. Waiting is not the time to sit around and do nothing. It is the time to explore the various ministry options in prayer while seeking the Lord's wisdom by faith at each step. We would like to share with you a special story that involved waiting on the Lord with no real idea where the waiting would take us.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
Hebrews 11:6

As with any new skill, we have found Inductive Bible Study (IBS) skills must be practiced and diligently worked out for them to fully develop and become a natural part of our life. This is a challenge we had to address in the original 3-day seminar program. We needed more time with the students, and our answer was to add two more seminar levels (Levels 3 and 4) to provide additional contact time with those who desire to work on their IBS skills further.



Students praying during Religion Class last year.

Another way for us to have more time modeling IBS was to explore working with youth in long-term relationships that incorporate IBS as the foundation. The Lord provided that with a local high school that has almost

150 students in its boarding program. The school's administrators attend our church and welcomed us to begin working with the students to teach the Bible and help them apply its truths to their lives. They come from all backgrounds – Catholic, Lutheran, Pentecostal, unchurched, and even some who are dabbling in spiritual darkness. We started our relationship very slow, focused mainly on teaching top-level Bible topics in their Religion classes so we could get to know each other. We sensed a reluctance to let us into their world – much like teens anywhere else that don't always trust adults and authority figures. All the while, we taught and modelled an inductive approach to not only studying the Scriptures, but also to living out their faith.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward."
Psalm 127:3

These students have an advantage over the pastors and church leaders we typically work with because they are well-versed in English. They are bright and have responded to the IBS method very quickly, which allowed us to move forward sooner and go deeper in our studies with them. It was not long before the administrators approached us to discuss other ideas that would affect more change within the student body. That is where prayer and private devotional time before the Lord came into play. We could not consider anything that would move us out in front of His will for our lives or the ministry.

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Over the course of many months of prayer and ministry work among the students, we sensed the Lord was leading us to start a Sunday church service on the campus that would give us an effective platform for expanding the IBS teaching there. This development would also simplify things for us logistically and allow us to focus on working closer with those students who actually *want* to know more about the Bible. All of our other ministry work there would now be consolidated into the Sunday church service. Our focus would be worship, discipleship, and fellowship. The Sunday program is simple – worship to prepare their hearts

Showing them a map of Israel



followed by inductive teaching of the Word. Our initial study is going verse by verse through the Gospel of Mark which will take us a year. What we are already seeing is amazing. The students are grasping the IBS approach by seeing it in action through our Mark study. They are also opening up with us as well, realizing we have not fled after a year and are actually going to stay around for a while!

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

These young people represent the next generation of Tanzanians who will work and guide the country for decades to come. A strong foundation in the Scriptures will equip them to lead their people and administer government with integrity, compassion, and justice. As

Janice greeting students...

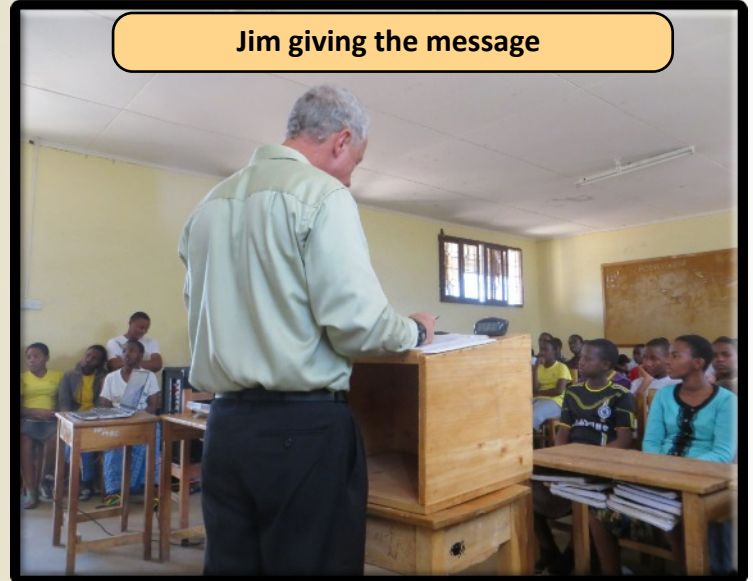


they move on past high school, the things of the world will begin to pull on them. Our goal is to train and equip them in the Scriptures so they can resist this pull and stand firm, rooted in God's Word when they face the trials and challenges that will come their way. In addition, a number of these young people will surely become church elders/deacons, and possibly ministers, as they sense the call of God on their life through these in-depth studies. We rejoice to be a small part of what God is doing to work out His plan and will among these young people who are precious in His sight.

"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

Psalms 1:3

Jim giving the message



...and leading praise & worship



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

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Teenagers like to have fun no matter what part of the world they live in. These are the secondary students we work with, singing their heads off to a praise video. We do about 30 minutes of music before showing them a Christian film, followed by a message. It's the highlight of their month.



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PRAYER ITEMS

- Safety while Jim travels to Mwanza (Lake Victoria) March 3-7 to conduct a Level 4 seminar.
- For the students attending the MKPTC Class #4, Session 2, from March 18-27.
- For the pastor-missionaries as they continue to learn to step into leadership.
- For the Lord to lead and guide us as we conduct these 2 distinct worship services each Sunday, and for His Word to penetrate those who are attending.