

*September 2015*

*Larson Mission Update*

## *"Stand Still and Watch"*

You will not have to fight this battle.  
Take up your positions; stand firm  
and see the deliverance the Lord  
will give you, Judah and Jerusalem.

Do not be afraid;  
do not be discouraged.  
Go out to face them tomorrow,  
and the Lord will be with you.

*2 Chronicles 20:17*



We see in the Old Testament that a number of times before a great battle the Lord would command His people to “stand still” and watch as the Lord did an amazing work of deliverance on their behalf. Surely it must have been very difficult to just stand still and watch, as one’s natural inclination is to do *something* – run or prepare to engage the enemy—especially when our very survival hangs in the balance. In our call to missionary service, one of the hardest things for us to do is to stand still and watch the Lord work.

***“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”***  
2 Timothy 2:15

Over the past year we felt the Lord was sifting the ministry for reasons only He could know. Tanzanian ministers we depended on to conduct seminars found it increasingly difficult to “count the cost” when it came to travelling across the whole country. This work is not easy and requires a special calling from the Lord to endure the hardships, family separations, and temptations that come. One by one the number of active ministers dwindled.

Some of them came to the realization their heart was not right with the vision of the ministry. Others faced family situations that forced them to curtail their active involvement with ICM-Tanzania. We would extend the “right hand of fellowship” to each one and resolve to trust the Lord to know what is best for the ministry. It was difficult to see a couple of them move on as their early work helped create the foundation for the current work.

***“For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few.”***  
1 Samuel 14:6b

We know the Lord always provides for His work, and we know He can do great things with many or with few. Still, we had to fight back the temptation to ask those who remained “*Do you also want to go away?*” This is the same question Jesus posed to His dwindling group of disciples (John 6:67), but as our remaining ministers continued to teach in the villages, the urgent response from the people was to implore us to bring more teaching

to them. So as our numbers decreased, we prayed for more ministers. This was a tall task for us because it takes over 2 years to identify, train, and certify a minister for the work.

***“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”***  
Matthew 9:37-38

The Lord, however, had already identified the ministers He would add to our team several years ago. With a 3-5 year backlog of pastoral training center student candidates, we pushed, challenged, and tested the 35



**The men and women who have accepted God’s call and challenge**

students we invited to the three classes scheduled to graduate this year—prayerfully considering each one before inviting them to a class. In the end, the Lord brings together each class to give it a unique character and heart. Of the 34 graduates, the Lord directed us to invite 20 who met the high standards to be IBS instructors and all 20 accepted!

***“That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*** 1  
Peter 1:7

In Luke 14:25-35, the Lord does something very peculiar as He seeks disciples to follow Him. Rather than “marketing” His ministry to prospective followers with promises of prosperity, comfort, and blessings, He speaks of great difficulties, costs, and hardships that will come to



those who choose to follow Him. Rather than a foolish approach to making disciples, the Lord's approach is brilliant strategy, for out of it will come devoted and loyal Christ-followers who will persevere in hardships and not give up on Him.

*"And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."*

Luke 14:27

The 20 men who finished the certification process represent the absolute best of the pastors and overseers we have encountered, yet even some of them may not be called by the Lord to this work. ICM-TZ promises a meager stipend; hard, thankless work; uncompromising standards; and no glory. They will face separation from family, sickness, and exhaustion from the work, so each one has been encouraged to prayerfully consider whether the Lord is really calling them to ICM-TZ.

## Mount Kilimanjaro Pastoral Training Center Class 5 Graduates

As we went through this difficult time the Lord sifted our team down to four active ministers and another who is struggling greatly with his call. The four also made up our pastoral training center instructor staff so when the training centers were in session each month we found it difficult to conduct seminars.

But over the last year, as we stood and watched the Lord perform an amazing work we now find we have 18 active ministers with seminars scheduled, including eight qualified pastoral training center instructors. The Lord of the Harvest is faithful! We are overwhelmed with His mercy and grace in building this ministry team to meet the need for not only IBS seminars in all 31 Tanzanian regions, but also the pastoral training centers in five of the regions. Your continued prayers and support are helping all of us do God's work in God's way to God's glory!



Top L: Jim & Dan presenting graduation certificates



Top R: Pastor Dan listening to teaching by ICM-TZ instructors



Bottom L: Janice with Pst Jeremiah & Hosiana at graduation



Bottom R: Class 5 graduates

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

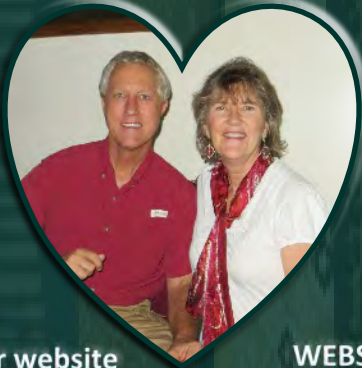


The eight pastoral training center instructors form the heart of ICM-Tanzania. Four of the men are qualified to teach the OT & NT Surveys and four are qualified to conduct the verse by verse studies of Acts, Romans and Revelation for each class. They are scheduled in teams of two for each class – one for the book studies and one for the verse by verse studies. Kneeling (L to R) are pastors Jeremiah and Peter. Standing (L to R): Pastors Silas, Elisha, and Obedi, ICM Executive Director Pastor Dan Finrock, Pastors Charles, Loth, and Jim.

## CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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

Note "LARSON" in Memo of check



## U.S. CONTACT INFO:

Jim and Janice Larson  
P.O. Box 76134  
St Petersburg, FL 33734

EMAIL: [JimAndJanice.Larson@gmail.com](mailto:JimAndJanice.Larson@gmail.com)

On-line giving available via PayPal on our website

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

## PRAYER ITEMS

- Session 2 of Women's Training Center is August 26 – September 4.
- September 5 is the final day of working with the university-bound students we've been with since the beginning of June. We will miss them greatly.
- September 29, we depart Tanzania to return to the US for furlough. We would appreciate all opportunities to speak to churches, Bible study groups, Sunday School classes, Life Groups, etc., in order to share this work with others. The Lord may be calling others to participate in this work in some way.