

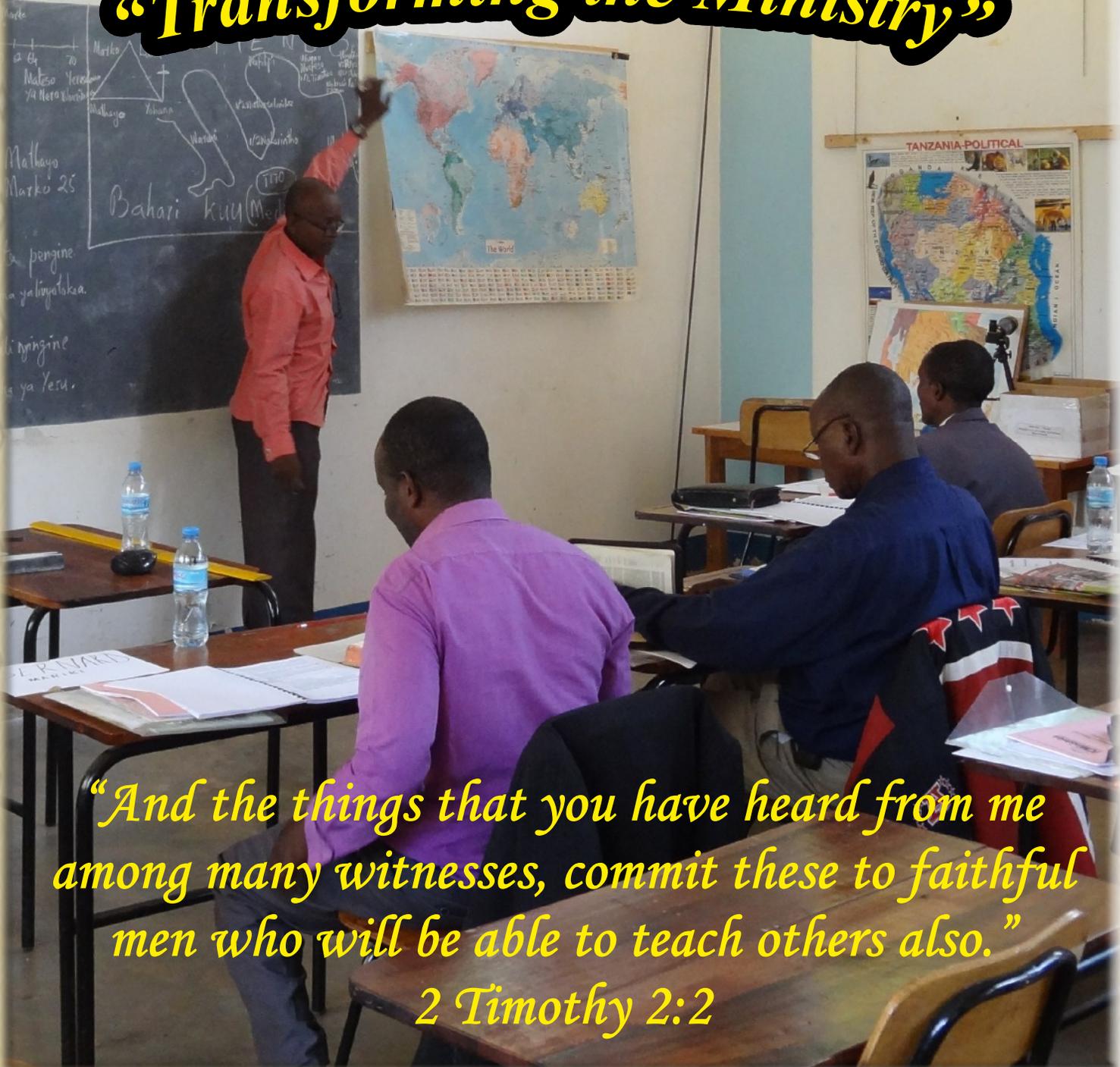
HEART-FOR-AFRICA



January 2017

Larson Mission Update

“Transforming the Ministry”



“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
2 Timothy 2:2

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Many field missionaries cling to the 2 Timothy 2:2 Scripture with great promise and hope as they look to eventually transfer ministry responsibilities to faithful and trustworthy nationals whom they have trained and prepared. Some call it "working oneself out of a job."

This transfer not only reflects a biblical approach, but is also a very practical approach if one truly desires to grow a ministry and allow it to flourish with a long-term goal of bearing lasting, sustainable fruit. These are very easy words to speak, but extremely hard to actually follow through with!

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He will strengthen your heart; wait I say, on the Lord."

Psalm 27:14

We try our best to avoid rash, impulsive decisions, though we've admittedly made a few! Early in our mission preparation process, a missionary friend stressed the importance of committing Psalm 27:14 to our hearts to ensure its words (and the Lord) drive all that we say and do. As a result, we methodically plod our way through important decisions, but it takes time and self-discipline to be quiet and listen for the Lord, something at which we have had to work really hard.

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Psalm 46:10

So, as we stand on the doorstep of entering our sixth year of ministry in Tanzania, the Lord has given us clear spiritual vision to see what lies ahead for us and the dedicated and committed team of ministers. The view is breathtaking! We hinted in our last newsletter that we have begun the process of loosening our hold on the reins of the ministry, and plan to do so even more in 2017.

Six years is a long time to wait on this important step, but time is not what matters from the Lord's perspective—being ready is! He has been doing the work of preparing us and the team. It takes years for a Tanzanian pastor or bishop to join our ministry team because the call from the Lord must be confirmed, and

"All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

the minister candidate trained in the Word and equipped for the work of the ministry.

Almost all of our eight-man instructor team, who also serve as our closest advisors and ministry leaders, have been with us since our first year and have proven their faithfulness and trustworthiness. We believe the Lord has called them for such a time as this. From the eight, God has raised three to top leadership positions and also paved the way for them to be well-received as leaders by the others. The three top leaders are Pastors Loth, Silas and Jeremiah (below).



"Be diligent to present yourself to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

Of the three, Pastor Silas has gained acceptance by the entire ministry team as the overall Director. He is one of the founding Tanzanian leaders of our ministry and is entering his sixth year of serving with us, first as host for a number of highly successful IBS seminars; then as a student at the pastoral training center; and finally as an IBS teacher and highly skilled pastoral training center instructor. He has proven himself to be faithful and trustworthy in executing every responsibility, great or small, to the highest standards at every step, never expecting anything from us.

"Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."

1 Corinthians 4:2

He has functioned in the capacity of overall director for over 2 years, earning our trust and the complete respect of the entire team of nationals in the process. Even as we have left on extended annual furloughs, Pastor Silas is entrusted to administer as many as 60 seminars by members of the ICM ministry team in our

absence. He handles all of the administrative and financial arrangements for these seminars, providing an expert written accounting for all of the expenditures and disbursements upon our return.

“Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.”

1 Timothy 5:22

Pastor Silas has also been a great help in working directly with our Congo and Uganda country directors to standardize best practices for the ministry across all of the East Africa teams. This was no easy task, but he took on this challenging role and ensured that unity within the ICM East Africa team was maintained. He is such a great blessing to the ministry.

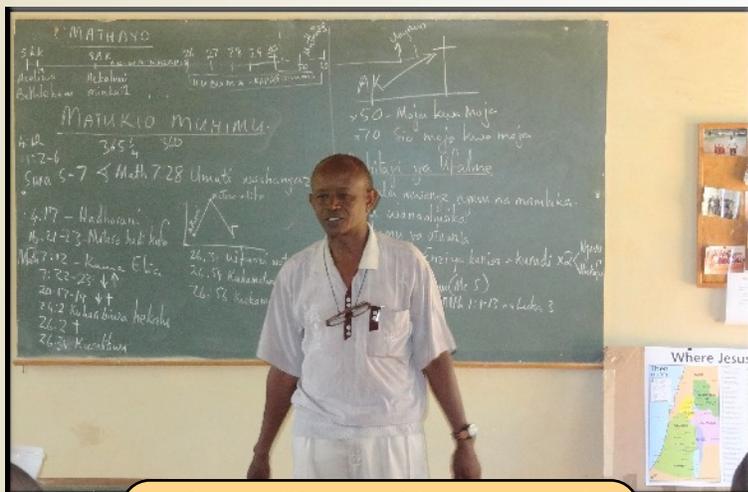
these endeavors. He is, in effect, a supported missionary, funded by cost savings that will come from adjusting how we conduct seminars in 2017. We are counting on him to lead ICM East Africa into the future.



(L to R): Silas, Felix (Uganda), ICM Founder Dan Finfrock, Jean Paul (Congo), Jeremiah (Tanzania), Jim

Therefore, after much prayer and contemplation, we have decided that the ministry will benefit greatly by transferring more responsibility to Pastor Silas in 2017. In January, he will retire from his government position as an agricultural consultant and will come to work for ICM full time to manage our 27 Tanzanian ministers as well as our teams in Congo and Uganda. He will also implement our plans to establish new works in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and Zambia. Most importantly, he will take on *some* of the load of conducting level 3 and 4 seminars, which I have been the lone instructor of to date. This is the important level where I normally choose which pastors qualify to be invited to attend the Mt Kilimanjaro Pastoral Training Center, so I will now begin passing that mantle and responsibility to Pastor Silas.

We truly feel God is calling us to this new way. Please pray for Pastor Silas and our other ministers in



**Above: Silas teaching at MKPTC
Below: Silas & wife, Greven**



Below: Silas and Jeremiah



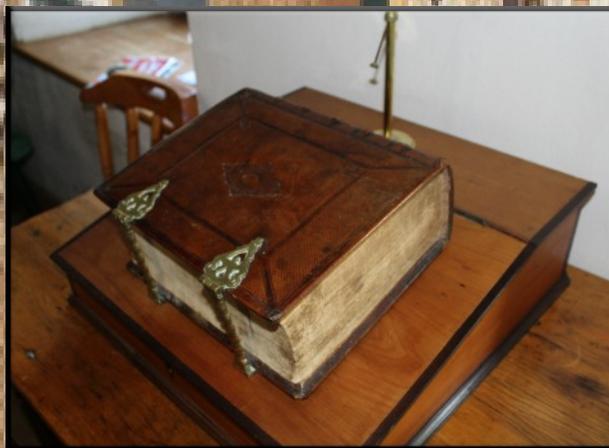
Catch up on our personal journey through our website news, and find many more pictures there.

www.JimAndJaniceLarson.com

Are We Still in Africa?!



We recently had an opportunity to visit the city of Tulbagh in South Africa. It is very modern, and different than what we are used to, but also very quaint and charming. Even the locals don't consider themselves "Africans!"



Top: A chocolate & tea shop that offered a taste of 4 different chocolates with a cup of tea.
Bottom: The original pulpit Bible from a 1743 church which is still standing.

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PRAYER ITEMS

Pray for our furlough schedule, family visits, reports to churches, conferences, and new support partners.

- Dec 11-24, Asheville NC
- Dec 25-Jan 21, St Petersburg FL
- Jan 22-Feb 2, Oklahoma City OK
 - Feb 3-6, Canon City CO
- Feb 7-9, St Petersburg FL; Feb 10-20, Fort Walton Beach FL
 - Feb 21-Mar 2, St Petersburg FL
 - Mar 3-6, Greeneville TN
 - Mar 8, Return to Tanzania