

Intensive Care Ministries-Africa



God's Way is the Only Way!

February 2025

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19

God's work done God's way stands the test of time, brings Him glory, and fulfills His purpose. There is no greater joy than to be used by the Lord to build His kingdom. Especially when it comes to planting new churches where communities of God-worshippers gather. However, church planting can be some of the most difficult and frustrating work. For years, one of the most common requests from the lead pastors and bishops who graduated from our two-year diploma program was for us to start a church planting program.

"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."

Psalms 127:1



Whether a church is planted by an outside missionary or an indigenous person, finding a trustworthy man to fill the role is no easy task. It takes much time and great discernment to reliably determine if a person is truly called by the Lord into pastoral ministry, or if they are simply self-called into an opportunity to gain something from someone else. Unfortunately, a wrong-intentioned person can hide an impure heart very well. They know exactly what to say and how to act to fool both their congregation and others. Most false teachers, or ill-equipped pastors, end up leading churches that have no grounding in the Bible

and are still heavily influenced by syncretism (the merging of many beliefs). We see it throughout Africa.

To provide a responsible solution to their request, we sought the Lord for His wisdom and guidance. It had to be His way, and that turned out to be training and equipping indigenous pastoral candidates to plant churches within their own African denominations. National pastors and overseers select the candidates from their own congregation(s) based on their background knowledge of, and comprehensive interactions with, the individuals. There is no outsider involved. The candidate's denomination then makes the decision as to the timing and location for the new church, as well as the "how" to start the church. What they get from ICM-Africa's Certificate in Church Planting (CCP) program is a qualified preacher /evangelist with deep knowledge of every Bible book and detailed verse-by-verse studies in ten important books. We mold each CCP student into a skilled expositor by having them develop 20 graded, written sermons, and preach 6 times for evaluation.

Since the CCP program began in 2019, we have conducted 25 cohort classes at multiple campuses and graduated 300 students. There are now more than 250 new churches planted in the context of an African denomination, and teaching the Word quite confidently and accurately. God is doing an amazing work through this program. Three of the top CCP graduates have gone on to become instructors with ICM-Africa. As young people, they represent the future of the ministry.



Left: Young evangelists, deacons, and associate pastors make up the majority of CCP students.

Right: Students lined up to graduate.

Coming to the US twice a year frequently prompts questions from our supporters as to whether we are beginning to slow down or are getting ready to retire. Even though those ideas can sound tempting on some of our most trying days, that does not seem to be God's plan for us right now. We come back because the work is continuing to expand, and we have been praying for the Lord to call and prepare someone to join us, because truly, **the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.** Some favorite southern sayings of ours that apply in this case are that we are "busier than a one-armed paper hanger" or a "long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs!" We are constantly moving to keep all the plates spinning and not let the wheels come off the bus! The

point is, Scripture tells us that the harvest workers must hear they are needed in order to respond, much like sinners need to hear the Gospel in order to believe. *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

We praise God that we are able to bring glad tidings of many good things to many churches and small groups when we are in the US, and we are praying for ears to respond! Is the Lord speaking to you?



Jim sharing the need with a supporting church, and Janice sharing with life groups and Sunday School groups.



CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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Note "LARSON" in Memo of check

On-line giving available through our website



Jim and Janice Larson
Based in Moshi, Tanzania
Also servicing Kenya, S. Sudan, Liberia
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PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for our travels this month as we go to NW Florida to speak to 2 churches, then Alabama, back to southwest Florida, then Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee.
- Pray for the Lord to prepare the ground by speaking into the hearts of all those who will hear of His wondrous works, and that they will respond according to His call.
- Pray for our church back in Tanzania, that they would be strengthened while we are away, and that we might come back with good news for them in regard to more help.
- Praise that the ICM-Africa staff has held up very well in our absence, conducting a record number of college sessions on their own. We are so honored to be a part of the glory they bring to God.