

HEART FOR AFRICA
"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"

FEBRUARY 2024



*"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*

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FACEBOOK - JANICE YOUNG LARSON

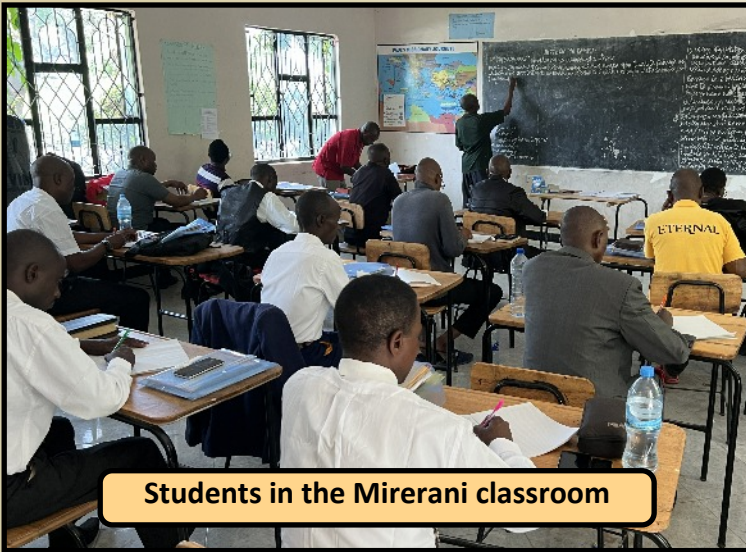


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God Did It!

God acts! He's not distant and detached as some may think. Isaiah 64:4 says, "*God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.*" He acts, works, and moves with a sense of direction and purpose in mind. He can even work in and through our errors and mistakes to bring about His perfect plan and will.

Given the amazing results the Lord has achieved through ICM-Africa, it is quite easy to conclude that everything is always well and good with the ministry. But ministry is people, and even with a consistent program of biblical discipleship, people can bring personal problems and temperament shortfalls into their work—all of which can give birth to challenges. Our goal in these instances is to help those involved learn from their mistake and continue to move toward Christ-likeness, while minimizing impacts to the ministry. Ultimately, we always desire to see the Lord accomplish His will in each instance.



Students in the Mirerani classroom

In June 2021, we brought in the first class of students for a new campus which was in a worldly village called Mirerani. We had placed great importance on this campus, as well as this class, because the host bishop was responsible for more than 1,000 churches across Tanzania. Mirroring his importance, we assigned our Tanzania Director to personally oversee this class from start to finish. He was trustworthy and reliable, and well-regarded inside and outside of ICM-Africa. What could go wrong? Quite a lot as we would soon learn!

***"But, where sin abounded,
grace abounded much more."***
Romans 5:20b

Problems with this class arose quickly, facilitated first by a number of poor decisions prior to the class. In hindsight, we can see clearly how the enemy used a number of strong personalities and spiritually immature instructors to sow conflict and division between the students and the instructors, and between the instructors and our director. Though we did not know it at the time, two or three strong personalities among the students were determined to get their own way and were able to manipulate the other 15 students to rebel against the instructors and director. They convinced the class to "go on strike" and demand an audience with Jim to air their grievances. This rebellion happened in the second session, 3 months after the first session. Nothing even remotely close to this disturbing turn of events had ever happened to us.

***"Being confident of this very thing,
that He who has begun a good work in you
will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."***
Philippians 1:6

Obviously, there is great danger in allowing a few disgruntled people to take over and dictate how a ministry will be run. First, we needed to seek the Lord for wisdom and discernment while researching the truth. With stories not adding up, we had to be careful and prayerfully contemplate every decision. Ministry relationships were at stake; ICM-Africa's reputation hung in the balance; and most importantly, the Lord's reputation was at risk.

It did not take long to determine that our director—right or wrong—had become a significant source of friction with both the students and the instructors. The Lord gave us a way to pull him back gracefully while not disrespecting him. Further, we ascertained that our instructors lacked the maturity to properly deal with such an explosive situation. We brought in two of our most spiritually mature men to finish out the second session. All the students were given a choice: get back to class immediately or be released from the program. With the changes we made, all of the students agreed to return to class so we could finish the session. Thank you, Jesus, for granting us the time needed to move forward biblically with this class.

We knew we needed to determine, without a doubt, who the troublemakers were, as well as what our own people had done wrong to contribute to this situation. We felt the Lord wanted us to learn from it and improve as a result of it. That can be very painful!

Jim and Pastor Edward talking to students at graduation.



After much prayer and discussion among our leadership team, we decided to suspend that particular class and give students the choice of continuing by being distributed among other classes at other campuses. Initially, only 5 of the 18 students took us up on that offer. We also replaced our director with one who had already distinguished himself with wisdom beyond his age. Finally, we spent 6 months developing, documenting, and training our people on revised processes and procedures which established a more unified ministry approach for everyone to follow.

Over the next 18 months, another 5 students from this class requested re-admission to the program, but at different campuses. That left eight students from the original eighteen. By then we felt we could re-start the class by adding more new students and have a fresh spirit to move forward with. Then another five students from the original class petitioned to re-join, leaving three who never returned. Interestingly, after interviewing each of the returning students, we were able to conclude that these three were the original troublemakers.

It took us time, but God gave us a good result. We are a considerably stronger ministry now, and 15 of the original students ended up graduating from 6 different classes at 4 different campuses. God did it! He took our errors and our shortcomings and brought about His will.



Students marching from the classroom to the church for their graduation.



The students with their instructors

We are in the US until February 29th and would love to meet with as many supporters as possible. Our travel schedule is listed below, so if we are going to be in your area and you would like to see us, please try to attend the local event. If we don't see you this time, please know that we thank the Lord for each person and church who has partnered in the amazing work God is doing in Africa. And as always, we are anxiously waiting to see how and when He is going to answer our pleas for more help in the field.

Pastors Edmond and Charles led this class to completion and received high praise from students.



- **Jan 28:** Calvary 813, Tampa FL
- **Feb 3-4:** Redeemer Community Church, Fernandina Beach, FL
- **Feb 11:** Feathersound Church, Clearwater, FL
- **Feb 18:** The Gathering, Ft Walton Beach, FL
- **Feb 25:** Calvary Chapel St Petersburg, FL
- **Feb 28:** Feathersound Church, Clearwater FL
- **Mar 1:** Return to Africa

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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



Another class of students from our church-planting program graduated at the end of 2023. Several of them have already started new churches and will return to go through the diploma program in the near future. Praise the Lord!

CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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Note "LARSON" in Memo of check

On-line giving available through our website



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PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for more ministry partners to lift up the needs in prayer, provide financial and logistical support, and to visit the ministry to experience the work first hand and encourage the staff.
- Continue to pray for the Lord to call men of God to come alongside us to work in the ministry, as well as helping with the English church there. We need a lead pastor, as well as teachers/administrators for the Bible colleges. We continue to get requests from other African nations, but we cannot respond.
- Pray for the ICM-Africa staff and our church while we are away.
- We are in prayerful discussions with people to start a college in Malawi. Please pray for the Lord to make it clear *if* and *when* this work should begin, and that it is not of us to make it happen.