

# HEART FOR AFRICA

"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"

MARCH 2018

God  
looks  
into  
the  
Heart



*1 Samuel 16:7*

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The Lord is in the selection business! But, interestingly enough He does not select based on a person's merit, academic qualifications, or intrinsic abilities. Instead the Lord sovereignly selects based on His love and His mercy, for His praise and for His glory. He is more interested in quality over quantity, choosing a few faithful, humble servants over greater numbers that often lack devotion and commitment...or who want to join a work for the wrong motive.

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

Luke 14:27

In studying the Gospel accounts, we see times like Luke 14:26-33 where Jesus appears to be pushing folks away. While on its face it appears to be a foolish personnel recruiting method, it is actually a wise team-building approach we have learned to effectively employ. Jesus is the expert, the One who Himself selected a nondescript band of followers who began to change the world with the Gospel message. Through His example, He has given us an effective pattern to follow. Before we mention how we sought to apply the Lord's approach to building our dedicated team of nine Bible College instructors, we need to shift back in time a few months...

*"So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."*

Luke 14:33

Edward & Loth w/Janice & visitors



We were abundantly blessed last year by several teams of visitors. Each person came and generously gave of their time and resources to join with our team, if only for a short time. They experienced the welcoming culture and our amazing team of instructors up close and personal in their

own village environments—unscripted and unrehearsed. Each instructor was free to speak and act from their hearts while hosting. We were so moved (and often a bit surprised) at the transparent interactions between the visitors and team members, that it led to asking the visitors to share their personal testimonies so you could hear from them directly.

Visitors getting to know the local villagers/fishermen via the local ICM-TZ pastor, Jeremiah



We had no idea what to expect in these reports, but even through the many different perspectives, we saw a common thread emerge – ministry is first and foremost about people, and these Tanzanian instructors are remarkable! In fact, they are so remarkable that there is no way we could ever take credit for selecting them. The Lord Himself did the work, and the fruit has been astounding.

*"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."*

James 3:1

Of the 25 men and women of Intensive Care Ministries (ICM) in Tanzania who conduct Inductive Bible Study (IBS) seminars across our expansive country, a select few are set apart as Bible College Instructors. The preparation is intense, the work is hard, the sacrifices are many, and the pay is not great—just enough to offset the instructor's loss of financial support for each 10-day session he is called on to teach. They must have an extensive knowledge of the Scriptures that can only be gained over much time in the Word on their own. It's not a highly sought-after position. In fact, this is one of a number of reasons why we do not accept applications in the first place! For the record, not a single one of our instructors volunteered for the position. Each is spiritually mature enough to understand the

dangers of a “self-calling” where a person waits not on the Lord, but on a position to open.

*“The Lord does not see as man sees,  
for man looks at the outward appearance,  
but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

1 Samuel 16:7



Pastors Dan & Jim with international staff

What’s on the inside matters much to the Lord, so it must matter to us as we consider those who will be invited to serve as a Bible College instructor. And though we cannot presume to begin to see inside as the Lord does, we can look for sustained outward manifestations of internal character. And that is the primary reason why we only examine those who have served faithfully as an IBS teacher.

*“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”*

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

As an IBS instructor they will have many opportunities to show what is inside. Even prior to that, we must see spiritual fruit lived out in their lives. Is Christ at the center? Do they willingly submit and do what the leaders say? Are they humble with a servant’s heart? Is there good order, and do they take a Biblical approach to decision-making? Are they teachable and available? Is their family life in good order? And is there even a hint they are seeking financial gain from joining ICM?

To serve as a Bible college instructor takes sustained service as an IBS teacher. We are able to prayerfully and closely examine each IBS instructor so that only the best of the best are invited to serve at the college. This is why there is no turnover at the college – every instructor we have selected, some as long as 5 years ago, is still serving. That is the testament of following the Lord’s perfect pattern: for what is on the inside, in the heart, will eventually be revealed on the outside.



(Above) ICM-TZ instructors working through material for the new Bible college curriculum



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

[www.jimandjanicelarson.com](http://www.jimandjanicelarson.com)

# Picture of the Month

## Wilma Hudson Young 1930-2018



One of the most difficult aspects of being a missionary is that you are separated from family members for extended periods of time, and often at very critical times. Janice's mother became ill in January and was in the hospital for almost 2 weeks. Janice flew home to Oklahoma to be with her dad and sister, and assess her mom's situation. The decision was made to honor her mother's wishes to come home under hospice care, and she passed into glory on February 9, 2018, surrounded by loved ones at home. She was 87 years of age and had accepted Christ and been baptized two years earlier. Knowing we will see her again in heaven provides great comfort to the entire family. We are grateful Janice was in a position to return to say goodbye to her mom, and be with her dad, sister, and our children for the funeral. Her parents were married 67 years and had been high school sweethearts. What a testament to an enduring love!

### CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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

Note "LARSON" in Memo of check

On-line giving available via PayPal on our website

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### PRAYER ITEMS

- Praise that our work permits were finally approved, but our resident visas are still in process.
- Praise that Janice has returned to Tanzania in good health and is ready to begin ministry again!
- We have a Bible college class going on each month, so please pray for the students and instructors as they work through the material—that the Lord would be transforming every one of them through the hearing of His Word!
- Pray for the Tanzanian instructors whom we have been sending into Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya, trying to meet the demand for equipping the church in other countries.