

# HEART FOR AFRICA

"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"

MARCH 2024



*"I am the light of the world. He who follows  
Me shall not walk in darkness,  
but have the light of life."  
John 8:12*

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# Light for the World

We use lights to see when it's dark. Without them, we stumble about unaware of the dangers that lurk around us. Light is needed! John records the illuminating words used on our cover page that Jesus spoke during *Sukkot* (the Feast of Tabernacles). Certainly, Jesus was contemplating the large oil lamps in the temple that harkened back to the time when the Lord provided a pillar of fire to guide Israel in their wilderness journey while looking forward in hope to an age in which no other light but the Lord will be needed. The kingdom to which *Sukkot* points is a time when His people will no longer walk in the darkness of sin. Rather, we will walk in the gladness, blessing, and freedom of the Lord's light.

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path."*

Psalm 119:105

Until that time, God's people have the light of His Word to guide us as we live out our faith in a sin-stained world. As we walk in the light of God's truth and His love, we reflect the same light to those around us. Even while we were in the U.S. on a short furlough, we reflected on how so many of our Tanzanian instructors do just that! For instance, Mary and Lightness inaugurated a new women's class at our campus in Mwanza, a large cosmopolitan city on the shores of Lake Victoria. In addition to this being the first women's class at that campus, it was also the first time any of our female instructors had traveled so far away from home—a long 14-hour journey by bus.

**Lightness leading this new group of  
students through the curriculum.**



*"Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works and  
glorify your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:16

This class was one of several that the ministry team accomplished while we were away on furlough in the U.S. It is such a great confidence builder for us that we do not have to pause any of ICM-Africa's programs in our absence. But it also builds confidence among the team members that we trust them to continue without us. We see this as one of the key ingredients for building and sustaining a high-performance ministry team with a goal toward excellence in all things.



**The students with their instructors**

ICM-Africa's Certificate in Bible Teaching (CBT) for women is a non-denominational theological study program designed to equip ladies to teach the Bible in the context of their own church denomination. The focus is on their ability to effectively teach the whole counsel of God using the verse-by-verse philosophy, which is founded on the Inductive Bible Study (IBS) method. That ultimately seeks to bring forth life-transforming application principles from the Bible to help people become doers of the Word.

*"We were well pleased to impart to you not only  
the gospel of God, but also our own lives,  
because you had become dear to us."*

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Tanzanian culture is still trying to come to grips with women spending an extended time away from their families. For the 16 women who arrived that first evening, most were wives and mothers whose families depended on them for order, provision, and growth. Husbands and fathers are not used to stepping up to fill these roles for almost 2 weeks. Much grace and the Lord's help are needed in the women's absence! Over

the course of the next 10 months, Mary and Lightness will teach and disciple these 16 women using the Bible, their own wise counsel, as well as their lives to lovingly pour Christ into them, helping them become devoted Christ-followers. We are blessed to see this as another example of ICM-Africa using multiplication for faithfully fulfilling the Great Commission to *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."* In the 8 years that we have known Mary and Lightness, we are extremely confident that both are up to the task of being light-bearers for Jesus!



The women in our 7<sup>th</sup> women's certificate class.

## We're Moving...From Paper to Digital!

As the scope of the ICM-Africa ministry is growing geographically, we are also gaining more and more partners, which is definitely needed. But along with that comes the need to manage all the partner information more efficiently and effectively.

Some of our new partners are helping us set up a database which will allow for the following:

- Keeping better track of contact information for distributing monthly newsletters and other communication.
- Allow us to manage who is volunteering to help with certain aspects of the ministry.

**Would you please scan this QR code with your smartphone, or go to our website, and fill out a short form to give us all your current basic contact information.** Many of you have moved or changed email addresses over the years, and this will ensure we are sending your newsletter and other information to the correct place.

In addition to building a database of our partners, we often have need of special areas of expertise back here in the USA and would like to know if you would be willing to lend your time and talent to support God's work in Africa. If so, please send us an email or make a note of it on the "Contact Information Form."

Here are some of our most urgent needs we could use assistance with:

- **Adobe Express:** Would like someone to build us some templates for Instagram posts, and coach Janice on how to use it. We have a free subscription to this software and want to make use of it.
- **Marketing/Graphic Design:** Would like to update/refresh all our marketing materials to include newsletters, print banners, online presence, prayer and business cards, etc.
- **Salesforce:** Again, we have access to the non-profit version of this software, and it is where all our partner information will be managed. Looking for an experienced person to help us customize it and set up a couple of users with segmented access.
- **Recruiting:** Would like committed, passionate people who are very familiar with the ministry to make efforts to contact Bible colleges, missions conferences, and other churches to put forth the need for more field missionaries.
- **Quickbooks consultant:** Someone to provide some training/guidance to Janice on the use of this software, in regard to running proper reports, importing and exporting data, etc.

We welcome hearing about other skills that someone might feel led to lend in service to the ministry, so please don't hesitate to send us a note with your particulars and areas of interest. We pray that the Lord will continue to draw many more people into partnership with this work!



Please scan this QR code to update your subscription information for our new database.

It would be very much appreciated.

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



The ICM-Africa female staff

## 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 through our website



## TANZANIA CONTACT INFO:

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

- 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 our travel back to Africa March 1 and 2, and for a smooth transition back into work there.
- Pray for our first graduation at the Sumbawanga campus on March 8, and for Jim's 2-day travel by bus across the country to officiate, and a safe return.
- Pray for the new work in Liberia which will occur March 16-29, and for Jim's travel. Pray for protection over his health, and for all the administration of the class. Janice will hold down the fort in Tanzania.
- Pastor Edward and another instructor will go to Kenya March 18-29 to conduct another college session there, since Jim will be in Liberia. Pray for their safe travel and for the students, as this will be the first time in such a rigorous setting for most of them.
- Pray for our English church, as Jim will only be in country on the first and last Sunday of March to provide a message. May the Lord's will be done.