

HEART FOR AFRICA

"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"

APRIL 2018

GOD HEARS US!

*"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him,
that if we ask anything according to His will,
He hears us."*

1 John 5:14

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The Lord's power, knowledge, holiness, wisdom, faithfulness, patience, mercy, grace, and love are infinitely far above our limited ability to comprehend. When we take a moment to pause from life's hectic activities and meditate on these amazing attributes and other aspects of the Lord's perfect nature, we are able to behold His beauty! This idea was one of the compelling forces that drove King David's life, the same King David who penned Psalm 27:4: ***“One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”***

It's easy to overlook the profound truth that the all-powerful Creator and sovereign ruler of the universe hears us! Yes, it's the primary way we communicate with Him, but a number of other things happen. We know and understand God better through prayer which deepens our relationship with Him. **Prayer is not just for our benefit, but for the delight of our God (Prov 15:8)!** We are not just to intercede for things we need, but to ask for the things He desires! God can also enlist us in performing His will on earth through prayers that are offered with an open and willing heart. God even gives us the privilege and honor of praying on behalf of others (1 Thess 5:24).

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”
Colossians 1:9

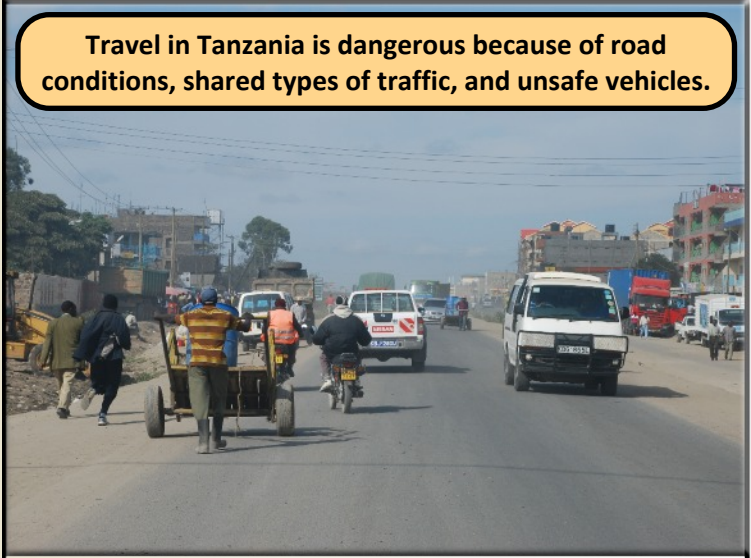
As our 7-year anniversary in Tanzania rapidly approaches, we cannot help but reflect on how the Lord has transformed us and the ministry He called us to. Truly, the Lord has done absolutely astounding things in and through us for His honor and glory. Honestly, we could never have imagined we would find ourselves in this place. Our mistakes and missteps over the years remind us that our meager efforts are not the cause of the transformation. Surely, the Lord heard and honored the prayers of faithful saints offered on our behalf, as well as those of the people we serve. It is in this context that we renew our request for you to continue to pray for us, the ministry, and the loyal and devoted ministry workers. Following are specific areas to pray for.

“Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.”
Hebrews 13:18

Levels 1-4 Inductive Bible Study Seminars. Pray for the instructors as they conduct 15-20 IBS seminars across Tanzania each month. The hours are long and mentally taxing, and the travel is dangerous—a number have sustained serious injuries. Also, please pray for the five new certified instructors for our Level 3 and 4 seminars where

we teach Biblical preaching to pastors and overseers and also select prospective Bible College students. May they have wisdom and discernment in selecting new students.

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”
James 5:16b



Intensive Care Ministries Bible College. Please pray for the principals, instructors, workers, and students of the college. The Diploma in Pastoral Ministry program consists of five sessions (semesters) that take place over the course of 30 months, encompassing about 550 contact hours in the classroom. There is also significant course work required of each student between the sessions. After launching the college just last year, we now have four campuses. We have an extremely ambitious program this year with 20 sessions scheduled, involving 11 separate co-ed classes of students across the four campuses. That means there are usually 2 sessions per month occurring somewhere! It requires a lot of administration and finances to make it happen, but we step out in faith.



Women's Seminars. We are close to launching the women's seminar program where we will use female instructors to conduct 3-day women-only seminars. There will be two days of IBS instruction and one day of women-unique topics. Please pray for our instructor training this month and the commissioning of the four Tanzanian women who will make up our initial cadre of instructors.



Eden Garden Secondary School. Please continue to pray for the Sunday worship service at this high school. We have students from various faith backgrounds attending, and we're praying for lives to be transformed and Godly leaders to emerge.



"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."
Ephesians 6:18

Our Local Church—Believers Fellowship Baptist Church. Jim continues to co-pastor, and Janice leads the children's Sunday School program and serves as church treasurer. Pray for these efforts, as well as the Lord's guidance as we embark on a modest building program to transform our current worship site from having only 2 walls to being completely enclosed with 4 walls, windows and doors! Prayers are also desired for this church to be a light within the city—a place where people come to hear sound teaching and commit their lives to Christ.

Training for Life. The Lord has brought us a delightful group of 24 students for this 3.5 month life skills program where we serve as chaplains. A number are seeking the Lord, so please pray for them to receive Jesus as their Lord Savior.



There is always a lot to pray for each month, and we do our best to list some of those items on the back of each month's newsletter. Your attention to interceding on those matters is very much appreciated. And of course, the ones listed here are ongoing and may always be lifted up.

Left: Our current open-air church structure which allows for good airflow in the heat, but no security, or protection from inclement weather and noise.

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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you change and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3

CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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On-line giving available via PayPal on our website



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PRAYER ITEMS

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