

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

APRIL 2024



*"That you may proclaim the praises of Him
who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*

1 Peter 2:9b

JIMANDJANICE.LARSON@GMAIL.COM
WWW.JIMANDJANICELARSON.COM
FACEBOOK - JANICE YOUNG LARSON



PO BOX 1870
MOSHI, TANZANIA
TANZANIA CELL PHONE 011 255 78 454-8658

Out of Darkness

God calls a person, then sends them to the place that *He* designates. When Isaiah heard the Lord calling, “*Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?*” he could only respond with “*Here am I! Send me.*” Too many missionaries find the place of ministry by *their own choosing* and then ask God to bless it. But God desires that we seek the place that *He* is blessing, and then go to it. We must choose to trust God and His will for us.

A number of our campuses have very interesting locations—ones that God certainly chose. One is within 500 yards of a mosque, in the middle of a Muslim neighborhood. Another is located a few miles from the country’s only Tanzanite mines, an area jaded by wealth and fleshly pursuits. And another is located just a few feet from one of the local offices of Tanzania’s ruling political party. Not places we would choose, for sure.

So, when we began sensing a need to start a work in one of Tanzania’s most spiritually dark regions, we waited on the Lord to be sure He was really calling us there. It takes 30 hours by a rickety bus to get there. The area is renowned for its involvement in witchcraft. The city is “Sumbawanga,” which means *leave your witchcraft materials behind*. The first thought is, “*Hey, that’s a great name!*” But the contextual meaning is completely sinister. What the locals are really saying is, “*Come, leave your witchcraft materials behind because we have plenty for you!*”

**“Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the LORD!”
Psalm 27:14**

For years, we sent hardy, courageous instructors there to conduct inductive Bible study (IBS) seminars and workshops. They would return with amazing stories of



pastors and church leaders hungry for instruction on how to study and preach God’s Word. But we needed more than that. Our response must be to God’s call, not the needs of the people. And the Lord worked it all out in His perfect timing and with His man of the moment.

Pastor Jeremiah has taught with ICM for almost 10 years. He lives with his family in Moshi, our hometown. But he originally comes from Sumbawanga, and has family and contacts there. After many years away, he was called back for a family emergency. While there, pastors and bishops who knew his Bible teaching background sought him out, imploring him to bring Bible training to Sumbawanga. That began several years of conducting IBS seminars there by ICM. In his heart, Jeremiah wanted us to start a college there, but we needed confirmation from the Lord. In 2021, an influential bishop (Meshack) approached Jeremiah with an offer to use his modest facility to conduct our programs.

We responded cautiously with a fleece—we would try this out with one class and no financial investment in the facility whatsoever. We left room for the Lord to confirm the call one way or the other. Students would sleep on mats on the floor of the church, and we would also use the



church as our classroom. Students had chairs but would have to use their laps as desks. Meals and dining would take place outside under the trees. The bishop offered to put up our two instructors in his home.

One final thing remained—we needed to bring the bishop to Moshi for a face-to-face meeting. His humility and genuineness blessed us. What a gracious man! Jeremiah testified to his trustworthiness; Meshack even came bearing a list of 45 prospective students for the first class! How could we go wrong?! Surely the Lord was in this. The first Sumbawanga class began in July 2022 with a graduation slated for 2024.

In March, the first graduating class of 26 students were ready to finish, which meant Jim needed to officiate. First, the 30-hour bus ride was horribly brutal, as advertised! But the area and the people were absolutely amazing. They are not wealthy by any means, but the fertile soil allows most to provide for their families through farming.

We are often struck by the hunger and thirst of the area pastors for more of God's Word. They implored us not to forget them, so we have a vision for a 2025 preachers' conference as His way of continuing to pour into these pastors. Hopefully, Sumbawanga will come to mean something else as we continue to equip God's church there.



Left: Original class with no desks

Above: Current students with tables/desks

Upper Right: New bed frames for the dormitory

Middle Right: New dormitory

Lower Right: Original church/classroom

Since 2022, we have started two more diploma classes of students, so we made modest investments with support from churches in the U.S. One person stepped up to provide desks and chairs. A church provided funding for a dormitory that houses 30 students. During graduation, Bishop Meshack announced he was donating the entire facility and land to ICM, no strings attached. He would build another church not far away. What a blessing from the Lord!

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

www.jimandjanicelaron.com

Have we heard from you?



If you have not already done so this year, please scan this QR code to update your contact information for our new database. It would help us greatly.

Thank you!

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:

Jim and Janice Larson
P.O. Box 1870
Moshi, Tanzania

EMAIL: ICM.Tanzania@gmail.com
Instagram: ICMBC.Africa
Facebook: Intensive Care Ministries-Africa
Website: www.JimAndJaniceLarson.com

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 plant in Tanzania. We primarily need teachers and administrators to serve in both ministries.
- Praise for the successful trip to Liberia Jim had last month to begin a new diploma class there. Pray for the Lord to guide us as we continue to attempt to meet the need there.
- Jim will travel to Malawi April 1-6 to do a week-long IBS seminar to a group of pastors, with the thought of starting a new diploma class there in May if they are receptive to it.
- Pray for safe travel for a visiting pastor coming from Florida April 8-19 to teach in the Bible college with us. May it be a time of blessing and encouragement for everyone involved.
- Jim will travel to South Sudan April 23-May 7 for the final session of the first diploma class there, and their long-awaited graduation. Pray for good health and safe travel for he and Pastor Edward.
- Pray for Janice as she continues to try to find new and more efficient ways to administer all the programs, as well as learn new processes, and find volunteers to help carry some of the load.