

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

MAY 2019

# DISCIPLESHIP MULTIPLICATION

*"From them will proceed thanksgiving  
And the voice of those who celebrate:  
And I will multiply them and they will not be diminished;  
I will also honor them and they will not be insignificant."*

*Jeremiah 30:19*

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We had a pastor from a supporting church in Florida visit us in early April to participate in teaching at the Bible college, as well as do some village church visits. We think it is helpful for you to hear about God's work occasionally from the perspective of someone new to the environment. It also encourages us not to forget or take for granted the love and excitement the Lord has placed in our spirits to minister alongside His sons and daughters here. Enjoy!

If there is one word that I could use to describe what is happening in East Africa through ICM, it is *multiplication*. There is multiplication happening like I have never seen or experienced before in my life! In Matthew 13 Jesus taught using the parable of the soils, explaining that the seed that falls on good soil multiplies, becoming 30, 60, or even 100 times what was sown. Let me put into words how that multiplication is taking place in Tanzania.

The first thing I discovered is that ICM is not about just one ministry, but many. The main mission is to equip and strengthen local pastors so they can be eternally fruitful through teaching the Bible correctly. I stepped in to teach the book of Daniel near the end of one of the sessions and was blown away at the hunger and thirst of these students to learn the word of God. In this one class that I taught, there were 22 pastors who had been in this program for close to 3 years! I have never seen such excitement and passion for God in all my life. These pastors have been radically changed through the ICM Bible College, as well as their churches and villages. Seeds of faith are multiplying, and good eternal fruit is being produced.

Bible college campuses, each one is being led by a local pastor of great local influence! It is truly a work of the Holy Spirit, seeing how the locals trust the Larson's and have joined them on their mission to strengthen and equip the local churches.



The college is only one aspect of the multi-faceted ministry. The inductive Bible study (IBS) seminars are also scheduled and taught by about 15 national pastors who have graduated from the college. This happens as they network with other pastors within their denominations and geographical regions, sharing how their faith and lives have been transformed! These are 4-day seminars focused on equipping and teaching pastors how to properly handle the Scriptures. God is blessing these seminars in amazing ways, and they are growing in frequency and moving into many different areas of East Africa. One result of these seminars is that pastors realize they need more training, and that is typically where the students for the Bible college come from. If they are accepted, they can join a cohort and be trained in a much deeper way by being taught through every book of the Bible, and other topics such as systematic theology and African church history.



Teaching at the Bible college

Another thrilling idea about the Bible college is that it is growing through the ministry and efforts of locals. These numbers will be outdated soon, but at the moment there are 10 local pastors who have been trained and accepted the call to teach classes since they graduated from the pastoral program! These teachers were at the top of their class and are the "best of the best." They are each overseeing a number of churches under them as well. So, of the four



Playing guitar to Swahili versions of old hymns





High School students on Sunday morning

More gospel multiplication is happening in elementary and high schools. Through the local church where Jim pastors, they have made connections with several area schools and have the opportunity to go in and share the gospel and make disciples of the students. One night we showed a movie to over two hundred students and shared the gospel boldly! One morning we divided up and three teachers went in to an elementary school and boldly taught the word with about 130 students – many of whom were Muslims! I'm honestly blown away at the many open doors here to reach people and share the gospel. There is so much need, as well as opportunity, for people to get involved.



Children's ministry in a village church

I could say so much more, but the last thing I will mention is the amazing relationships that the Larson's have built with the churches and pastors here. In addition to all of the ministry happening through the seminars, the college, and their church, we were also able to minister in many different villages. The genuine love that Jim has for these pastors has blossomed into ministry that feels like you are living in the New Testament. We would travel down bumpy, dusty dirt roads to villages that have no power, no TV's, and

no internet. We would hang out and encourage one another and eat together. It was *koinonia* like I have never experienced. The pastors know that Jim truly loves them because he is not afraid to live life *with* them. It seems that many missionaries keep their distance and don't eat their food or share life with them, but Jim and Janice truly do.



Teaching adults in a village church

My life and my view of God have been forever changed by coming here and experiencing the Spirit of God at work in so many ways. It is a ministry opportunity that is multiplying and bearing abundant and eternal fruit. From the jobs the college is providing for locals to the impact the program is having on churches, every investment made into this ministry is going towards kingdom work and is producing a plentiful harvest of good and sweet fruit.

*Eternally Changed,*  
Pastor Joe Harris  
Calvary 813, Tampa FL



L to R: Pastors Loth and Silas with me at the Mt Meru Bible College campus

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



Villagers use these handmade wooden boats to go out into the lake where they cast their nets—probably much like Jesus’ disciples did—to catch fish for their livelihood. They are then laid out on racks to dry and be preserved for eating later (front cover). Life here is very much like that described in the Bible.

## 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

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise the Lord that we have identified about 40 pastors from different parts of Kenya to be invited to attend the ICM Bible College program which will begin in Nairobi in October of this year! Pray for all the details to come together, as well as the facility and teaching staff.
- Pray for a Bible college session at the Meru campus on 8-17 May
- Pray for a new training program which begins this month, providing Bible training to evangelists who are identified to plant churches under their denominations. The first session is 10-17 May, and the students will complete 2 more 8-day sessions in the next 12 months. This is a church-planting certificate program.
- Pray for Jim and our 2 sons as they climb Mt Kilimanjaro on 17-22 May, and for a good visit with them.