

HEART FOR AFRICA
"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"
JULY 2019

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28

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Serving the Local Church

We owe a large measure of our ministry success to a firm commitment to serve the local churches of East Africa. These faithful, unremarkable churches are the Lord's chosen instruments for transforming their villages through Gospel outreach, local ministry in the context of the village, and edification of those in the body of Christ for service.

It is very tempting to twist this formula around and have the local churches serve us. That can happen when we force our ideas and ministry approaches on them, rather than listening for what their real needs are and partnering with them to develop and implement effective, sustainable solutions. Many well-intentioned missionaries have made this mistake, including us in the early phases of our service here.

Late in 2017 we asked ourselves, "Is there anything we could do to better serve the local church in this regard?" At the time, the ICM Bible College "Diploma in Pastoral Ministry" had already been launched with a goal of serving senior pastors and bishops. The four planned campuses were projected to serve a combined student enrollment of approximately 250 with 150 graduates by mid-2019. Practically speaking, it did not seem wise or feasible to integrate young, inexperienced pastoral candidates into these classes of seasoned senior pastors.



Pastors in Training

During our 8 years serving here we have heard a number of consistent themes come forth from the pastors we come in contact with. One is that pastors and overseers need help training and equipping the young evangelists and assistant pastors in their churches so they can plant their own churches. Many of these young people have already demonstrated a ministerial call of God on their lives and are gifted in teaching, but do not have the time or money to attend Bible college in order to be equipped with biblical knowledge. Feeling a compelling call from God, they often go out woefully unprepared for the pulpit aspect of pastoral ministry, thinking they will learn as they go. Their overseers, rather than hold them back and risk losing them to another denomination, allow them to go but offer little help once they are "out of sight and out of mind."

*"I planted, Apollos watered,
but God gave the increase."*

1 Corinthians 3:6



Young evangelists conduct open-air preaching

The Lord has blessed us with an amazing ministry leadership cadre, and it was important that we involve them. We needed to pray and carefully consider our options before proceeding. Over the course of several months, our vision for a new ICMBC program was developed and fine-tuned. The "Certificate in Church Planting" was designed for and by Tanzanian pastors



A new teaching team is used.

to serve pastoral candidates by training and equipping them to preach biblically. It's comprised of three 8-day sessions scheduled to be completed in one year. It will provide prospective pastors with overview studies in all 66 books of the Bible as well as detailed verse-by-verse expositional studies in 10 New Testament books, including the Gospel of Mark. In addition, each student will prepare 15 sermons and preach 6 times.

It took us over a year to write the course curriculum. We were able to tailor the book overviews from the diploma program to fit the certificate program which saved us some time and effort. However, we wanted the verse-by-verse studies to be different than the diploma program so a student who completed the certificate program could eventually qualify for the diploma program and receive all new material. As a result, a student who completes both programs will receive detailed verse-by-verse studies in 22 books of the Bible!

It is also important to note that we are not teaching the pastoral candidates how to plant a church; we leave that up to each Tanzanian denomination. We simply train and equip the students for biblical preaching. This approach ensures that indigenous churches are planted that will minister in a culturally suitable and relevant way to the people in the villages. Further, the churches will be locally sustainable and independent of any western resources. This

"But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Matthew 13:23

philosophy is the essence of the Lord's principle of ministry multiplication.

We were blessed to launch the first class of our Certificate in Church Planting program in May. It currently has 13 students who will graduate in December. The teachers for this program are different than those who instruct in the Bible college which will allow us to offer two classes per year. For the foreseeable future, the certificate program will only be offered at the Moshi campus. Please pray for these new instructors and students as we all maneuver through the program.



Our Schedule in the US for July & August

July 1-2: St Petersburg, FL

July 3-7: Florida Panhandle

July 8-16: Birmingham, AL

July 19-29: Western NC & Eastern TN

July 30-31: Mentone, CA

Aug 1-7: St Petersburg, FL

Aug 8-9: Flying back to Tanzania

If you have a desire to have us speak at a Bible Study or small group meeting while we are in your area, please contact us as soon as possible to schedule something.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

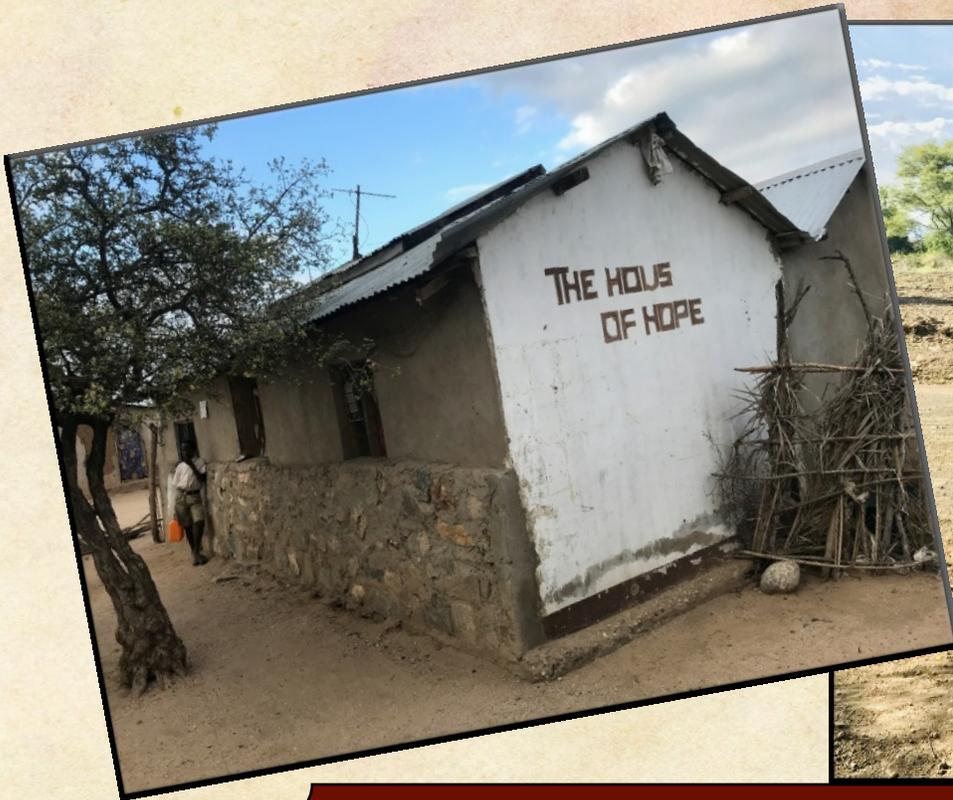
23 students began the program, but 10 were from a distant part of the country and will resume if/when we can offer something closer.



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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Pictures of the Month



*"Hope doesn't disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given to us."
Romans 5:5*

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 God for the 1st graduations held last month at Mwanza on June 14 and the other on June 21 at Morogoro. We are grateful for one of our supporting churches in California sending their pastor to teach and officiate at the ceremony.
- Prayers for the ICM-TZ staff as they carry on this month doing seminars and college sessions without us while we are in the US for a short work furlough. May the Lord give them wisdom and discernment.
- Pray for our other ministries (church, youth, and children) while we are gone as well.
- Pray for our meetings with supporters, churches, and the ICM Board while we are in the US...that we would all have a clear vision for the future of this work.
- Pray for our brief time to reconnect with family while home. It is never long enough for any of us!