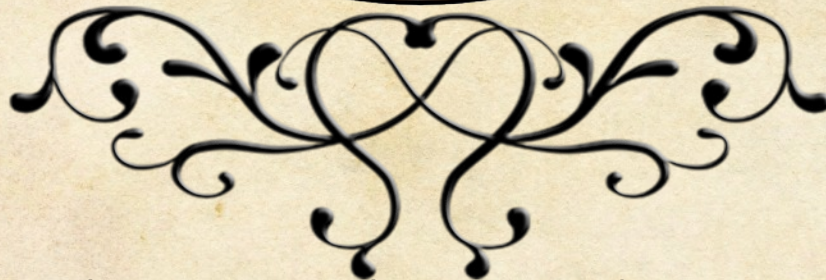
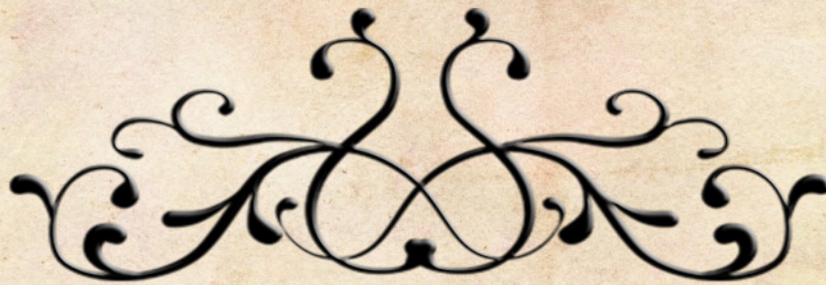


HEART FOR AFRICA

“TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME”

SEPTEMBER 2018



*“Always be ready to give a defense
to everyone who asks you a reason
for the hope that is in you.”*

1 Peter 3:15

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



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

Ready or Not!

Return from furlough has always been a time of great excitement and anticipation for us. Yes, we are a bit sad and burdened over leaving loved ones and friends, but the Lord gives us strength to shift our hearts to Africa and the work He is doing there. What new experience does He have waiting for us back in Tanzania? How has He been working on our behalf among those we are called to minister to even in our absence? And He never disappoints!

While we do crave stability and calm in our work, we also know that for some aspects of our ministry there is only one constant, and that is change. For example, every year one class of high school students where we conduct a Sunday church service graduates and departs for the next stage in their life journey, and a new class arrives ready for the same. Though we are disappointed to see one group leave that we have poured our lives into, we are happy to welcome a new group.

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word."

Psalm 119:9



Twice each year the Lord brings us a completely new group of young people from all across Tanzania to the Christian-based program for university-bound students. Each class has its own unique personality and temperament. Though we do not get as close to these students in the 3.5 months we are with them, we do build lasting friendships with a number of them that continue long after they leave the program.

During our first encounters together, we try to figure each other out. They typically do not meet westerners like us – Christian missionaries with a deep background in business and secular jobs. It seems encouraging for them to see us balance the secular and sacred. Many want to serve the Lord, but they also have dreams of raising a family for which they must provide. And we also find that parents tend to put great pressure on their children to seek out a

secure, well-paying secular career rather than a career in ministry that pays very little and offers almost no security.

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."

2 Chronicles 16:9

We want to get to know them better. What are their names and interests? What area of Tanzania and which of the 125 tribes in Tanzania do they come from? What are their dreams and plans for the next steps in their life? Most, if not all, will go on to university and a career of some sort, though it is often very difficult to find employment, especially for the talented and educated youth.

Interestingly enough, the new class we engaged with just a couple of days after we returned must have heard about us or something, as they were ready to pepper us with very challenging spiritual questions, right after one of our Sunday evenings of worship and a biblical message. We had been running behind to get there on time and had forgotten some important things...like Bibles!

One student wanted to know why God had caused His people to be captive in Babylon for 70 years during Old Testament times. They were God's chosen. Why would God do that? Janice addressed that question in great detail. Another asked about baptism and communion which ended up being a lesson on the difference between sacraments and ordinances. Typically we find that many different denominations are represented in each class, all with a different approach to this topic. So, Janice had to proceed quite gingerly as she carefully addressed the various aspects.



Jim speaking with Simon and Elisa, who met him in the parking lot with questions!

Janice teaching on biblical relationships



It was getting late, approaching 10PM, and we needed to find a good place to bring things in for a gentle landing. We were encouraged by the insightful questions, but we knew we would need to bring our “A-game” for future engagements with this special class. In a subsequent session, we learned that at least one student is pursuing a call into the priesthood, but is facing great pressure from parents to reconsider and choose a secular career.

Please pray for them and us as we spend time with these 14 young men and women through the middle of September.

Then, another asked, “Was it okay for a Christian to keep the Saturday Sabbath?” Jim took that one, but a Bible would have been great to show the students the particular details as we moved around the Old and New Testaments developing the answer! Then the Lord used that question to prompt a number of amazingly insightful inquires on various aspects of salvation that could have easily come from masters-level seminary graduates. It almost felt like we were defending a doctoral thesis! But what a great blessing to hear and be challenged by these questions from young people truly seeking answers about God. Thank you Jesus for bringing them to us!



“One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.”

Romans 14:5



Left: Jim teaching biblical personal finance session



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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



The Meru Bible College classroom is prepped and ready to receive new classes of students this month! Pray for each pastor who will fill these chairs.

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 via PayPal on our website



TANZANIA CONTACT INFO:

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

EMAIL: JimAndJanice.Larson@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.JimAndJaniceLarson.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Several new classes of students have begun in the Bible college. Pray they do not become discouraged.
- Our first Bible college class will graduate on September 14. This group includes our current instructors who have been with us for many years. Praise the Lord for their perseverance!
- We have a team visiting September 11-15 to teach and participate in the graduation, and another team September 22-October 5 to dedicate the Mwanza college campus. Pray for their safe travel and ministry.
- The Women's ministry is continuing in the northern regions of TZ and being well received.
- Our church ministries and youth programs fill our Sundays from dawn to late evening. Please pray for the Lord to continue to energize and sustain us for the next several months.