

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

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BUT GOD

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We love creating our monthly newsletters; through them the Lord gives us the privilege and honor to be able to share about the work He is doing in, among, and through us and our dedicated team of East African ministers. Inspiration can come from a variety of different sources...something we personally saw or experienced, a hard lesson we learned firsthand, a word the Lord gave us from Scripture, a delightful story from one of our ministers or, as we learned this month, inadvertently during a post-church discussion with one of our precious prayer supporters!

We have known this woman and her husband for the last 6 years. They have consistently shown a keen interest in our work in Africa and can always be counted on to be persistent in their prayers for us. We ran into them during a recent trip to the U.S. and were soon engaged in delightful conversation. She earnestly desired to hear our prayer needs so her life group could pray for us. As she sensed us struggling to discern what might be the next steps in our ministry, she gently interjected “But God...” into the conversation to remind us that God was the one in control, and He would be the one to determine our next steps. Our responsibility was to trust His perfect plans and timing. And thus, the inspiration for this newsletter was born!



When the Bible speaks, God speaks, and He is speaking to each one of us. In our systematic method of studying the Bible called inductive Bible study (IBS), we carefully examine not only what God says in His Word, but also *how* He says it. One of the more important “how” words in the Bible is “but,” for God tends to use this word when He wants to provide a contrast in order to make a clear point. One side of a topic is provided first; then the opposing side is introduced with the word “but.” This compare and contrast method in Scripture often speaks to life and what it means to live God’s way compared to what it means to live the wrong way.

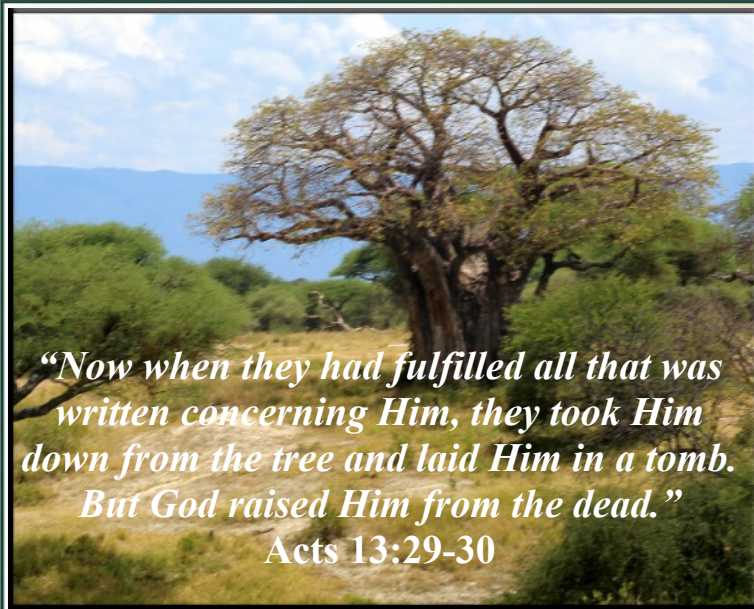
When you connect “But” and “God” together, you will see at least 26 times in Scripture where this



combination is used. In fact, as you can see with some of the Scriptures we have included in our newsletter, “but God” introduces some of the most profound truths in all of Scripture—promises and encouraging words from God that can inspire and comfort us. Reading through them, we were also reminded of some recent memories where life threw us a “but” moment that really got our attention and caused us to reflect on the Lord’s goodness and grace, especially in our most difficult and trying time. Let us share a few...



Over the course of 12 months, both Pastors James and Ibrahim had attended each level of our IBS seminars and were selected to attend the Bible College at the Mwanza campus in July. They had performed very well during the preaching seminars and were excited to learn of their selection for our diploma program that would train and equip them for biblical preaching. But both passed away just before the class started. Instead of our students and teachers feeling the joy and excitement that always comes with a new beginning, they were left to grieve over the loss of two amazing servants of the Lord. But we were comforted knowing that James and Ibrahim are now with the Lord Jesus.



Last month we were ready and excited to be starting a new Bible College class and group of students at our Moshi campus. Most of them had confirmed their intention to attend in advance, and the teachers were well-prepared as well. But the day the students were to arrive, we heard from our translator, Pastor Edward, that his brother had just passed away. We grieved for him as it always affects us deeply when loss such as this touches a member of our ministry family.

Certainly, we were not concerned about finding a replacement for Edward; we have talented back-up translators willing to stand in for him. We simply wanted to minister to him and help him find comfort in the Lord, but Edward earnestly desired to complete the work he had committed to. He asked us to minister to him by letting him join us and our students in the Lord's work; he simply asked for time off to attend the burial of his brother on the appropriate day.



"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8

Left: The Moshi Class w/Edward
Top: Class at Meru
Middle: Class at Morogoro
All 3 of these classes were being conducted at the same time!

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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



Women's seminars are continuing to be held, even in church buildings that have no roof! Please continue to pray for this much-needed ministry.

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

- Pray for Jim's trip to Uganda last month to bear fruit and for the Lord to guide us on the next steps.
- We continue to pray for more workers to come into this harvest field to assist with the ministry growth.
- Pray for us as we travel to Thailand for an ICM conference 13-20 September to share about the work here and encourage others to begin shaping goals to do a similar work in their areas.
- Pray for our strength and discernment in prioritizing and carrying out our workload. That request is for us, as well as our leadership staff who also carry a large burden by continuing to pastor their own churches while teaching at the Bible colleges.
- Continue to lift up our discipleship of the youth and children we work with. We've had a few Muslims come to faith by sitting in the classes and services we hold at local schools. Praise the Lord!