

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

OCTOBER 2019

God at Work

*"Let my mouth be filled with Your praise
and with Your glory all the day."*

Psalm 71:8

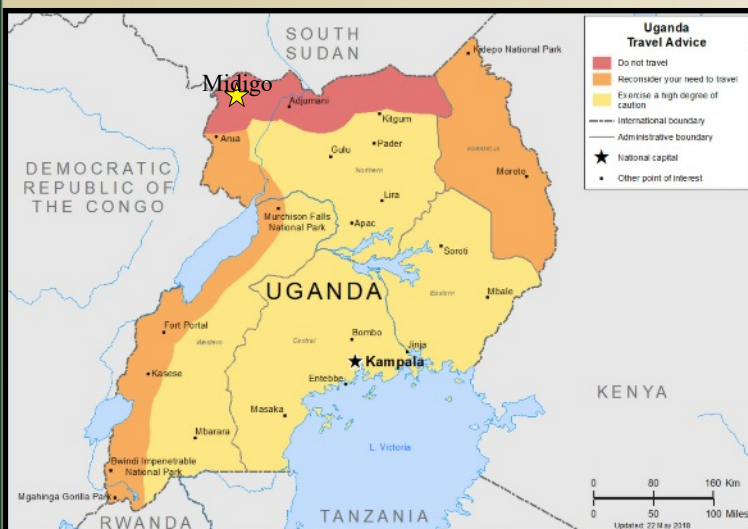
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We cherish the opportunities the Lord gives us to minister in other East African countries. It is good when the ministry is shared with others and we're able to see if our methods work elsewhere, and it also allows us to learn about another African cultures. We also realize how easy it is to get locked in on our own work and overlook the reality that the Lord is at work through His saints around the world, sovereignly bringing about His plan of redemption.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 19:19b



I (Jim) recently traveled to northwest Uganda to a village of approximately 80,000 people called Midigo. This remote village is located less than 20 kilometers from the border with South Sudan and not far from the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. There are several refugee camps close by which provide a safe haven for the people fleeing from the conflicts in these two war-torn countries. People in the camps are forced to leave their homeland due to the violence. Their identity, home, property, possessions, livelihood, and often their families are all left behind for a new life in a land not their own.

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."
Philippians 3:20

A remarkable aspect of the ministry environment in Midigo is that the area is predominantly Muslim (over 90 percent). This makes for some great challenges, but the local church sees it as great opportunity. They have built the only medical facility in the area which is staffed by one Christian Ugandan doctor, and they treat both refugees and soldiers alike. They also established one of the best elementary schools (Christian) which draws over 500 Muslim children each year who are being taught about Jesus! Persecution and conflict are ever-present realities each day, but these brothers and sisters trust in the Lord for His provision. It reminded me that the Church was born

and spread rapidly in the face of resistance and persecution, and continues to do so today.

"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"
Hebrews 13:5

The Lord sent me into this fascinating environment to teach Inductive Bible Study (IBS) and biblical preaching for 5 days. Calvary Chapel Midigo arranged the seminar, and senior pastor Charles served as my gracious host. As he would introduce me to leaders who served in his church, I sensed a number of common attributes in them: lack of fear, confidence in the work they were doing for the Lord, boldness, and an unshakeable faith and deep devotion to His Kingdom work. It was clear they had been called to this difficult place *"for such a time as this."*

Their testimonies blessed me very much and reminded me that the call of God may not send us to a comfortable location. But wherever the Lord calls us is the safest place because it is the place of God's will. He is the sovereign Lord of even the harshest places on earth. If He sends us there, He is there as well.

As the IBS teachings continued each day, more people would arrive; we soon had over 100 people attending, with many from the refugee camps. This included senior pastors from churches that CC Midigo had planted inside the camps to serve the people living there. These pastors have looked past the difficult living conditions to see an opportunity to minister the love and compassion of the Lord Jesus Himself to a displaced people who desperately needed the hope that only Jesus provides.

Practicing leading a small group Bible study



People were hungry and thirsty for God's Word, not because they weren't used to being fed spiritually, but because they had a natural hunger and thirst for His Word that comes from a strong and enduring faith. It was contagious and moved me to teach with great passion and conviction, knowing they were receiving it with a goal to understand and apply it to transform their lives and community.



After 4 days of this, I was overflowing with a feeling of blessedness. Janice and I live and minister in relative comfort across the border in Tanzania, and here I was in a harsh, unforgiving environment fraught with constant conflict and resistance with people who could not get enough of God's Word. Absolutely amazing... amazing grace!

One of the highlights of my time at CC Midigo was the final day of the seminar when I taught pastors how to take the IBS method and tools and develop an expositional sermon. Over 30 pastors attended, each with a strong desire to preach God's Word God's way. I believe His people are in the care of loving shepherds, even in this remote location. We are praying the Lord will continue to grow and deepen the relationship between us and CC Midigo for His glory.

"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."
1 Thessalonians 2:13



Requests are coming in for training from many more countries in Africa and around the world. We continue to ask the Lord to send more workers into the harvest field to assist us. Please be praying for this need to be met through those who would answer the call to "go" and those who would partner financially to "send." Internships are available with us for those with gifts of teaching and administration.

Top: Godly servants who prepared meals

Middle: Pastor Charles and Jim

Bottom: Seminar attendees working hard



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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



Pray for these students as they make their way through university and into the world as sons and daughters of the living God.

CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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Note "LARSON" in Memo of check

On-line giving available through our website



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PRAYER REQUESTS

- We had a very fruitful trip to Thailand and will be going to Pakistan and India early next year to assist our ICM counterparts in their native territories. Again, prayers for more workers to help us meet the demand!
- Pray for favor with the Tanzanian government regarding ministry paperwork we are trying to get approved.
- The 1-year church planting certificate program continues to do well and we'll graduate the first class of these evangelists at the end of November. Pray for the Lord to be preparing fertile ground for them.
- Our university-bound students graduated Sept 28th and it was one of the best groups of young people we have worked with yet. And our secondary school students graduate on 5 October. Praise the Lord for this generation of Godly men and women who can now stand firm in their faith!