

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

OCTOBER 2023

# Highs and Lows

*"For He Himself has said,  
I will never leave you nor forsake you."*  
Hebrews 13:5b

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



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

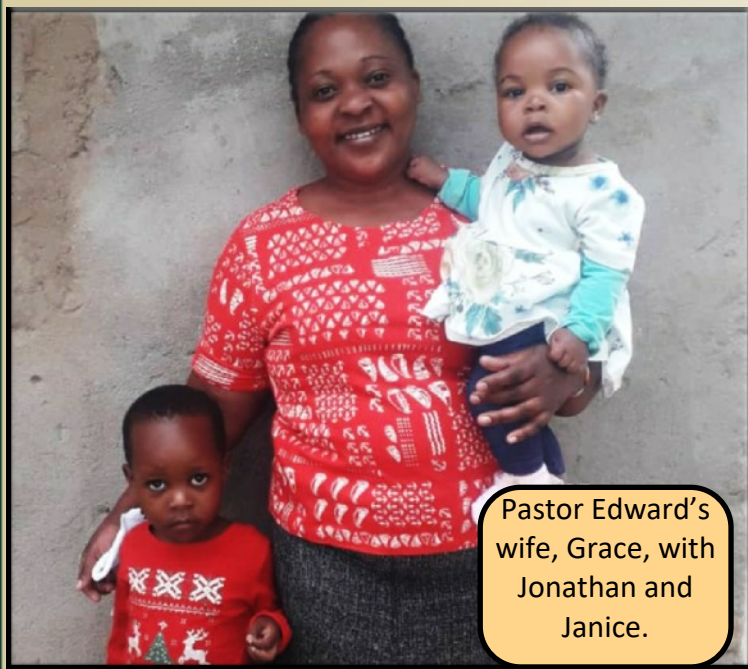
Spiritual highs and lows are a fact of life for the Christ-follower. We have all experienced them at one time or another. In fact, we have even given them a label. The high is called a mountaintop experience. This could be completing an amazing work for the Lord, attending an uplifting Christian conference, seeing firsthand the Lord at work among His people, or attending a baptismal service (especially for a relative). Often, we wish they would go on forever!

A spiritual low is called a valley. Trudging through a dry season of life, losing a loved one, witnessing the division of a beloved church, and failing in a spiritual battle are all familiar examples. We cannot wait until they end!

Here is the amazing thing—you will find God in both places. That is one of the precious promises contained in God’s Word. King David wrote Psalm 23... surely there is no other psalm that is better known nor more widely appreciated than this one. Though we do not know what adverse situation David was facing when he penned it, he was certainly facing a difficult ordeal in the valley. Even then, David knew the Lord was with Him in that place.

*“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”*  
Psalm 23:4

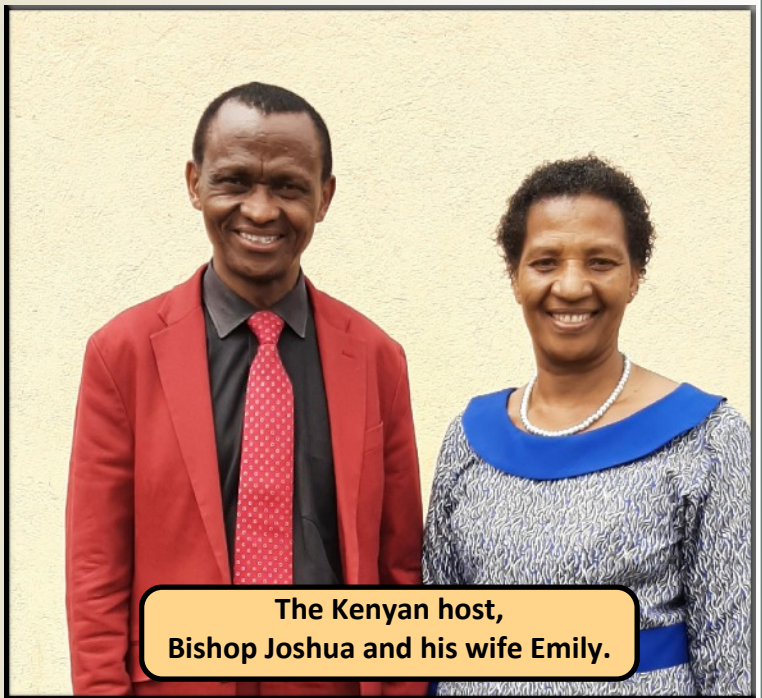
Another interesting point about our mountaintop and valley experiences is that only the Lord knows how long they will last. He is sovereign over both of them. The God of the mountain is the God of the valley, and He will allow our time in either place to last as long as He needs to fulfill His purpose in us. He does not want us to get too comfortable on the mountain and He does not want us to get discouraged during our times in the valley.



Pastor Edward’s wife, Grace, with Jonathan and Janice.

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have completed our Annual General Meeting (AGM) with our staff. This is when we meet to look back at the highs and lows for the year, as well as what lies ahead.

Our world was rocked when Janice lost her father in January, and then we lost our own Pastor Fredy in April, before he saw his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. Some of us are still struggling to come out of that valley. But we experienced the mountaintop when Pastor Edward, our Tanzania Director, and his wife welcomed a new daughter the same day that Janice lost her father. It was no surprise to us when Edward and his wife named their new daughter Janice! Within days of losing Pastor Fredy, we gained a new grandson named Luke. *“...The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”*



The Kenyan host, Bishop Joshua and his wife Emily.

Even as we faced these personal highs and lows, God was also working in and through the ministry team in incredible ways.

- We have now inaugurated our Kenya campus.
- In November, we will open a new campus—our seventh in Tanzania—in the capital city of Dodoma.
- We were also scheduled to open a new campus in Liberia in November; 5,000 miles to our west. However, logistical challenges have caused it to be off/on/off again, so we’re riding a roller coaster with that! Pray for the Lord’s will and timing on that.

It is tempting to rest on one of the mountains, but God continues to beckon us into new and exciting works, and even into some dark valleys.

*“The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.”*  
Deuteronomy 1:6

As we prepare to participate in dedicating the new Bible Institute facility in South Sudan this November, we've received news that one of those students was involved in an accident which resulted in a crushed pelvis and other fractures. He has been airlifted to Nairobi for extensive surgeries to repair the damage. We had identified him as a strong candidate to become one of the instructors there—another valley. Pray for Pastor Marko!



We also experienced the valley of two long-time staff members drifting away as they got too busy with other activities. Right afterwards, the Lord brought us two *new* members! Bishop Meshack, the director of the Sumbawanga campus, who has given ICM-Africa full use of all his facilities and will become an instructor next year. The same with the director at the new Dodoma campus, another Bishop Joshua. He has donated all of his facilities for campus use, and is even funding the necessary improvements to prepare the site to open in November with its first class.

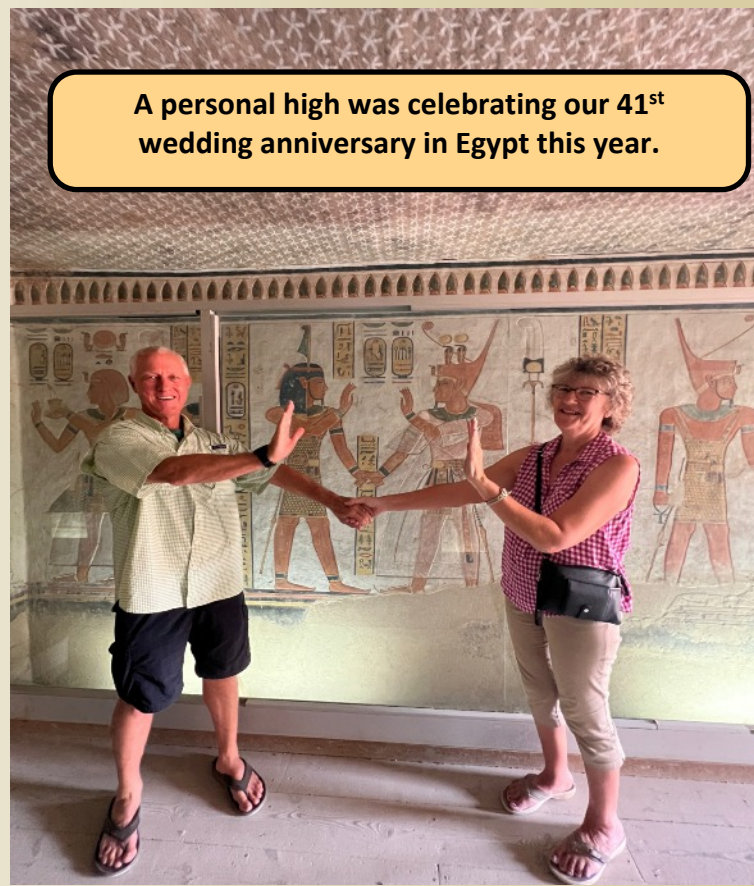


If we had rested on the mountaintop of prior accomplishments, we would have missed out on these new ones as well as future highs. For instance, Bishop Meshack plans to introduce us to a close friend of his from Lusaka, Zambia, who would like to host ICM-Africa in their capital city starting next year. Amazingly, we already have many Zambian pastors attending our Sumbawanga campus, but Lusaka would give us a foothold 750 miles into Zambia's interior.

On another ministry front, we are so busy with ICM-Africa and the expansion into other countries that we are no longer able to pour into the English church that we have co-pastored for 8 years. Our travel schedule just doesn't allow us to be there consistently. The other pastor can continue to lead, but we really need a couple of other people who can support him and develop other programs such as children, youth, music/worship. That's a definite valley for us to see the church struggle this way.

When Peter, James, and John met Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter's response was amazement and a heartfelt desire to stay for an extended time on the mountain with them. *Lord it is good for us to be here, let's build a few shelters so we can stay up here awhile!* If Peter only knew what awaited them.

God uses the mountaintops and valleys to prepare us for greater works in the future. Please pray for us—that we will have the discernment and courage to face this reality.



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



## Tonj Bible Institute

Look at all the progress on the new Bible college facility in Ton, South Sudan! The host ministry—In Deed and Truth—has done a great job of raising support for this joint venture. The local builders are doing a fantastic job of creating a top-notch campus. We can't wait to see it in person in November when we both return to teach and participate in its dedication. Pray for everyone involved in the project to remain safe!

### 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



### TANZANIA CONTACT INFO:

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

EMAIL: [ICM.Tanzania@gmail.com](mailto:ICM.Tanzania@gmail.com)  
Instagram: [ICMBC.Africa](https://www.instagram.com/ICMBC.Africa)  
Facebook: Intensive Care Ministries-Africa  
Website: [www.JimAndJaniceLarson.com](http://www.JimAndJaniceLarson.com)

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for clarity and wisdom at our Annual General Meeting October 2-4 for all involved.
- Pray for our travels within the country 5-8 October as Jim speaks at a pastors' conference of 120 men.
- Praise for Jim's trip to Kenya last month, as well as Janice presiding over 3 graduations at distant campuses in his absence.
- Please pray for more workers to help us in the field. A strong administrator and/or more Bible teachers would be a major blessing to help carry the load during this time of expansion.
- More administrative support/help in the US is also needed in the way of building a database for the college, and marketing/social media assistance.
- Pray for the Lord to make His will known about being able to begin in Liberia in November.