

HEART FOR AFRICA

"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"

NOVEMBER 2018

A Time of Joy



*"... so that I may finish my race with joy,
and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus,
to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."*

Acts 20:24b

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The Lord continues to pour out His unending blessings and favor on the ministry work in East Africa. It is not about us or our Tanzanian



pastors, but all about the Lord and His infinite mercy and grace. Soon after the Intensive Care Ministries Bible College concept was founded in March 2017, we took a number of steps to implement the challenging vision to establish colleges throughout Tanzania. 1. We prayed about and decided on the additional courses needed to round out the training and equipping of pastors for biblical preaching. 2. We laid out a timetable and scheduled the graduation of our first class for September 2018. 3. Jim undertook the arduous 18-month process of developing the lesson material required to complete the new curriculum. 4. We were funding and overseeing construction of two more campuses in the western and southern regions. Nothing like a little pressure to spur us to action!

With many moving parts to get four campuses up and running and the first class graduated on time, we trusted that the Lord would guide our efforts and keep us focused. As each month passed and brought us closer to the goal, the excitement within the team of ICM Bible College instructors and campus principals (site directors) began to build, and for good reason. Through their sustained, faithful service, these 13 men (10 instructors, 2 campus principals, and our Kenya country director) had earned the distinction and honor of being our first ICM Bible College graduates earning a diploma in Pastoral Ministry!

"But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts."

1 Thessalonians 2:4

The instructors had already been teaching much of the curriculum for the last several years as part of the former Mt. Kilimanjaro Pastoral Training Center program. They had grown significantly in their spiritual maturity and knowledge—teaching with confidence and grace—and were inspiring so many of the pastors sitting in their classes to abandon their former methods and strive to teach sound doctrine. One of the most beneficial changes to the work over the years has been watching it blossom by us stepping to the background and putting the nationals front and center as the face of the ministry.

The final 10-day session in September turned out to be pretty grueling for both the students (instructors) and Jim.

"But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You."

Psalm 5:11

Since he was teaching this material to his cadre of instructors, it meant he was teaching solo for 10 days straight from 7:30AM-8:30PM each day. He had to teach more thoroughly than normal to be sure they understood the concepts and could re-teach it properly to their own classes. By about the 5th day of classes, his voice started to give way and exhaustion set in, but the students kept praying over him, encouraging him, and spurring him on. For the last 3 days of classes, we had a small team arrive from the USA, and the visiting

American pastor stepped in and started teaching half of the day to give Jim a break. The other 2 team members—a husband and wife—jumped in to help Janice get everything

Pastor Ryan teaching book of Daniel



ready for the actual graduation ceremony and celebration. We honestly don't know how we would have ever gotten through those 2 weeks without their help. Visitors can be very crucial at times, even in performing some of the most mundane tasks like sorting/washing/ironing graduation gowns and stoles, typing and printing ceremony programs, making flower arrangements, emceeding the ceremony, and being the official photographer! The Lord knows exactly who to send at just the right time.



The actual ceremony was the culmination of a lot of hard work on everyone's part, and many tears of joy were shed. A pretty barren classroom was transformed into a respectable setting by covering the walls in fabric of white (for purity), maroon (religious degree) and gold (academic achievement of high honor). In typical Tanzanian ceremonial fashion, we processed in swinging and swaying

to upbeat music, but carrying the Bible at the front of the line. Lots of pictures were taken, speeches made, ceremonial gifts exchanged, and food was eaten.



The Bible leads the way!

These men have been faithful messengers of the Gospel and co-laborers in the ministry for several years now. They have a true calling from God to be an integral part of the work, and their friends and families came from far and wide to stand beside them and rejoice in all the Lord has done. They are family to us in more than just the biblical sense. We've been accepted into their homes, their lives, their communities, and their hearts which will be what we remember most whenever our time here is finished.

"I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

John 17:23



Every graduate was presented a stole and diploma



Plenty of time for each graduate to get family pictures

Standing (L-R): Freddy, Joshua, Jeremia, Elisha, Ezekiel, Obedi, Charles, Edward;
Seated (L-R): Suleman, Peter, Silas, Loth, Eddy



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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Pictures of the Month



We have been blessed over the years with small groups of people who support the ministry in various ways coming to visit. Some help us teach, others provide music, some help minister to the children and youth, and others just come to talk and encourage us or pitch in with whatever needs to be done. Let us know if you would like to join us. We always have room for more!

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

- PTL for a great trip to the Mwanza Bible College campus last month. It is an engineering miracle for this classroom to be physically built upon rocks, as well as built upon The Rock! Thank you, Feather Sound Community Church, for your support!
- Pray for our Sunday service at the secondary school. More and more students are attending our class which is being met with opposition from the leaders of the local Catholic and Lutheran churches, where they used to attend. We are teaching on the cost of discipleship, and one of our students is being beaten by other students who feel he has betrayed them by standing for what is right. Pray for peace and perseverance.
- Pray for the Lord to identify 5 more people to help us reach 450 elementary students every Monday morning to teach their mandated "Religion Class." There are children from all faiths present—including Muslims. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few!