

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

NOVEMBER 2019

# One Team One Dream



**Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
For brethren to dwell together in unity!**

**Psalm 133:1**

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One very minor concession we have made to secular culture is the use of a motto for our team, a motto our ministers all unanimously agreed on: “*One team...one dream.*” Four simple words that provide a subtle reminder of who we are, what we stand for, and what binds us together. They are important culturally because they reflect an oft-used Swahili proverb which says: “*Unity is strength, division is weakness.*” This proverb reveals the cooperative nature that resides deep in the Tanzanian heart!

The story that led to our use of this motto is somewhat fascinating and known by only a few outside our team. In November 2017, our team trekked up Mount Kilimanjaro. We included 12 Tanzanian college instructors and site directors, Jim, and four westerners (Jim’s brother Allan and sister Brenda along with two faithful “friends of ICM,” Fred and Kevin). We undertook this arduous challenge with the hope that enduring a common struggle together would build unity and strength in our team. Well...it certainly seemed like a good idea at the time...



***“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.”***

**Ephesians 4:3**

From the onset of the climb, our Tanzanian guides constantly repeated this little rhyme—*one team, one dream*—as a way to encourage us, unite us, and keep us focused on our common goal of reaching the summit that loomed in the distance. But, truth be told, these simple, powerless words did not work so well for us and, in fact, became quite annoying as we approached the summit after more than 4 days of climbing together! Once we returned to safer ground, a number of us resolved to never use these words again! But later, when the pain of the climb had subsided, our ministers decided to adopt the motto to remind us that these simple words—when rooted in Christ Jesus—*do* have the power to bind our hearts together and

help us overcome the divisive attacks of the enemy. We are a very diverse team representing 12 different tribes and 15 different church denominations from all across Tanzania. We have to be very intentional in fostering a spirit of unity and open lines of communication.

***“There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither slave nor free,  
there is neither male nor female;  
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”***  
**Galatians 3:28**

One of the tools we use to help foster unity is our end-of-year celebration where we gather our team together and reflect on the accomplishments of the current year. Then we use this rearward-looking reflection to launch into a forward-looking discussion of our plans for the coming year. Our annual program of activities has become so complicated and far-reaching that this time of celebration has evolved into a highly effective and much needed means of communicating our common vision to the 20-plus members of our ministry team.

For example, the team administers the following programs which are occurring simultaneously. It’s a mind-numbing endeavor to plan, organize, and execute. It keeps growing, requiring even more resources in the future.

# of Countries	# of Campuses	# of Classes	Total # of Students
<b>PROGRAM: Diploma in Pastoral Ministry (2.5 years)</b>			
3 Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda	6 Tanzania-4; Kenya-1; Uganda-1	20 separate groups of students moving through the program	250+ annually
<b>PROGRAM: Certificate in Church Planting (1 year)</b>			
1-Tanzania	1-Tanzania	3 groups of students	50 annually
<b>PROGRAM: Inductive Bible Study Seminars (monthly)</b>			
# of Countries	# of Seminars	# of Students	# of Pastors
3	25+	500+	75-100

***“But above all these things put on love,  
which is the bond of perfection.”***  
**Colossians 3:13**

During the celebration we take time to hear testimonies from the ICM ministers. This year we were exceptionally blessed to hear how serving with ICM had really touched their hearts. That seemed to be the common theme. They were overwhelmed at the thought of how the Lord had brought them to something that is greater than all of us. Most of them cannot see the full picture of the impact ICM is making in Africa, but they were amazed how God had honored their faithfulness to their own call. Each year the Lord Jesus has done far beyond what we could have ever imagined or even prayed for!





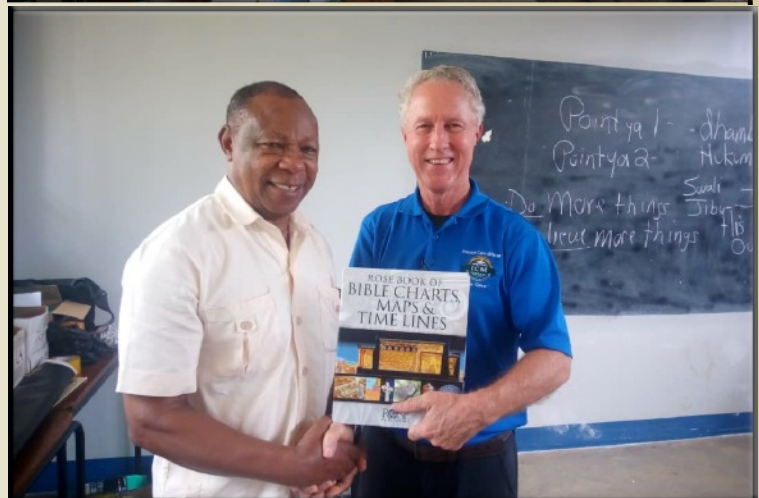
**Left: Jim presenting an ICM shirt to our newest instructor, Togolani.**

**Below: Members of the team giving testimonies.**  
**Bottom: Jim presented many teaching resources to the instructors as gifts.**

***"Do you seek great things for yourself?  
 Do not seek them!"***  
**Jeremiah 45:5**

We cautioned them that whatever greatness they see must be founded on the Lord's greatness working in and through the team. Each of us must never be tempted to believe for a moment that our individual greatness has caused any aspect of our team's greatness. His greatness empowers us to do great things for Him, and empowers our team unity. That is what gets us to the heart of the issue – unity is more than repeated slogans and mottos when it is grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the only way this team of faithful servants of the Lord can remain steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor 15:58).

### 3 of our female instructors



### IT'S FURLOUGH TIME!

We will be in the US for all of December and January. If it has been a while since you as a church or life group have seen and talked to us, we would love to schedule a visit. Our time is short, so the more people we can see at once, the better. Here is our tentative agenda:

- 1-20 Dec: St Petersburg/Tampa FL
- 21-30 Dec: Florida Panhandle
- 1-5 January: St Petersburg/Tampa FL
- 6-10 January: Missions Conf, Murrietta CA
- 17-19 January: Greeneville/Johnson City TN
- 20-31 January: Asheville NC

**PLEASE CONTACT US TO SCHEDULE A VISIT**

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

[www.jimandjanicelarson.com](http://www.jimandjanicelarson.com)



# Pictures of the Month

## BIBLES FOR ALL!!!

Thanks to a generous donor in one of our supporting churches, we were able to present a nice English study Bible to all our high school students who have been attending services with us for the last several years. They were overjoyed! About 35 Bibles distributed in all.



## 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 favor with the Tanzanian government regarding ministry paperwork we are trying to get approved, which must be completed before we depart on 29 November in order to renew our work permits.
- Pray for our first graduation of the church planting certificate program on 28 November!
- We wrap up another year with the high school students on 10 November. This year's graduates have been with us for all 4 years, and we have seen great fruit in their spiritual development. We love them dearly.
- Pray for 4 separate Bible college classes being held around the country this month, as we endeavor to end the year strong before shutting down for furlough in December and January so our staff gets some rest.
- Pray for our travel home on 28-29 November.