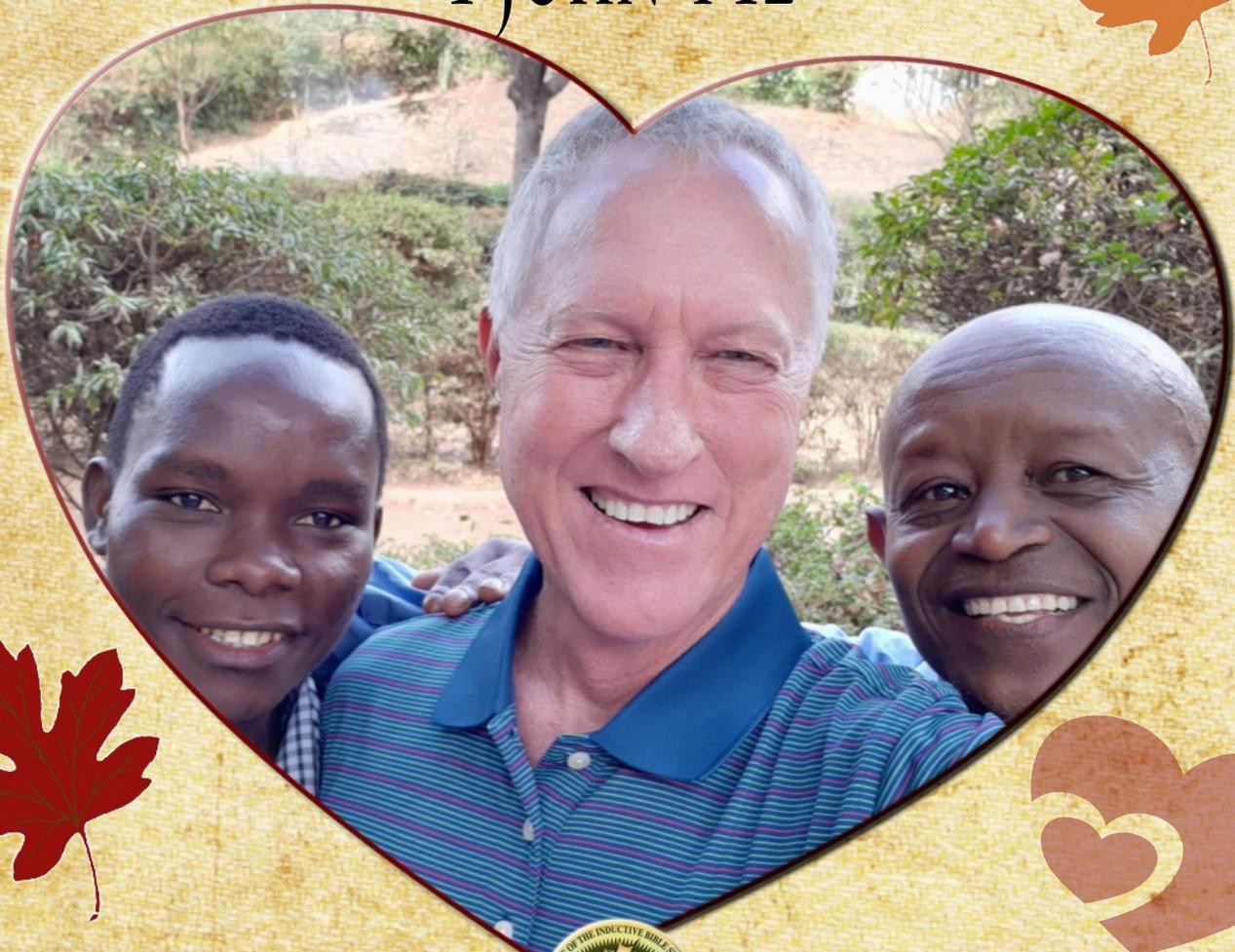


HEART FOR AFRICA
"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"

NOVEMBER 2020

NO ONE HAS SEEN GOD AT ANY TIME.
IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD ABIDES IN US,
AND HIS LOVE HAS BEEN PERFECTED IN US."

1 JOHN 4:12



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The Love of God in Action

The man who wrote these words almost 2,000 years ago had the privilege of personally walking with the Lord Jesus—the Son of God incarnate—for over 3 years. John says that today people can see the invisible God through us when we love one another with the same sacrificial, selfless love by which Jesus first loved us, for God is love (1 John 4:8). He is perfect love, and is the source of love that is perfected in us (1 John 4:19).

This type of love does not fade away during trials and hardships, it grows deeper and stronger! Job, who endured unimaginable pain, suffering and grief, realized that in his times of great blessing he had only *heard* about God. But as a result of his deep trials, he had come to *see* God. What a difference troubling times can make! We cannot control them when they come our way, but we can control how we view them and how we respond.

*“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees You.”*

Job 42:5

As we have encountered our ministry teammates one by one upon our return, one thing has been quite clear—7 months and 8,000 miles of separation have not dampened our deep affection for each other. It can only be explained as coming from the Lord; and it does, for the Holy Spirit pours the love of God into our hearts when we are saved. We can love God and we can love others in ways we could not love before we confessed our belief in Christ’s atoning death on the cross and received forgiveness and a miraculous regeneration from a gracious God.



**Janice was gifted a new kitenge (wrap)
by 3 of the female instructors:
Mary, Angela & Itikisaeli**

*“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love
of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy
Spirit who was given to us.”*

Romans 5:5

We recently traveled to our campus in the city of Morogoro, about a 9-hour drive south of Moshi. It was time to conduct the first graduation since COVID-19 shut things down back in March. What a surreal trip! This popular driving route normally sees a steady stream of large buses jam-packed with Tanzanians moving about the country. We’ve ridden them a number of times but chose to drive this time out of caution over COVID-19.



We were so blessed to view the lush countryside and fertile land where farmers were faithfully preparing the ground for the coming short rainy season that could arrive any day. The farmers toiling in their fields brought to mind Paul’s exhortation in 2 Timothy 2:6 to his beloved son in the faith. Timothy must be like the hardworking farmer in carrying out his ministry responsibilities or else there will be no crop to harvest. Some days it is quite easy to see the spiritual in the mundane, everyday things of life in Tanzania!

*“The hardworking farmer must be first to
partake of the crops.”*

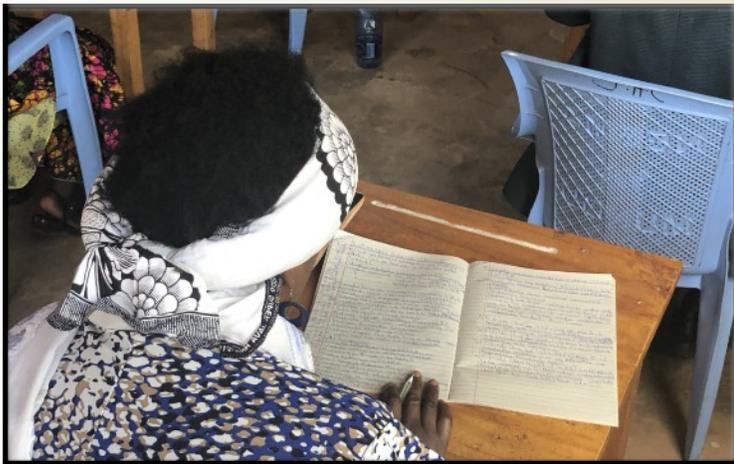
2 Timothy 2:6

We were not prepared for the incredible hospitality that Bishop Eddy, his wife Neema (*Grace* in Swahili) and the ICM Bible College staff showered on us throughout our stay with them. Everywhere we turned we could see the love of God in action. We felt incredibly unworthy, yet so loved. It is something we will not soon forget.



The 13 students were extremely patient to endure a 6-month slip in their graduation date, and we didn't lose a single student to a schedule conflict. In fact, when the class chairperson rose to speak a word on behalf of the class, he mentioned that the students desired to continue on in their studies even if it meant another 2 or 3 years! We are seeing that once the students have a sound grasp of expositional preaching, they develop a hunger and thirst for all things related to improving even more in their preaching ability.

They clearly get it. Their preaching goal is not to bring glory to themselves, but to labor with all their heart and soul to pour Jesus Christ into each of their sheep. That way, the Lord is glorified and the kingdom of God is strengthened, one living stone at a time!



Another thing that touched our hearts was the beautiful gifts the students gave out of their appreciation and love for Intensive Care Ministries. It was a special moment when a cake was presented as a tribute. This was the first time for such a blessing. Though it sounds like a small thing, it was given with a spirit of love and sacrifice, and was received as such! They also surprised us with two ebony serving trays which represent the way

they see us always serving others. They asked us to use them wherever the Lord places us in the future.



Below: Neema presenting a cake to us.



Pray for wisdom, discernment, and favor as we continue with the work of restoring the work at our campuses to their pre-COVID levels. We thank the Lord for helping us to bring about a number of improvements to the ministry during this difficult time. We had a leadership conference with the 30 men and women who comprise our staff at the end of October, so look for the outcome of that in an upcoming newsletter.

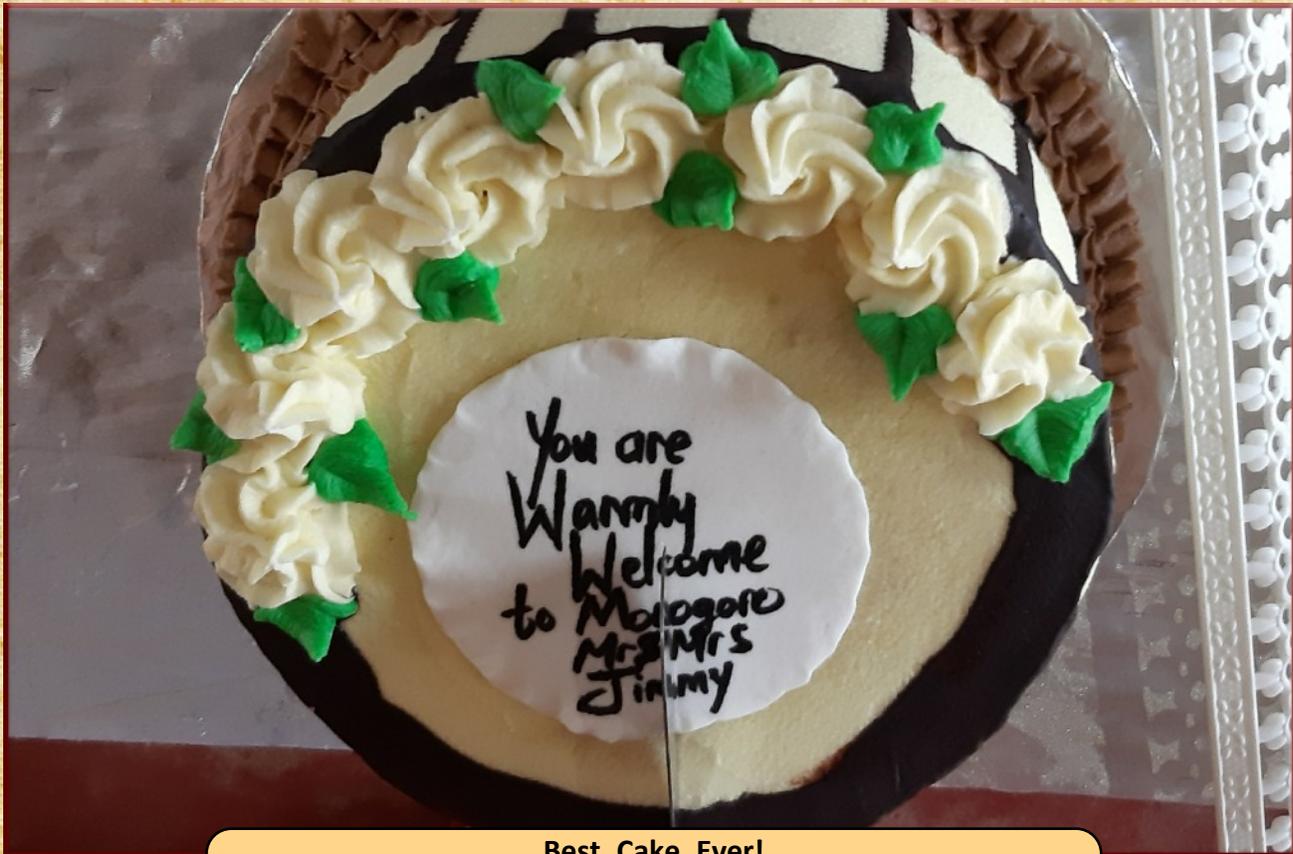
Finally, although COVID-19 is a global pandemic and every country has handled it differently, Tanzania chose to remove all restrictions back in August. All businesses are open, mass transit is running, schools are in session and life is going on as normal—without a single mask being worn. We pray for protection.



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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



Best. Cake. Ever!

"You are warmly welcome to Morogoro, Mr. And Mrs. Jimmy"

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

- Praise God for finally adjusting to our new time zone and being able to be productive all day!
- Pray for peace in Tanzania and the USA once presidential elections are over in both countries!
- November is a big month for reviewing, planning, and beginning to implement changes within the ministry to pave the way for the locals to take on more responsibility.
- Pray for our time at a conference of missionaries serving in Tanzania, 16-20 November.