

HEART FOR AFRICA
"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"
NOVEMBER 2021

VALUING WOMEN

*14 She is like the merchant ships,
She brings her food from afar.*

*15 She also rises while it is yet night,
And provides food for her household,
And a portion for her maidservants.*

*16 She considers a field and buys it;
From her profits she plants a
vineyard.*

*17 She girds herself with strength,
And strengthens her arms.*

*18 She perceives that her merchandise
is good,
And her lamp does not go out by
night.*

Proverbs 31:14-18



“Woman to Woman”

God has brought us to this moment in His way and perfect timing, to do His perfect will. Before us is a room full of women from all walks of life...those who live in mountain villages with an elementary level education, those from towns with maybe a high school background, and those from cities with some higher education. They wouldn't ordinarily have much interaction with each other, but the common thread is that they are all believers, even though they come from different denominations and understandings of the Bible. They are teachers/leaders in their churches with a responsibility to teach God's Word, and they are in the ICM Africa Bible College to learn how to do that effectively. This was our first college class with women teaching women, and we could see the excitement in the faces of the students as they watched their peers handle the Truth.



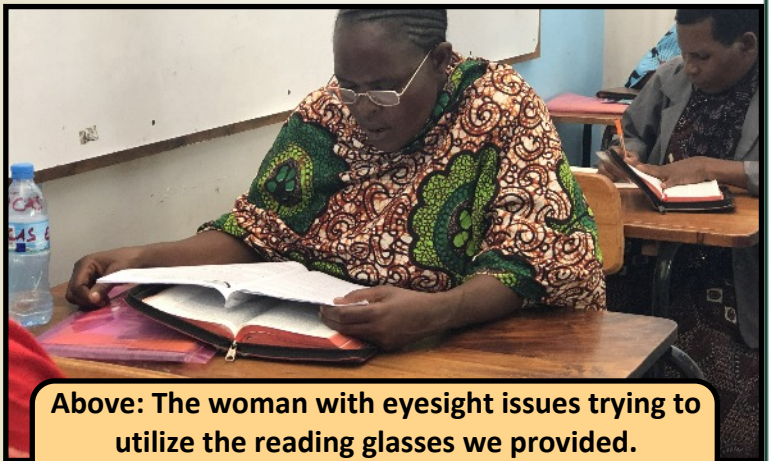
***God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.
Psalm 46:5***

One of the main challenges for women in this culture is that they are responsible for so many things at home, which anchors them there. They are extremely hard workers, and intelligent. They are truly Proverbs 31 women! But families and churches are so dependent on their presence that it is difficult to function without them for the 10 days it takes to

complete one of the Bible College sessions, let alone the nearly 30 days it takes to complete the entire certificate program. We often get lots of promises for women to attend, but when the moment comes, about one-third don't make it.



When these women first arrived on campus, their demeanor was tentative, quiet, and submitted with heads bowed and eyes averted. This is quite common since they're not encouraged to speak up unless spoken to, nor encouraged to allow their personalities to come forth. But in less than 24 hours, they were making friends with others and speaking up in class...freely asking questions about the Bible and things they were being taught. Their confidence was building as their minds were opened to the Truth and love of God. There was freedom and acceptance here.



One of the women, who might be in her 50s, was having significant trouble reading her Bible or taking notes. We tried several strengths of reading glasses with her, but to no avail. It's possible she has cataracts or some other impediment we can't resolve, but it was clear she would not be able to do the work needed to complete the course. We spoke to her and explained that we would release her from class the next morning. She pleaded to be able to stay, even knowing she would not graduate and earn a certificate with the rest of the class, but she said she was learning so much



about God and the Scriptures. Her life was being enriched in a way we didn't expect simply from hearing the teaching. The staff were in agreement that she should be allowed to stay and glean what she can, and that she will still be an effective teacher when she returns to her church. Another student converted from Islam to Christianity just this year, but she is already proving to be one of the best leaders in the class; and another traveled 2 days from Kenya to attend.



There was also another emotion in the room as our two female college instructors led the class, imparting the biblical knowledge they've gleaned from being part of ICM over the last several years. It wasn't always easy to identify, but there were times when we could sense "hope" as the students possibly envisioned themselves being able to teach as well some day; "hope" that they could serve the Lord in a larger way; "hope" that someone valued them enough to invest time and resources to build them up. Women teaching women had a very different feel to it than the classes where men teach. With a male teacher, it would be rare for them to speak up freely—calling out questions or making comments—without first raising their hand and getting permission. But there were times when the chatter and laughter in the classroom made us forget the cultural norms. Freedom in Christ is a very good thing!

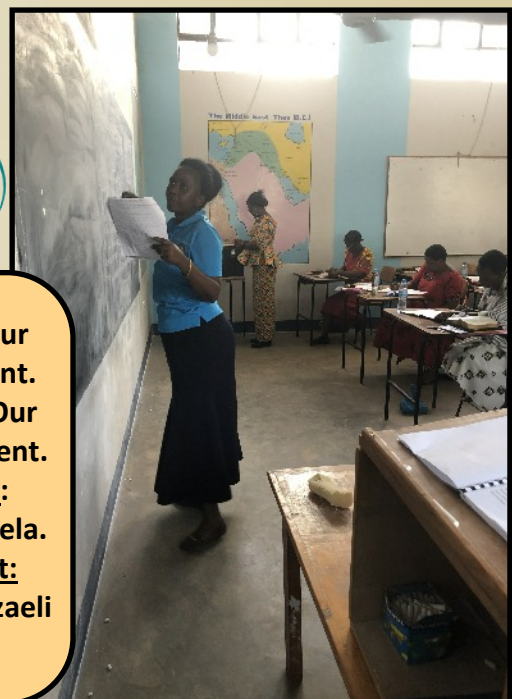
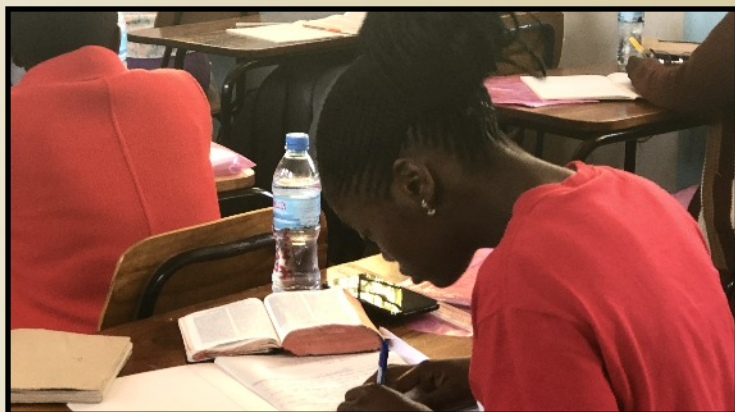
**"And you shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free."**

John 8:32



The Gospel speaks significance, freedom, and equality back into the lives of women around the world. That is something to praise God for! We want to be able to do more here, but are currently limited to offering one Certificate in Bible Teaching (CBT) course each year due to space and financial limitations. That means only 24 women a year will receive training. We would also like to appoint a second team of teachers and increase to 2-3 groups per year, at multiple campuses, reaching about 60 women annually. That may not sound like it's making much of a difference, but when you apply the multiplication factor regarding how many other women and children these ladies will influence in their homes and teaching in their churches, it begins to be a bigger factor.

If you and/or the women's groups in your church would like to partner with this effort, please let us know. Aside from financial support, there are opportunities for women with a teaching gift to come and have the privilege of leading a few sessions in one of the upcoming classes. Pray about joining God in what He is doing here!



Upper left: Our Kenyan student.
Upper right: Our youngest student.
Bottom left: Instructor Angela.
Bottom right: Instructor Enezaeli

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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



Enezaeli

Angela

Our first two female Bible college instructors.

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: JimAndJanice.Larson@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.JimAndJaniceLarson.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise that we had a good trip to Saudi Arabia last month, but we were made even more aware of deceptions by satan through the promotion of wealth, lies, executions and maiming for petty crimes, and the oppression of women. Pray the scales are removed from their eyes so they would know the Truth.
- Pray for our first "Preachers Conference" to be held Nov 30-Dec 2 for 120 of our Bible college alumni. Pray for safe travel for the ICM (USA) Director and a board member who will be the guest teachers.
- Praise that Janice received another temporary business visa, but our organization paperwork still has not been approved. We trust the Lord to work things out in His timing, but please continue to lift this up.
- Pray for our small English church, that the Lord would move on people to physically return to church, and/or send someone with the calling to evangelize and lead it.