

NOVEMBER 2022

*All*  
things  
work together

• ————— *for* ————— •

*Good*  
to those

• ————— *who* ————— •

*Love*  
*God*

• ————— *and* ————— •

called  
according to

*His*  
purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

God's Word is perfect and powerful, its truths timeless and trustworthy. In spite of overwhelming external and internal evidence testifying to its divine origin, people continue to challenge the foundational belief that the Bible is from God. Many say it was written long ago by human authors and has little relevancy for contemporary use other than to derive inspirational sayings that may encourage us. That's it!

But God says: *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God* (2 Timothy 3:16)...in such a way that *holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit* (2 Peter 1:21). In other words, the Bible was written by God through humans for humans. Those in any generation who take the time to explore its amazing depths will see God and ultimately find his purpose for their life. He promises that, plain and simple. *For I know the plans I have for you,* declares the LORD... Jeremiah 29:11.

***"I will delight myself in Your commandments,  
which I love."  
Psalm 119:47***

There is one aspect about the internal evidence for Scripture's divine origin that has always fascinated us, namely, what so many of the human authors do or don't say about themselves. Unflattering accounts of their foolish failures or dumb decisions, and even their own silence on certain matters causes us to think, "of all the things I could write about to cement my legacy for others to learn from, there is no way I would ever write all of those embarrassing things about myself!

For example, it's humanly crazy to think that of the nearly 20,000 words that Matthew wrote in his Gospel, he does not record a single word that he himself spoke. How can that be? Simple...God spoke and Matthew wrote. So, where are we going with this? Right to our own confession!



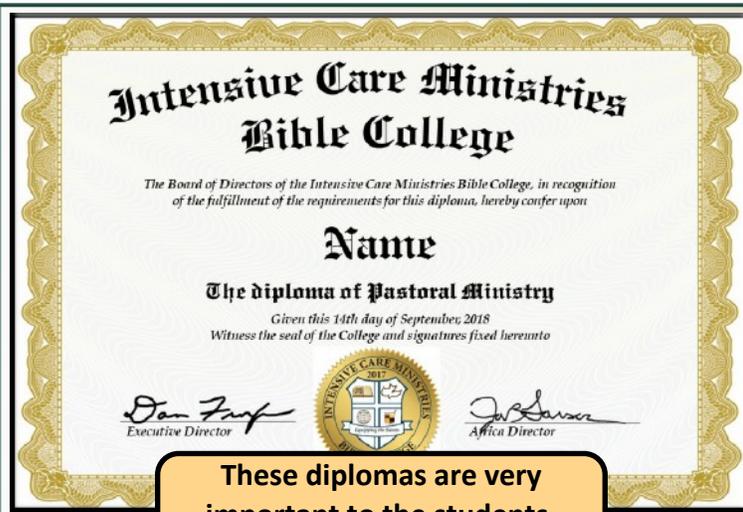
We delight in boasting about the Lord, how He works in and through us for His glory. And He does the same in and through our teammates. To be honest, whether it is vanity, fear, or some other less-than-rational reason, we rarely write about our many mistakes and failures. In Tanzania they like to call them "blunders," as this word seems to have universal recognition even in Swahili.



Recently, we had one of those "nightmare" blunders happen at a graduation. We go to great lengths to prevent such things because it could cause great disappointment for a student. Having a blunder on a diploma or certificate, whether it's a typo or forgetting and/or losing one, puts us in a crisis mode. Anyone who visits us and has the opportunity to be involved with a graduation can testify this is a big event for each student. Family and friends are invited, everyone is dressed up, and a great celebratory atmosphere is created. But the highest priority is placed on the "PICTURE," the single idea that will memorialize the special event for them to reflect on. Photographers are invited and nice settings are created, all to capture the PICTURE.

So, we focus hard to avoid a blunder that will impact a graduation. Just the thought of forgetting a diploma is very concerning. Over 30 graduations involving 500 students and this has never happened to us... until recently. And it involved not one diploma, but three which were left behind when we travelled to Mwanza for a diploma class graduation. This campus is 400 miles away. No quick trip back to the apartment to fix the mistake!

Many things had to go wrong for us to miss three diplomas. But it happened, and we did not discover the problem until the last minute. After a short prayer, we sprang into action to try and do our best to mitigate each student's disappointment, as the crowd gathered for the celebration. Praise the Lord for His grace. There were three students affected – they could encourage each other. We can also look back with thanksgiving and gratitude for He helped us through this terrible moment



**These diplomas are very important to the students.**

by giving us an amazing recovery plan, a plan that would show the heart of ICM-Africa.

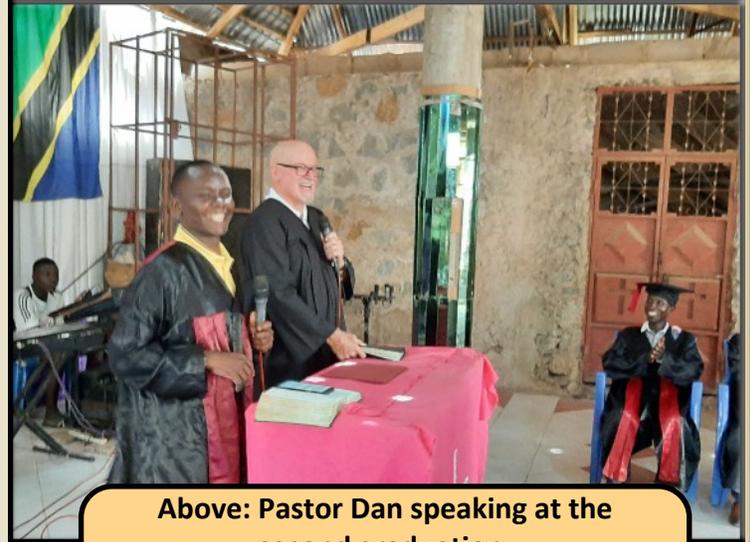
We made it through the ceremony by asking three other students to give up their diplomas after they received them so we could re-give them to the three students who were missing theirs. Praise the Lord that they were for the last three students in the ceremony. By then we had 150 people in the crowd, our largest graduation ever. Everything went perfectly with the pictures as the three affected students were advised not to open them for the individual photos. Afterwards, we learned they were local. That is when the Lord revealed the rest of His plan for transforming our blunder into a blessing for them and us.



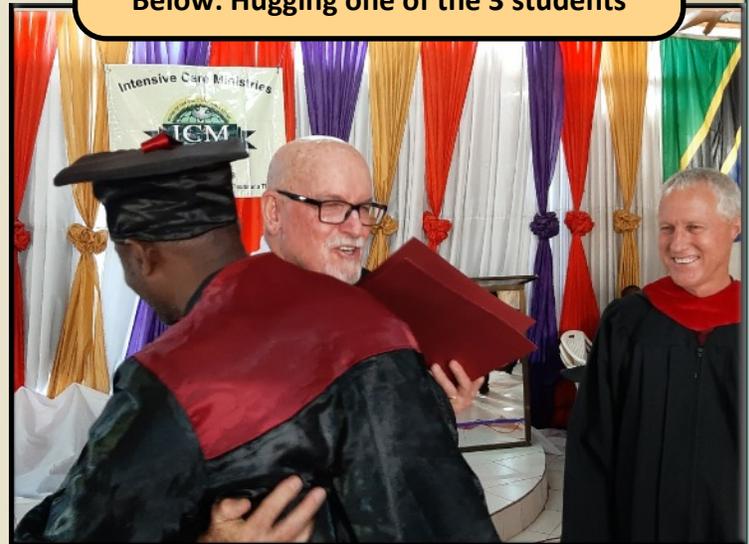
**The 3 students with their actual diplomas.**

Before leaving we gave those 3 students bus fare for their entire family to return for another ceremony. The ICM Executive Director would be visiting from the U.S. in a couple of weeks to visit that campus. Imagine how they felt when they heard that—a picture with the ICM Executive Director! Surely, they thanked the Lord their diplomas were forgotten!

On the day of the re-created ceremony, we dressed everyone in caps and gowns and went through the entire ceremony again in the same venue, one that just happened to be prepared to host another graduation the following day. God is good! Each student spoke and explained how blessed they felt. They could not imagine the lengths ICM-Africa had taken to make things right. We even fed them a nice lunch afterwards. The Lord reminded us once again that only He can transform our greatest blunders into an amazing blessing for His glory.



**Above: Pastor Dan speaking at the second graduation.  
Below: Hugging one of the 3 students**



**UPDATE:** Praise the Lord, we finally received approval for Jim's work permit, which allowed us to apply for his residency visa. Please pray that all goes quickly. But Janice's still hasn't been approved, so keep that lifted up. This has been 3 years in the process, and if they are not approved before December 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have to leave the country again for a while.

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



## Let the Little Children Come!

We recently had visitors from Florida who helped us put on a children's ministry day out in a desert village. It was hot, dry, and dusty...but we shared the Word, played games, and fed them a solid meal. But most of all, we just loved on them.

### CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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### TANZANIA CONTACT INFO:

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

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

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for another of our visitors who will be leaving here on 4 November and will have taught in the Bible college for a week, as well as doing other ministry. It's always such a blessing to have people here.
- Pray for the beginning of our degree program this month, which will begin with teaching English as a Second Language to most of our current staff. For lesson preparation and adaptation on the fly.
- Praise that we have been able to purchase desks and chairs for two of our campuses because of a generous donor. This will make a big difference to the students who use those facilities.
- Also praise that we are able to secure another campus facility in Moshi to move to which will allow us to make much better use of the Lord's financial resources almost immediately. This was also completely due to another gracious donor.
- Our work in South Sudan will begin in December, and we have also finalized plans to begin the college in Kenya as of May 2023. We are excited to see what the Lord will do there!