

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



TOP: Jim & Silas quizzing some Sunday School kids.



ABOVE: Another gift from the team—fabric for a wall hanging!



RIGHT: Jim & Janice presented with a heart-felt gift from the team.

CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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Note "LARSON" in Memo of check



On-line giving available via PayPal on our website

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PRAYER ITEMS

- Pray for seminars and team members in Tanzania, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo who will continue doing ministry in our absence December 1-17, then resting until February.
- Pray for our furlough schedule, family visits, reports to churches, conferences, and new support partners.
 - Dec 11-24, Asheville NC
 - Dec 25-Jan 21, St Petersburg FL
 - Jan 22-Feb 2, Oklahoma City OK
 - Feb 3-6, Canon City/Colorado Springs/Denver CO
 - Feb 7-Mar 6, St Petersburg/Ft Walton Beach FL; Greeneville TN

HEART-FOR-AFRICA



December 2016

Larson Mission Update

"Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles."
Acts 14:27



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Finishing Strong

At the end of each ministry year, we look back on the work the Lord accomplished through us while also looking forward to the coming year with anticipation. What could we have done better and how can we apply the lessons we have learned this year to adjust and improve our ministry in the coming year?

To help us in the work of inward reflection and forward projection, we called together the faithful members of our ministry team for 2 days of meetings—about 40 men and women making up the people who execute the plans and programs we put together. It was a great blessing to have them all together. It only happens once a year, and there was much to catch up on. We never know what to expect, but this gathering started on a high note during the first hour with Janice joining with a number of the women to lead one of our cooks to saving faith in Christ (she is on the front cover)! It was the perfect way to both close out, and begin, a ministry year!

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

To be honest, the past year has been extremely challenging for us and the team – we were pushed and stretched far beyond what we thought were our limits. A rapidly expanding ministry scope and reach that seemed to engulf and overwhelm us at times; relentless 10-day pastoral training center stretches with long days and energy-sapping teaching; and non-stop ministry, educational and personal commitments that would leave us breathless. With the end of the ministry year in sight, all any of us could think of was finishing strong. God promises to never quit on us, so there was no way we would think of quitting on Him!

“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” John 17:4

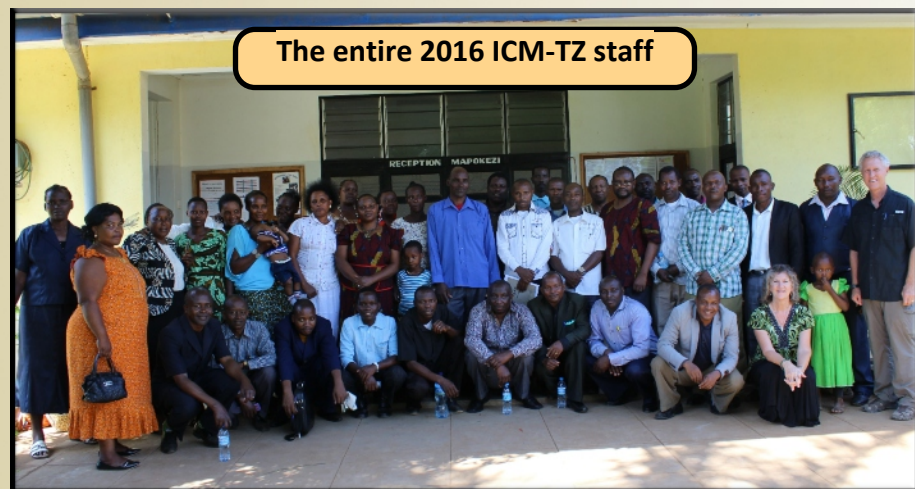
We prayed the Lord would give us the strength and grace to finish well to His glory. We knew our various prayer teams were praying for the same, and we needed their intercession. Our last 2016 Mount Kilimanjaro Pastoral Training Center class graduated in November – a dedicated, hard-working group of 18 men from all over Tanzania. With 20 solid pastors already doing great ministry work for ICM, we had no thought of adding any more. This amazing class changed our minds in 10 short days. They were so talented, faithful, and committed to

the cause of Christ that we were compelled to invite eight of them to explore a call with Intensive Care Ministries-Tanzania (ICM-TZ).

We warned them that the arduous process to confirm their call to ICM would add another

year to the 1-2 years they have already labored in the program. They smiled; there was not a hint of fear or concern in any of them, and they all showed up to our planning meeting, ready to begin the exploration and confirmation process.

We were also stretched and blessed at the same time with a special visit by two servants of the Lord from a supporting church in Saint Petersburg, FL – Fred and Kevin. The itinerary that was developed a year earlier by seven of our pastoral training center instructors seemed exciting at the time. It consisted of short teaching and ministry visits to their churches, a circuit that would take us hundreds of kilometers, requiring several overnight stays and taking us through 3 of the 31 country regions (same as US states). Our ministers even gave the visit a name: “The Seven Churches of ICM-TZ,” a reflection of



The entire 2016 ICM-TZ staff



visits to their seven churches and a recent study in the book of Revelation.

As the time for the visit moved closer, we began to wonder if we had taken on too much. We were breaking new ground for hosting visitors to our ministry by straying from short one-day ministry events into long journeys and overnights while attempting non-stop ministry. Fred and Kevin assured us they were “all in” and ready for the challenge, so we pressed forward to the great enthusiasm of our ministers who relished the thought of hosting the US visitors to their churches.

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

As we look back on the visit, we can say we were truly blessed. In each village and church, Fred and Kevin were warmly received by an enthusiastic crowd, some large and others small. Their teaching and music touched the hearts of all and reminded us of the heartfelt nature and open emotion of the praise and worship here. You know you’ve been to church when you experience it!

“Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise in the assembly of saints.” Psalm 149:1

What really struck us about the visit was the great diversity in environments and people in Tanzania. We’ve seen it all before, but when it comes at you rapid fire over the course of 12 days...the lush mountains, the dry desert conditions, the city environments, and the lake zones as well as the various tribes with their different customs, food, and dress living in each area...you can be nothing but amazed by God’s creativity.

We are touched by the way the ICM-TZ ministry is moving. The dedicated and committed efforts of hard-working and talented men and women, each led by the Holy Spirit, inspires and encourages us. More and more as we loosen our hold on the ministry reins and transition responsibility and decision-making to the nationals, our hearts are encouraged by what we see. Not ministry done our way, but the Lord’s way, tailored to the culture and established for the duration. Every single person involved with ICM-TZ thanks you for joining with us on this special journey.

**Top: Kevin, Fred & Pastor Edward
Bottom: Final MKPTC Graduating Class of 2016**



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

www.JimAndJaniceLarson.com