

# HEART FOR AFRICA

"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"

DECEMBER 2018



*"Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."*

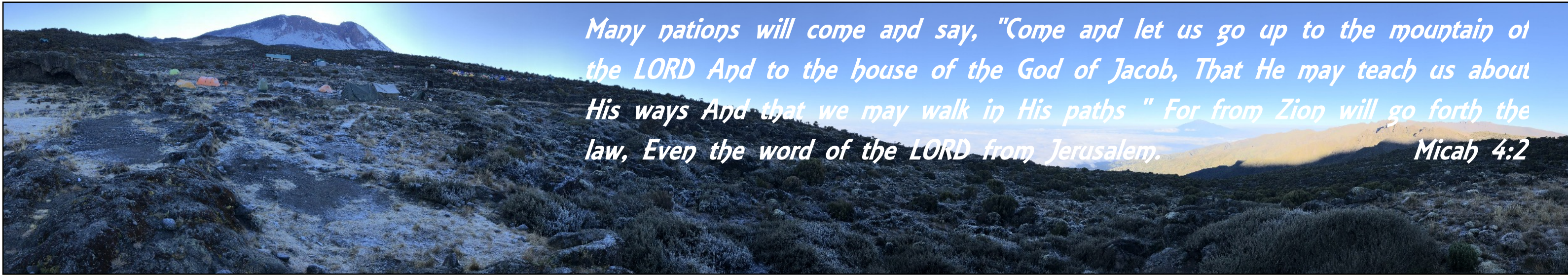
*2 Chronicles*

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*Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths " For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

*Micah 4:2*

For the last several years I had been planning on traveling to Tanzania to teach alongside the Larsons who are with Intensive Care Ministries; but also to check off a bucket-list item and climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. It can only be described as an amazing, incredible, dreadful and horrible experience (climbing Kili, not teaching with the Larsons!), but I want to share what God showed me in both the climb and in the hands-on ministry experience.

The climb began in wonder with much energy, much like the early years of ministry or as a new Christian. There were obstacles, but they were enthusiastically overcome. It seemed like every corner had a new marvel—monkeys, plant life, jungle, alpine desert, etc. We reached our camp with little trouble the first day except for one casualty who had a bad reaction to some altitude medications. We were down by one in our group. Again, the next few days were relatively easy, but as we progressed in our journey, it seemed that the obstacles got more difficult—the storms more fierce and the atmosphere harder to take in. We still had joy but we were keenly aware of the progressively more

difficult times. Then it rained, and the rain turned to snow. Fortunately we had prepared for this, just like in ministry. Were it not for the preparation and accountability that the other “brothers” on the climb provided—like pastors Silas and Jim—my resolve might have wavered. On summit day—the day of the great battle—we were sleep deprived after almost five days of climbing, oxygen deficient, and several of our companions had stepped out of the race, but we pressed on to the goal set before us.

This was a tough time. I’m not going to lie. It was hard to appreciate God’s glory which was so evident all around us. The almost 20,000 ft elevation meant we were above the clouds, and less than half the atmosphere present meant we could literally see galaxies, but we were beaten down. The final 4,000 feet were step by six-inch steps; slow, persistent, forward movement. At times we stumbled back, but there was always someone right behind to prevent a fall. If it weren’t for my “accountability” to rehydrate, eat, and press on, I am 100 percent certain I would not have summited. I needed to constantly focus my attention on my goal, not wavering in the thoughts of turning back to my tent (comfort) or appeasing my flesh. Most of the time I only had the energy to look at my guide’s steps and follow exactly where he stepped in the snow as he led us to our promised peak. It clearly reminded me of the need I have at times to simply follow—by faith—in the footsteps of our guide, Jesus. Since he had been down this path many times, he continually reminded us how to have success and what to avoid. Many people turned back, or succumbed to the hardship, but finally we reached the peak as the sun rose! The Lord allowed me to see many wonderful things along the way, even though I wanted to quit with every forward step, but the beauty is knowing that I never need to go through that again because I achieved the goal. Does that not sound like our daily struggle to walk with God to achieve eternal glory with Him and never have to walk this troubled path again?!



Art, Doug, Matt, Silas, Jim and Ryan before the climb began

After the climb, I and one of my church leaders had the privilege of dedicating and teaching the first class of ICM pastors in the city of Mwanza, on the shores of Lake Victoria. The experience was incredible from many perspectives. First, it was a blessing to have the opportunity to teach God’s word to hungry pastors. Realizing that they had very specific hurdles to clear just to be in the Bible



school was encouraging. What kind of hurdles? Well, each pastor needed to complete four seminars just to qualify for application to the school, but then they had to achieve a certain level of competency. Added to that is many have only an elementary school education, little to no Bible education, and most are bi-vocationally employed. They were hungry to learn and they had made many sacrifices just to be there. That is why the Bible school concept in Tanzania is so brilliant. By doing the training close by, it gives many more pastors access to education who have to take time off work and even travel. I think we take for granted many things we just assume others experience (education, health, safety), but in reality they don’t. Every pastor thanked us profusely for the biblical insight they

received, and some even confessed the outright error they taught—simply because they didn’t know any better.

Most of all, I think I was impacted by the realization that a mzungu (foreign white dude in Swahili) like myself could go to Africa, plant a church, and have limited impact despite about 2 decades of full-time ministry experience, or... I could do what ICM is doing and invest in the pastors that understand the culture, speak the language, and already have congregations. What Jim and Janice are doing is truly a game changer for Kingdom expansion in East Africa. Additionally, we had the honor of financing the Mwanza campus prior to coming. I find it incredible that out of our excess resources, we were able to build a small school and equip so many saints in Africa for the work of the ministry. It’s an incredible spiritual return on such a small amount. Finally, I would just add that if Jim ever asks you to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro with some of the Tanzanian pastors, however adventurous and noble that sounds, whatever you do, graciously let the offer pass! But I would wholeheartedly endorse you offering financial support to this multi-faceted ministry instead!



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



Jim and Pastor Art at the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro!

## CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

Intensive Care Ministries  
P.O. Box 109  
Mentone, CA 92359-0109

Note "LARSON" in Memo of check

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

- December 1 is our end-of-year celebration with the ICM-TZ staff. They will conduct seminars and classes through December 15, then have a 30-day break and resume the middle of January. Pray for them to finish strong and rest well.
- Dec 4-14 we have 3 simultaneous classes going on at the Mwanza, Morogoro and Moshi campuses. Pray for the students and instructors to be focused in their efforts.
- Dec 16 we fly to the US to spend the holidays with our families and attend a missions conference. Praying for safe travel, good visits, and a time of refreshing.
- We are praying for the Lord to send more financial partners and/or missionary teammates as the demand for the program continues to increase throughout the country and across borders.