

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

DECEMBER 2022

PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL



"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

2 Corinthians 5:7

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What a humbling thing it is when you suddenly realize that you had to look back in hindsight to finally see what the Lord has placed right in front of you. Kind of like looking back on the cross of Christ to help us look forward in hope for the return of Christ. Faith, not sight, is what allows us to make the connection between these two widely disparate events.

This past May, we celebrated the graduation of our first women's Certificate in Bible Teaching (CBT) class. We made passing mention of this class in our July newsletter, but lacked the space to share about one of the special women in that class named Elizabeth. She



The 2nd CBT class had women from all over Tanzania



Elizabeth holding her certificate at graduation.

showed herself to be a woman of amazing faith and determination who made the long journey from Kisumu on the Kenya side of Lake Victoria to our campus in Moshi—three times! The biblical teaching and practical preaching exercises moved her so much that she implored us to open a teaching campus in Kisumu so we could offer our certificate and diploma programs there. The village is easy to access from regions in western Kenya as well as eastern Uganda. She offered to put action to her words by helping us find a suitable site.

The Lord had placed Kenya on our hearts for some time now, but Covid and other circumstances caused us to remain in a “waiting on the Lord” mode for more than 3 years. True to her word, Elizabeth returned home and for the next several months she faithfully searched the surrounding areas for a place that met all of our requirements. Over this time, she presented us a number of options. However, we had to decline them one by one due to shortfalls in each that would have required fairly large capital investments to make them usable for our purposes.



“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”

2 Timothy 2:13

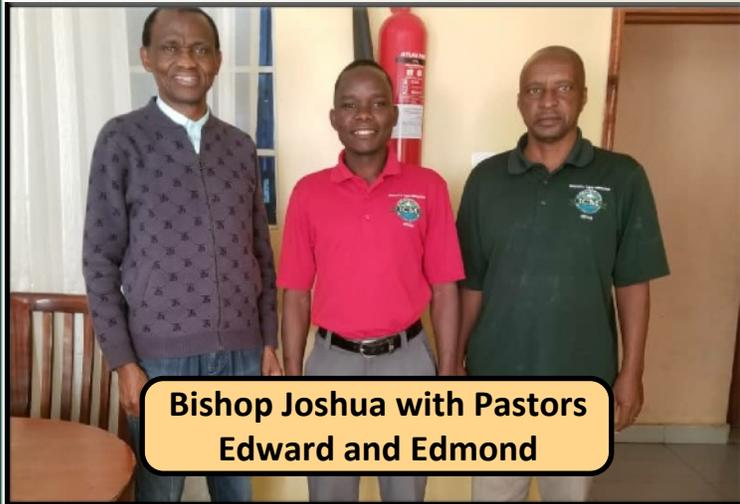
At some point, her efforts appeared to wane, but not ours. The spark she had provided rekindled our flame. Kenya is our neighbor. Over the years, we have seen that the spiritual need there is great. Students continue to cross the border to attend our programs and all have similar testimonies. “Please, we need ICM-Africa in Kenya!” Then something interesting happened, and it involved our second women's CBT class (pictured on cover at graduation). Four young women showed up on the first day after traveling all the way from Tanzania's capitol city—more than 10 hours away—which is about the same distance that Elizabeth had traveled.

Besides their commitment, they were remarkable because they showed up very early for each of the 3 sessions that took place over the course of 7 months. We found them on site well before our instructors, and learned they would arrive the day before. Each was currently serving as an assistant pastor in their church. They took to the lessons well, and stood out in the practical preaching exercises with their hard work and excellent sermon delivery.

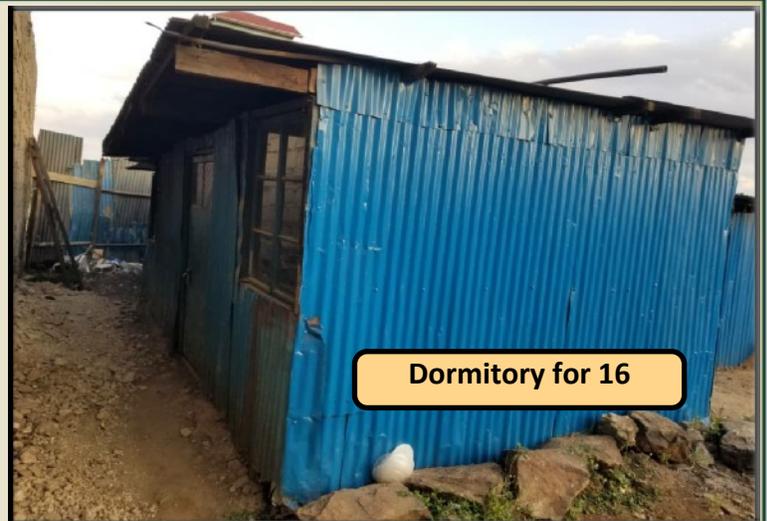
It was during their final session that the Lord began to reveal His plan. Realizing how far Elizabeth and these four women had travelled was causing us to reflect on the many others who were not able to make the journey. In the Lord's perfect timing, that same week, Bishop Joshua from Nairobi reached out to our Tanzania Director, Pastor Edward.

We met this humble bishop in 2019 when he hosted an Inductive Bible Study seminar at his large church. After touring his property, we realized he had room for everything we needed to start our diploma program there, but we would need to make a financial investment for buildings. We hesitantly began moving forward with a plan and even scheduled the first class for late 2020. But Covid arrived in early 2020 and forced us to place everything on hold due to their lockdown conditions.

When other countries started opening up, our focus shifted elsewhere. Kenya and Bishop Joshua's facility no longer seemed a realistic priority, and we were relieved from a financial perspective. Even when Elizabeth implored us to come, we ruled out the bishop. We could not see by faith the connection between the past and what the Lord had for us in the present.



Several weeks after making contact again, Pastor Edward and Pastor Edmond, our international program director, went to Nairobi to assess Bishop Joshua's facilities. They were amazed at what they encountered. Just about everything we needed was in place; dormitories, teachers' quarters, toilets and bathing facilities, a kitchen and dining hall had been built and were ready to go without any ICM investment required. The final piece, a brand-new classroom, was well on the way to being finished.



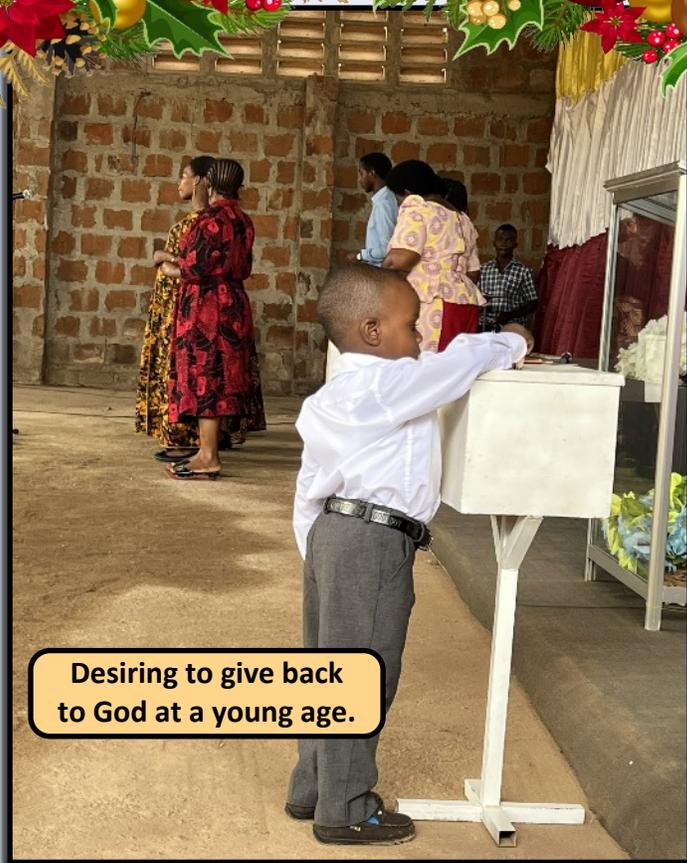
Thank you, Jesus, for prompting us to look and think back so that we could see what you now had right before us. Elizabeth helped us regain our focus toward Kenya, and the Lord used the women of our second class to burden our hearts for those too far away to travel. Our first class in Kenya starts May 23, 2023, just over 4 years from the day we first met Bishop Joshua. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership in the Gospel.



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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Everyday Life



Desiring to give back to God at a young age.



Making a living carrying firewood to sell to those who need it.

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



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PRAYER REQUESTS

- Jim and one of our staff will be in South Sudan 6-20 December doing the first session of our diploma class for 22 pastors. Pray for safe travel, to remain healthy (malaria and ebola are factors), and for general safety in a country that is still subject to much conflict.
- Praise that both of our work permits and resident visas have been approved after a long 3-year process! Everything in His perfect timing.
- Pray for physical and spiritual protection for us and the staff. We are often confronted with blatant spiritual darkness and forces which seek to prevent us from doing the Lord's work.
- Praise that our new facility in Moshi should be completed this month. Pray for safety for all the workers.
- Continuing to pray for the Lord to call more missionaries to answer the call from these other countries who desire training, and for us to remain strong and committed until then.