

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

JANUARY 2021

A Garment of Praise!

*1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,*

*2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,*

*3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.*

*They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendor.*

We have had a very uplifting 30 days! It seems that *our story* has frequently been colliding with the Lord's story—the only one that redeems ours and gives it eternal meaning and significance. As we continue to operate under a cloud of uncertainty with respect to our long-term future here, God continues to remind us that He is the sovereign Lord bringing forth the promises of Isaiah 61:1-3!

Maturing Leadership: Many of the interactions with ICM-Africa team members turn into a leadership teaching moment. One example involved the new and incredibly fruitful “Certificate in Church Planting” (CCP) program. Pastor Edward serves as CCP Program Director, and Pastor Saimon assists him as a teacher. In November, a new class of 15 CCP pastoral candidate students began. We greeted the class on the first day, then left to go on with our busy schedule, leaving the class in the hands of Edward and Saimon.



At the end of the 10-day session, we decided to stop by for a quick visit to see how things were going. Edward informed us that instead of 15 students, there were now 14. He calmly explained how they had to discipline one of the students for inappropriate behavior and dismissed him. We were amazed the leaders had dealt with it biblically on their own. That is a sign of conviction and spiritual maturity—the “oaks of righteousness”—that will serve the ministry well in the future.

“All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”
2 Timothy 3:16

The Oil of Joy: A man and woman who were diploma students in the same class and then began a courting relationship, led to the first ICM engagement! Langaeli (“light of God”) was one of our first translators, a young man with a positive spirit. Janice used to give him all the live chickens that were gifted to us by various churches, and he was extremely grateful (so were we)!!! Victoria was a widow who had lost her only son—a promising young teen—just before one of the class sessions. She could have

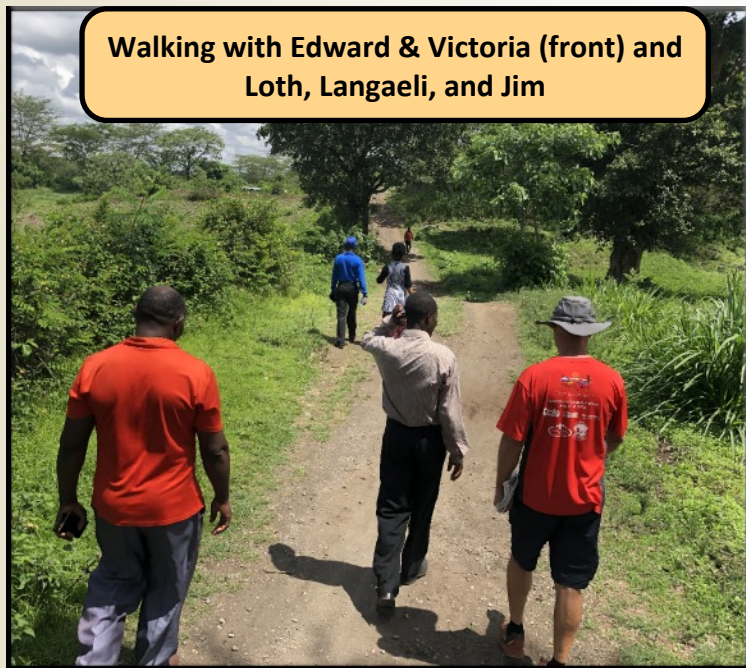
left the program to deal with her loss as many here do, but she felt compelled to continue with her studies. It was a blessed moment to see the class surround her with the love of Jesus to help her deal with this unimaginable tragedy. At some point towards the end of the program, Langaeli proposed to Victoria and they set a May 2020 wedding date—an event we would have attended for sure—but Covid took that opportunity from us.



Since they live just a kilometer from the Mt. Meru Bible college campus, we arranged to visit them recently. We spent hours catching up on things as we walked the lush paths around the flowing Meru farmland. It brought such joy to our hearts to see how much this young man has matured and grown in faith over the 10 years since we met him; he is like a son. Janice has now asked Victoria to become part of the ICM-Africa women's ministry, to which she agreed.

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.”
Amos 8:11

Walking with Edward & Victoria (front) and Loth, Langaeli, and Jim



Proclaiming Good News and Freedom: Pastor Loth, the Meru campus director, also walked with us that day. We saw pink flamingos standing in the shallow water of a lake. Loth said that their presence was a sign of famine. We mentioned Amos 8:11, and he agreed there is a great famine of God's Word being preached. Many pastors are forsaking teaching God's Word for more popular humanistic ideas like health and wealth, but Loth quickly added that ICM was correcting that by educating local pastors to preach God's Word biblically!

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:35

Beauty from Ashes: Mama Ruth, a businesswoman and cook who runs a small catering business which has provided the food for ICM-Africa at the Moshi campus since 2013, closed her business due to Covid. We were initially

distressed to hear about it, but much better has come from it! The Moshi campus has provided her an on-site cooking facility so she may continue cooking for the ICM classes. Mama Ruth said she is fully committed to working only for ICM now, and we were



happy to accept her in that role. She is an extraordinary cook, but her real gift is touching the hearts of those around her. She has routinely taken in young orphan girls, given them a place to live, raised them in a Christian home, and taught them a trade for their future.

Having seen the product(s) of her teaching gift, we suggested she travel to the Meru campus with us to train the cooks there (they really needed it!). We spent 3 days there so she could provide advanced cooking training. She showed up with laminated menus and a prepared teaching regimen. Amazing! But, to be honest, the initial reception by the Meru cooks was a bit frosty—their pride was blocking the blessing. It did not take long though for Mama Ruth to ease the chill, and soon they were all bonding as she taught from her heart and showed genuine concern for them. We suggested she invite them to join her in

Moshi for a few days as missionary cooks, and they were overjoyed! They subsequently spent 3 days with her at the Moshi campus helping her cook for one of our classes, turning their despair into praise.



Mama Ruth (far right) with Meru cooks

It has been a month of renewed joy and purpose for us, as well saying goodbye to many missionaries who had to leave. We will treasure whatever remaining time and friendships the Lord provides for us here.



Above: Victoria, Itikisaeli, Zipora, Angela, Lightness and Enazaeli (not shown, Martha and Mary)

Below: Our annual gathering of missionaries serving in Tanzania, many of whom left this year.



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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



Our 2nd class of diploma graduates at the Mwanza (Lake Victoria) campus finished on December 11, 2020. They were scheduled to graduate in April of 2020, but were postponed because of Covid. A very happy day after waiting an extra 7 months!

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

- Pray for our short 2-month stay in the US for January and February as we apply again for new paperwork to return for at least 1 more year.
- Pray for the Bible college sessions and seminars which will be continuing this month while we are away, and for the staff as they exercise their leadership skills.
- If you missed out on seeing us during our last stay in the US, please contact us to arrange for us to speak at your church or small group.