

HEART FOR AFRICA
"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"
APRIL 2021

"A Decade of Blessings"

10

YEARS

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5:1-4

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This marks the 10th year we've been living and ministering in Tanzania, and truly—time flies when you're having fun! We certainly didn't begin this adventure thinking it was going to be as fulfilling as it has turned out to be, but we really feel alive when we're doing His work here. The Lord has blessed us with so many open doors of ministry and wonderful relationships with other believers around the world during this time, and shown us just how



2011: Just arrived!

connected His church really is. Even during the difficult times—and there are some—we've never seriously thought of quitting because we know we're walking in His will. Let us tell you about some of the blessings...

DISCIPLESHIP: We responded to Matt 28:19 to “go and make disciples of all nations” in May 2011 when we moved to Tanzania. Our primary focus was to disciple African Christians in how to use an inductive Bible study method (IBS) to read and interpret Scripture on their own.



A congregation learning IBS.

We did that for about 18 months which caused such a tremendous response from local pastors who wanted more training for themselves, that the Lord made it possible to begin working with them as a separate group. This would be the catalyst to *so much fruit* over the years!

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
2 Tim 2:2

These requests, and the Lord's prompting, birthed the initial pastors' training center class which brought us a number of men who are the foundation upon which the present-day ministry is built. He provided the discernment, leading, desire, and ultimately—joy—in all of us to recognize that He was doing a new work here which we all wanted to be part of. These would be the ICM-Africa disciples.



2012: The first class of pastors

There were times along the way where we kept asking the Lord to send more missionary help because we didn't see how we could carry the load by ourselves. That was the result of American cultural conditioning and training, to think that the only solution was to have more people from developed nations come and help provide for those who were poorer and less educated. But God removed our blinders so we could clearly see His vision and will.

It eventually led us to equipping these African pastors to do the training for others and commissioning them to take the lead. The pastors' training center has now evolved into a full Bible college program for senior pastors who receive a Diploma in Biblical Preaching. We have 14 Tanzanian instructors on 4 campuses, and more than 300 pastors who have graduated and can now teach and preach expositionally with confidence and accuracy! It was



2017: The ICM-Africa Team!

amazing to watch the Lord orchestrate all the people—with the right giftings—and all the resources necessary to make it flourish. They want to become a Center for Excellence in preaching and begin to offer a bachelor's degree! God has done an amazing work in and through them.

CHURCH PLANTING & GROWTH: Upon arriving in Tanzania, we became an integral part of a new church plant where we were able to serve in our own local body. After several years, the Lord opened the door for Jim to become the lead pastor of this international congregation and get practical experience “walking the talk” of the pastors he was training. Teaching/preaching became a passion for him, which prompted us to plant a branch of this church at a boarding school for many years. We watched a number of students go all the way through high school and graduate with a firm foundation in the Word that they wouldn't have had otherwise.



Church plant at the boarding school

“...and to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”
Ephesians 4:12

Recognizing the need for more qualified leaders and helpers in churches, and churches that are established and built upon teaching the Word properly, the Lord provided a new vision of equipping assistant pastors, elders, deacons, teachers, and evangelists with their own Bible college program which confers a Certificate in Church Planting when they are finished. God has brought us many of the younger generation who are excited to exercise their calling and gifts, whether in established churches or preaching to the lost. There are six Tanzanian instructors leading this program, and it has already given way to several new churches being planted from the first class of graduates! The students plant churches under the denominations who sent them through the program, so we are facilitating indigenous growth and multiplication of sound doctrine.



Janice encouraging one of the church-planting groups.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
2 Tim 2:15

Since the Lord has seen fit to continue bringing us help in the form of more Africans, it has allowed us opportunities to continue working with children and youth of all ages. We’ve taught the Bible to elementary students every week in public schools (with Muslims in attendance!), done our

weekly Sunday service for the high school students, and Sunday evening programs for university-bound young adults. These are all things God has used to make our hearts soar with joy.



One of the elementary classes (above), and Jim reading a Swahili children’s Bible to kids (below).



Ten years has brought us a long way, and we are already seeing doors open to expand into Uganda, Kenya, Liberia, and possibly Israel over the next few years. We’ve stopped asking, “How are we going to do this?” We’re now saying, “Can’t wait to see what the Lord does next, and with whom!” Oh, that He finds us all worthy! May He richly bless all of you who have partnered with Him by supporting us with your prayers, finances, personal visits, and encouragement.



Jim sharing the Gospel with some members of a Maasai tribe

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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month

Pastor Loth sends his greetings and thanks for the many prayers that were lifted up on his behalf the last few months. His diabetes was out of control and causing his eyesight and memory to be effected greatly. His health is now much improved, he is back at work teaching in the Bible colleges, and he has a new pair of glasses which allow him to see better! Praise God!



CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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Note "LARSON" in Memo of check

On-line giving available through our website



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PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise that we had no issues with our Covid tests or flights returning here, and we have again settled into a comfortable rhythm of work.
- Pray for our ongoing classes of diploma and certificate students, and that the Lord would continue to open their hearts and minds to His Truth.
- Pray for a large marriage seminar we are leading April 9-10 for about 100 pastors and their wives; that great transformation would occur and they would become role models for others.
- Pray for Jim and 14 of our staff who will be climbing Mt. Meru together April 13-16 as a team-building experience. Safety and good health for all of them.