

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

APRIL 2022

*For in Christ Jesus
neither circumcision nor uncircumcision
avails anything,
but*

Faith

working through

Love.

Galatians 5:6

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Faith Working through Love

We are created *by* God, *for* God! The darker the world appears to be getting, the more that evil and injustice are unleashed into the world, and the more it seems like the bad guys are winning, we can always hold firm to that unshakable truth: We are the Lord's! If this idea sounds somewhat familiar, Paul spoke it more eloquently in Romans 14:8: ***"Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."*** What an amazing truth for the child of God to rest in!

The more we learn about Jesus, the harder we work on our relationship with Him, and the hungrier we become to know Him even better. How can we explain that? ***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – they shall be filled!***

Thank God He reveals himself through his Word so we might desire to know and have a relationship with Him intimately, on a very personal level. As a result, the people of God are motivated to respond to him in love—one that overwhelms and overflows the heart, soul, mind, and strength and compels grateful, obedient love and worship regardless of our circumstances. And it does not stop there, for Christians thrive spiritually through an abiding relationship with Jesus. From this intimate

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."
Galatians 5:22-23

relationship, the Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit for the benefit of others in the body of Christ.

We were talking about this relational aspect of God recently with some of our Tanzanian ministry leaders, and they helped us gain valuable insights into their people. Many misconceptions and flat-out wrong ideas have taken hold because of improper teaching or no teaching at all. They see a faith healer on television leading folks in wild gyrations and ecstatic unintelligible utterings and begin to copy these approaches because they looked and seemed so exciting. Or they hear an unscrupulous preacher speak wrong ideas about obedience, and they find themselves in bondage to a legalistic, rule-keeping spirit.

So we asked if this is an area that we need to dig deeper into? Can we grow and become a better team as a result? Can ICM-Africa—a visible, nation-wide ministry organization—also gain more opportunities to influence and make a difference in the religious realm of Tanzania through this effort? We received a resounding ***"Yes!"*** from our team members. We can always count on them to go all in for any task that helps them more faithfully apply the Bible's transforming truths to their lives.

Soon Jim and 16 of our 24 instructors dedicated 4 entire days to exploring biblical ways to teach people the proper human response to divine revelation. It was a huge effort, but training manuals were reviewed and





changed, and teaching guidelines and procedures were refocused. Every process and every document that affected what and how we teach pastors, church leaders, and church workers was examined and updated to reflect a clearer and more intentional approach to teaching Inductive Bible Study and biblical preaching.

The overarching goal was to train and equip the instructors to teach in a way that develops a hunger and thirst in people for the God who created them, and who loves them with an unfathomable love that sent His Son to the cross in their place. Our teaching focus is on accurately studying and teaching the Bible with an end goal of obedience to the Word with a proper spirit—not by coercion, manipulation, or compulsion—but from a heart overflowing with gratitude, thankfulness, and love for God—or “faith working through love” (Galatians 5:6).

What is the importance of all of this? Why make such a big deal? Because every meaningful, eternally-significant aspect of life—and the very satisfaction that we crave from it—flows from a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. Life can be brutal at times, causing us to lose hope. If we can help people ground their lives in an ever-growing relationship with Jesus, they will not only survive the storms of life, they will *thrive* and be there to help others do the same.

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”
1 Corinthians 4:2

When the Lord called us to go and make disciples, we’ve done our best to be faithful to the call, and it has led us into unimaginable blessings. These are not measured by how large the ministry is, or by its

popularity and support, but rather by the depth to which lives are changed and the Lord is glorified. He looks for faithfulness. So, as we endeavor to be more intentional in teaching a relationally-focused response to God’s Word via the ICM-Africa biblical preaching seminars and Bible college classes, we pray the Lord will help His “stewards” be faithful to that call.



Teaching
Top L: Edmond
Top R: Student
Above: Charles
Right: Enezaeli
Changes will impact both instructors and students.

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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



Our inaugural class of the Certificate in Bible Teaching (CBT) program, which is for women only. They will graduate in May of this year.

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 there has finally been some movement on finalizing the registration of the ministry with the Tanzanian government. Pray that it continues to move forward now and we can finish many other registrations that are dependent upon that paperwork...including our work permits and visas!
- We have a new women's CBT class beginning March 30-April 8. We will be training 2 new female instructors and praying that as many of the 27 women students who were invited will be able to attend.
- We also have a co-ed CCP class the 22nd -29th, in addition to regular seminars and diploma sessions.
- Pray for us as we prepare to travel to South Sudan 3-12 May to provide basic inductive Bible study and the first preaching exercise to a group of about 20 pastors. It is in the remote area of Tonj.
- This semester's university-bound teens we have been working with will graduate on 23 April. We had a total of 32 students this time...the largest class in many years! Pray the seeds we've planted will bear fruit! A few of them are already very spiritually mature. May the Lord use them mightily.