

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



The source of the Nile River,
which begins in Uganda.

***“Wait on the LORD; be of good courage,
and He shall strengthen your heart;
wait, I say, on the LORD.”***

Psalm 27:14

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Church on left. Dorm and rear. Hospital compound to classroom at front

"Blessings in the Waiting"

Our visit to Soroti, Uganda, last month had been years in the making—or to be more accurately stated—it had been years in the waiting. We have been blessed by the Lord these past 10 years as He continued to work through us to build a fruitful, sustainable ministry in Tanzania. It is centered around training local church pastors and leaders how to study the Bible and preach its transforming truths to their people. In this time, the Lord has also helped us develop, test, and implement an effective ministry strategy that we could one day begin in neighboring East African countries.

we learned then have stayed with us to this day. It seems fitting that we can now bring a proven program back to bless those who helped us get started.

"Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

James 1:3

Uganda is a nation of 45 million people living in a land area that is around 1.5 times the size of Florida. Approximately 20 million of its population identify as evangelicals – an extremely large target audience for this ministry. Although there has always been a need and desire by Ugandans for the ICM training, we didn't really envision it being delivered by us personally until 2019 after Jim visited again for a week-long IBS training. The host for that visit gathered over 120 people for the training which included more than 35 pastors—a third of them serving as shepherds over Congolese and South Sudanese congregations. From there, we glimpsed a vague ministry vision beginning to take shape. We attempted to schedule the start of Bible College classes, but nothing came of it. The timing was forced and things quickly got in the way – one way the Lord says, "Wait."

"And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do."

Exodus 18:20

For the last few years, we have looked to Uganda as a future opportunity to establish an Intensive Care Ministries (ICM) center of excellence for inductive Bible study and biblical preaching. The roots of our current work in Tanzania actually came from a short, highly impactful visit to Uganda in 2011 when ICM had a fledgling work there. The training and equipping lessons

Then in February 2020, we were joined on our trip to Israel by a husband and wife from Uganda (Juventine and Elizabeth), both of whom are medical doctors. In addition to his duties at a hospital they founded, Juventine also serves as senior pastor of a large church. During the

Soroti is an 8-hr drive from the airport at Entebbe, so access is a bit challenging.





administration building at
to right of fence. Standing at
ent of compound.

Israel trip, they connected with our 15 Tanzanian pastors in a very humble way, not allowing their higher education and world travels to even be noticeable. We really wanted to believe that the Lord had provided the partners we had so fervently prayed for, but we had to wait on the Lord.



35 students crowded in for training

Covid quickly put our thoughts of a partnership on hold as everyone returned to stabilize and guide our respective ministries through the unknown. Over a year later, the Lord finally opened the door for us to travel to Soroti to train students for systematic Bible study and biblical preaching. This would allow Juventine and Elizabeth to see some of what we could offer, but also allow all of us to get to know each other better—this time in a ministry context.

We soon saw that Soroti is strategically situated in the center of Uganda and has 500,000 people within 20-30 kilometers of the city center. We noticed that an ongoing School of Ministry founded by Juventine provided all of the necessary facilities for our in-resident training. We just had to work out a sharing arrangement

that would work for both parties. That did not take long, as Juventine was able to experience firsthand the effectiveness of our training and equipping approach by listening to the preaching sermons at the end of the week.

We have scheduled our first Bible college class to start in December 2021, and the second class to start in July 2022. The first class with finish in late 2023 and the second class will graduate in 2024. But the blessing did not end there. Juventine walked us around his site and helped us see where we could establish our own facilities that would allow us to operate every month rather than just a few times a year in the current scenario. Pastors from all across Uganda—as well as east Congo and eastern South Sudan—could easily reach Soroti. To demonstrate this point, one of the pastors attending the seminars had travelled from South Sudan to participate in the training. He even committed to attend the first class in December! The Lord never ceases to amaze us.

Please join us in prayer for this new work.



The only female student giving her message

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

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Picture of the Month



Our friends, Juventine and Elizabeth, have a wonderful sense of humor. They love meat, and especially pork. Their neighbors have some little piglets on the other side of the fence (see red circle), so Juventine thought we should stand by the BBQ grill with a potential meal in the background!

CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

Intensive Care Ministries
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Note "LARSON" in Memo of check

On-line giving available through our website



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PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise for the IBS and women's training we were able to accomplish in Uganda.
- Pray for the continued fundraising of \$10,000 for our newest classroom in Tanzania.
- Pray for a graduation we have on 4 June, and then for our flights back to the USA that evening.
- Thank you for prayers for Janice's health, as it continues to improve.
- Pray for our efforts to schedule trips to Liberia and Zimbabwe in August and September of this year, as we try to meet the needs of other requests for training.