

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

JULY/AUGUST 2020

*"Let us hold fast the  
confession of our hope  
without wavering,  
for He who promised  
is faithful."  
Hebrews 10:23*

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# Hope in the Lord

Faith in the Lord Jesus that has been tested is faith that can be trusted. Like most of you, our faith and trust are being tested by what is happening here and around the world. Having been unexpectedly separated from our Tanzanian team since March, we wonder each day about when we will be allowed to return to continue the work the Lord has called us to...or whether He may be calling us to a new work. We are in daily contact with many of our teammates, and they provide us regular COVID-19 updates, as well as feedback from the 200+ students who were enrolled and attending the Bible colleges before the virus caused the government to shut down the education system.

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."***

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Over our time of ministry in Africa, we have learned it is much easier to trust in the Lord when things are going well. I think we could *all* say that about life! It is easy to wait patiently on Him in the midst of great ministry successes and mountaintop experiences. But, an extended period of hardship causes us to raise many questions of the Lord, most of which would be quite unnecessary if we simply trusted Him with all of our heart and resolved to walk by faith, seeking Him not so much for all the answers, but for His infinite mercy, grace and love. These times of hardship should become times of growing in our knowledge and understanding of Him and His character.



***"Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!"***

**Psalms 46:10**

**Instructors are excited to  
get back to work**



As we've prayed with and for our team in Tanzania, the Lord impressed upon us that it was time to resume operations there. They feel they've received the same confirmation. Although the work will have to start without us physically present, they've demonstrated over many of our last few furloughs they are capable of doing the work of carrying out the Inductive Bible Study (IBS) seminars and the Bible college sessions quite well without us. We had all taken the time to prepare for this possibility in March just before we left, so there was a plan in place on how to conduct and sustain the ministry without us, transforming the work in ways that it was less dependent on us. We were so blessed to hear their innovative approaches to ministry.

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

**Psalms 27:14**

The Lord gave us all such clarity of thinking and spiritual insight that it gave us great comfort and hope that we needed to restart the work in late August. This was almost 2 months after the government had given clearance for all colleges, universities and schools to re-open. For whatever reason, it seems that COVID-19 has not affected Tanzania—or East Africa in general—as it has other places in the world. We have decided to go slow and orderly, focusing first on re-opening our two main campuses with one class at each facility. This is a huge difference compared to what was happening back in March—19 classes going on at 4 locations with 2 more classes slated for locations outside of Tanzania (a new campus in Uganda and Kenya)! All of these classes will have to wait until later this year or early next.



Students have been waiting anxiously to resume their studies.

In addition, we will resume our IBS workshops and women's seminars in August with a similar approach: a slow, methodical, and gradual increase until we reach our previous capacity which was over 30 seminars per month. Again, we had already engaged in fruitful discussions with our leaders as to how we could operate in more cost-effective and efficient ways. It was like the Lord was preparing us for this time. Needless to say, we're all excited about finding a new normal and being productive in continuing to share God's Word!



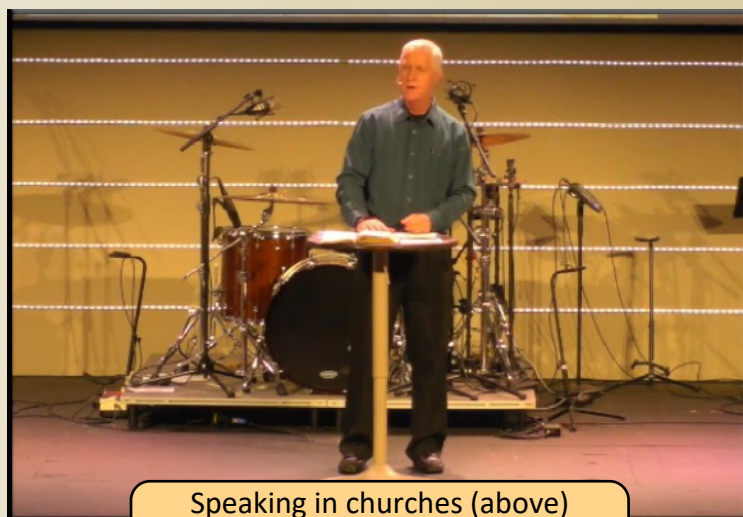
The female leaders are ready to begin village seminars again!

Regarding our return to Africa, we continue to wait for the Lord to make a way for us. The wheels of bureaucracy seem to have ground to a halt. We have filed all the necessary paperwork to renew our immigration documents and have been told to "just wait." That basically means "they'll get to it when they get to it." Obviously, we want things to happen asap so we can plan our return flights, or else begin to look at going somewhere else. We don't feel the Lord is telling

us it is time to quit, but He may be wanting to redirect us. And we are having to trust there is also a good reason He has us in the US now rather than back in Africa, so pray for us to have patience to wait on His perfect timing and be fruitful where we're planted! So while we are waiting, we've begun giving updates at churches which are open. If you would like to host us to speak at your church, life group, or other function, please let us know.



We long for the days of a full classroom!



Speaking in churches (above) and enjoying an African mural.



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

[www.jimandjanicelarson.com](http://www.jimandjanicelarson.com)

# Picture of the Month



Left: A sign in the gardens at the Garden Tomb site (Right) in Jerusalem

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please continue to pray for our ministry paperwork and work permits/visas to be approved. We have engaged an attorney to try to get things finalized.
- Pray for the Lord's clear direction as to whether He will lead us back to Tanzania to continue, or redirect us to another African country or elsewhere in the world.
- Pray for our African teammates who will resume seminars and college classes for the ministry this month.
- We would love to meet with small groups and churches while we remain in the US in order to share the ministry vision and encourage one another. Please contact us if that would be of interest to you.