

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

GET WISDOM! (JULY 2022)

"Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding." Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is important to God! Through His wisdom God saves lost sinners, and by applying God's wisdom, the Spirit-empowered believer is equipped to live an overcoming life in Christ. Even beyond that, we have experienced firsthand that God's wisdom has the power to bring about lasting societal change when its transforming truths are brought to bear by faithful believers in their own village context.



For more than 11 years, the Lord has used us to train and equip Tanzanian pastors and church leaders in systematic Bible study and biblical preaching. Though our initial focus was on improving the health of Tanzanian local churches, it did not take long for us to see positive benefits outside the church as well. Villages would be transformed when God's people took the gospel into their communities...not just to proclaim it, but to live it out in all aspects of the community.

"For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:6

Whether it is in peoples' business dealings, social life, schools, the market, or in their other daily interactions, when God's Word is honored and applied, everything gets better! This reality drove British missionary William Carey for more than 40 years as he brought the gospel into every aspect of Indian society, even the education system.

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." James 3:17

And now this reality is driving us. Since the very first team members began to join us, each new minister would implore us to bring them more biblical education. They have an insatiable thirst to know more, not as the end, but as the means to an end...a better society.

First, we added certificate and diploma programs to equip them with biblical knowledge and the ability to properly preach or teach God's Word. This year, we are taking steps to launch a 4-year theology degree program—one that will help them see the spiritual aspect of every part of their lives. Earning a degree built upon the foundation of what ICM-Africa has already taught is something that most of our graduates have been asking for over the last several years.

We are planning to begin the degree next year, but it must be taught in English to be recognized for possible future accreditation, so we must get most of our students more proficient with their English skills. In doing so, it will also open up many more biblical resources

**Pastors in diploma class (above);
Graduates of Certificate in Church Planting
(below)**



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to them (written, aural and video works). We were blessed to have a skilled team of ESL (English as a Second Language) trainers come for a week to evaluate our best English-speaking instructors and help us plan a path forward. The desire is to offer English as a subject within the degree program to improve the proficiency of students, and also offer some remedial/preparatory courses before entering if necessary. These courses will be taught by some of the current ICM-Africa instructors.

Everyone is excited to see how the Lord will use the new degree program with its more advanced offerings to expand the Kingdom, not only in Tanzania, but throughout Africa. Please be praying for the expansion of the training here to strengthen the local churches.

Left: ESL teachers Karen & David with us and leading a class session.

Below: The first graduates of the women-only Certificate in Bible Teaching class, with their instructors.



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

- Pray for the ICM-Africa team who will be conducting 6 college classes during July while we are in the US. Pray for all the students and instructors to arrive safely, the administration to go well, and hearts and minds to be changed by the teaching.
- Funding of an extra \$5000 will allow Jim and a Tanzanian staff member to begin training pastors in South Sudan this December. It will cover our portion of most of the costs for the 5 college sessions. We are praying diligently for this because the need there has burdened our hearts tremendously.
- Pray for our visits while in the US, and please contact us if you would like us to speak at your gathering:
 - 1-10 July, St Petersburg/Tampa area (CC Osprey scheduled)
 - 12-24 July, Florida Panhandle/Montgomery Alabama
 - 26-31 July, St Petersburg/Tampa area (CC St Pete scheduled)
 - August: Virginia/Tennessee/NC/St Petersburg