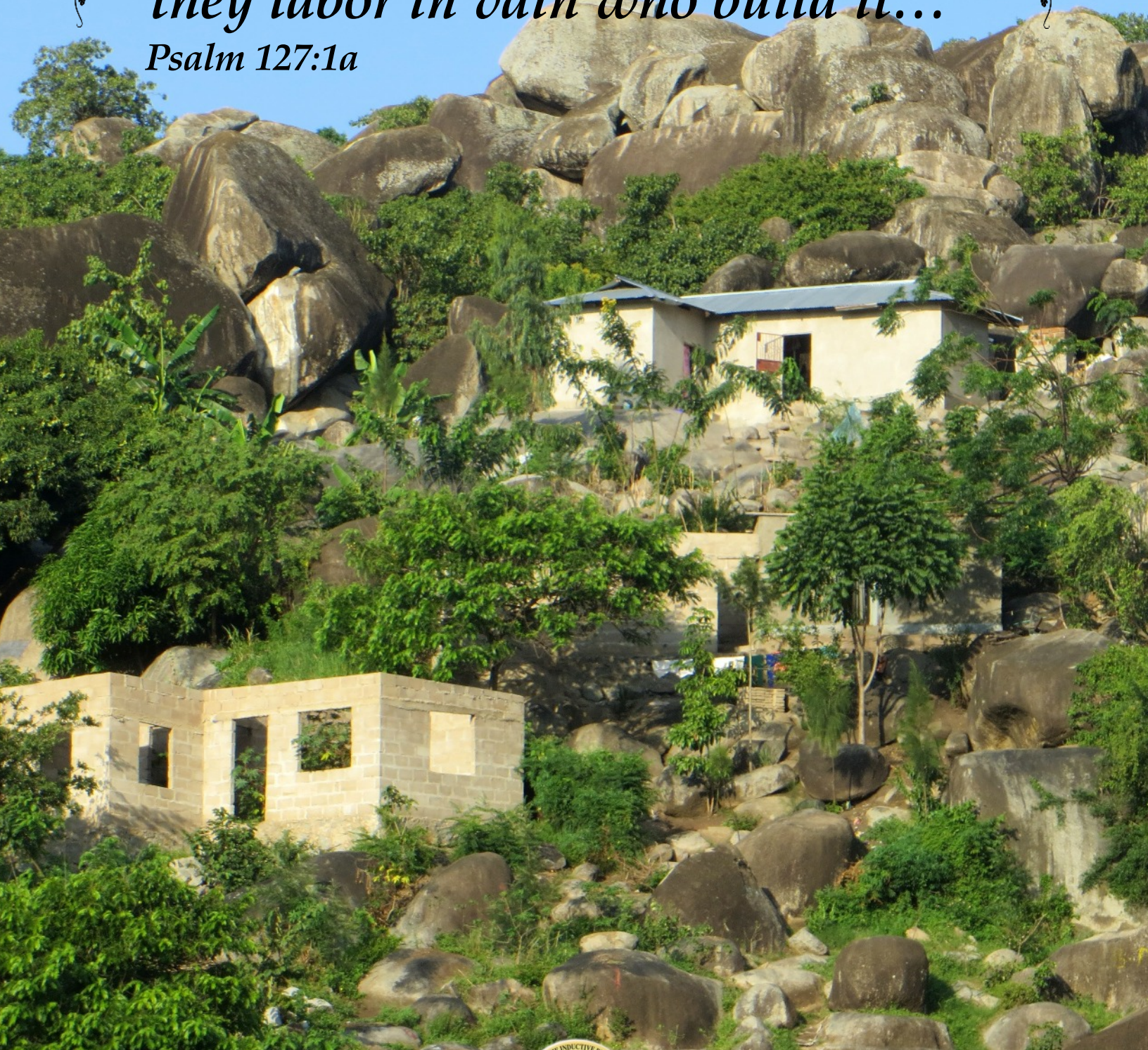


HEART FOR AFRICA
"TRANSFORMING BIBLICAL PREACHING ONE PASTOR AT A TIME"
SEPTEMBER 2021

*"Unless the Lord builds the house,
they labor in vain who build it..."*

Psalm 127:1a



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Kingdom Building...Literally!!!

The Lord God is perfectly good in so many ways; He is our faithful Provider! The God who boldly proclaims “For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills” (Psalm 50:10), and “The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine” (Haggai 2:8) is the One we trust to faithfully provide the resources for His ministry work.

***“Moreover it is required in stewards
that one be found faithful.”***

1 Corinthians 4:2

Stewardship and accountability are two tasks that we take quite seriously. Financial resources can easily be abused or misused, especially in our ministry context where a small amount of money can go very far. If we allow our relationships to be founded and sustained on money, they will ultimately fail—the work will not be accomplished with the Lord’s glory at the forefront. And if we allow money to become a tool of manipulation to persuade folks to do what we want them to do, their primary motive will be to please us and not the Lord. We must ensure that careful prayer and extreme caution lead and guide every money decision made.

***“And God is able to make all grace abound
toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency
in all things, may have an abundance
for every good work.”***

2 Corinthians 9:8

One of the most consequential money decisions we make is whether to invest in building structures to fulfill the training and equipping mission. Westerners are not permitted to own real estate here, so decisions to invest in land or buildings must be made with that idea in mind. We could very well “invest” ourselves right out of a property if we use the wrong land-owning national, if we go too quickly, or if we go too big. In our context, neither nice looking nor big are usually best! Small and basic are much better! We’re grateful the Lord has led the right nationals into our lives, and that He has given us His wisdom to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider each and every financial decision.

You’ve met Bishop Selemani (Solomon) before. He is the national head of His denomination and the Site Director/owner of our Lake Victoria-area campus in Tanzania’s second largest city, Mwanza. He provided all of the land for the campus and also partnered with us financially to share some of the building costs. We started this campus in late 2017 and have slowly built a

very compact but functional learning environment where we can house 2 teachers and 22 students on site.

One fascinating feature of Mwanza is the huge boulders that dot the landscape and are cleverly integrated into their properties and buildings (see newsletter cover). Selemani

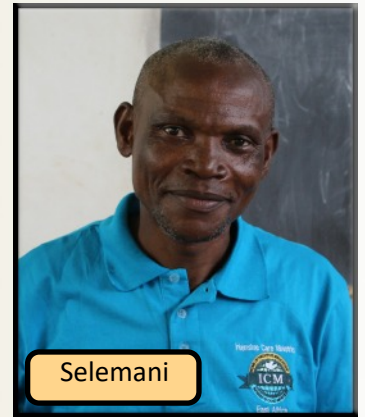
has carried over the same philosophy to his boulder-strewn church property where the ICM campus is situated. It took weeks for his team of youth to “sculpt” the boulders to accommodate the classroom and dorm.

Given these limitations, we were forced to dual-purpose the classroom to also serve as the dining hall. Not the best situation, but a workable one that allowed us to go slow as we prayed over where/how to accommodate a separate building—physically and financially. While waiting, demand from prospective students in the surrounding regions (the size of Florida) increased tremendously.

***“And my God shall supply all your need according
to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”***

Philippians 4:19

The Lord eventually showed us a way. Selemani had several old buildings whose functions could be absorbed elsewhere, allowing these to be torn down. We measured the property and found it had exactly the right amount of space to build a dining hall, a small kitchen and food storage area! But the greatest challenge would come from having to break up and move a large number of 4’x 6’ boulders with modest hand tools (below). “No



problem,” said the bishop. “My young people are up to the task!” And so was he, working alongside them daily!



A few thousand dollars and 2 months later, we have a very functional structure that will allow students to eat and fellowship outside the classroom. What a great blessing since every graduating class on that campus had suggested we make this improvement.

It is amazing how God continues to inspire and provide for us, utilizing the talents and gifts He equipped us with—whether physical, mental, or financial resources. We join with King David to praise God for His bountiful provision: ***Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all*** (1 Chronicles 29:12). We continue to be faithful with all He has provided—this amazing ministry team, our health, our daily provision, and the resources we require to perform the ministry responsibilities He has called us to. Thank you for your support as well!

Top Left: Selemani and a helper digging around boulders with a shovel and machete.

Left Center: Selemani standing next to new building, whose foundation consists of the broken boulders!



Left: Selemani brings lumber to form roof supports, which he also helps install (upper right).

Right: Workers putting on the roof.



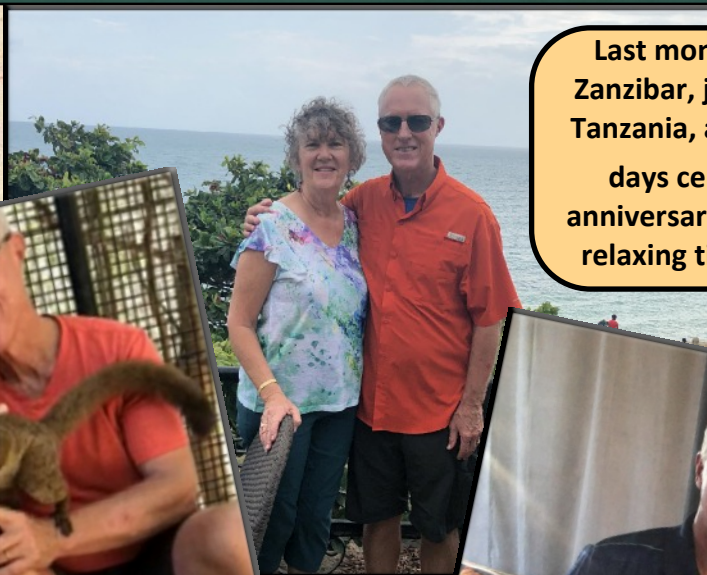
Catch up on our personal journey through our website news, and find many more pictures there.

www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Pictures of the Month



Feeding a bushbaby



Last month we went to the island of Zanzibar, just off the mainland coast of Tanzania, and were able to spend a few days celebrating our 39th wedding anniversary. We had a very blessed and relaxing time enjoying God's creation.



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 our efforts to Liberia and Zimbabwe. Both trips had to be canceled due to travel restrictions, so we need wisdom to know when to try again.
- Prayers for Pastor Loth, the director of our Mt Meru campus. His diabetes is causing significant problems to his immune system and one of his kidneys.
- Praise for graduating one diploma class and one church-planting class during August!
- Continue to pray for resolution regarding the final approval of ICM-Africa with the Tanzanian government so we might finish our work permit applications. The temporary business visas will expire in October.