

HEART-FOR-AFRICA



January 2015

Larson Mission Update

A SEASON OF CELEBRATION



*"To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven."*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

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When we genuinely commit our work to the Lord for His glory, it opens the door for Him to achieve amazing results through us. At the end of his first missionary journey, Paul was quick to acknowledge God's role in working through him and Barnabas to spread the Gospel throughout the cities of southern Galatia. (Acts 14:26-27). It was not their efforts that achieved great results, but the Lord working powerfully in and through them.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

Having just wrapped up another year of ministry in Tanzania, we wanted to give God the glory for His awesome faithfulness and favor in support of the work here. We humbly ask that each of you who have partnered in it and followed the ministry efforts also thank the Lord for His wonderful provision and divine grace that He has continued to pour out.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The Intensive Care Ministries-Tanzania (ICM-TZ) family completed a fruitful year of ministry across the country, bringing Inductive Bible Study (IBS) seminars to many new areas. The missionaries completed 200+ seminars in all but two of the 31 regions in Tanzania while distributing over 2,000 Bibles. They also completed one new pastoral training center class and started two new classes involving 23 pastors and overseers. We also began conducting a newly created 2-day Level 4 seminar just for pastors to further develop their preaching skills. This heavy workload is in addition to each missionary's primary responsibility of ministering to his family and pastoring his own church.



"So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed."
Luke 5:16



We planned two major events to celebrate the end of our ministry year and provide a time of joy and rest for the ICM-TZ missionaries. The first was an all-day journey for the men and their wives to one of the national parks (no ministry funds were used). Most had never visited one before, so it was a special blessing for them to see up close the many beautiful animals they had only heard about. They marveled at the wonder of God's creation, and they were laughing and creating many wonderful memories together. It is a privilege to minister with such faithful and devoted people of God on a regular basis, so it was a great blessing to be able to share a special experience outside of the ministry where the bonds of Christian friendship could go deeper.



“So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”
2 Thessalonians 2:8

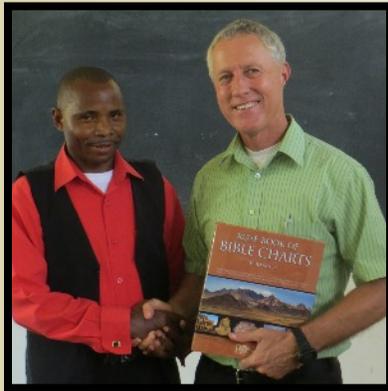
The second event was the annual celebration on the campus of our ministry partner, Berea Bible College. A wonderful meal was served, ministry rewards (a Rose Book of Bible Charts) and Christmas cards and new pocket calendar were given to each missionary and his wife. We also shared the ministry plans for the coming year. The ladies even had a small baby shower for Janice’s translator, Zipporah!

(R) Presentation of Rose books

(B) Zipporah & ladies

(Top R) Eden Garden students & movie night.

(Bottom R) ISM Ultimate Frisbee team & Coach/Pastor Jim



students approach us after our visits with questions about the Lord, so please keep this important work in your prayers. We are in discussion with the school administrators now, trying to plan what our involvement with them will be for this coming year.



We are halfway through our 14-month commitment of leading our local Baptist fellowship and it has been more of a blessing to us than we could have imagined. Janice is really enjoying teaching the children each Wednesday and Sunday, and Jim’s sermons through the book of Matthew are being very well received. In addition to leading the men’s and women’s monthly Bible study groups, we’ve also initiated a monthly pot-luck dinner and social for the married couples in the church which is helping provide a deeper sense of fellowship and community. Jim also coached Ultimate Frisbee for the first time at the International School of Moshi—as an outreach of the church—and his co-ed team won the overall tournament at the end of the semester against five other schools! This is Jim’s *true* way to relax. 😊



In 2015, we will complete the two ongoing pastoral training center classes and start two more. In addition, we will add a new program to train gifted and called female ministry leaders in their own women’s training center. They will receive the same training we conduct in the pastoral training center, but in their own environment. Everyone is excited and thankful for this new development.

Other Ministry:

We also had the opportunity to close out the year at the local secondary school by showing “The Nativity” film and singing Christmas songs. We are beginning to have



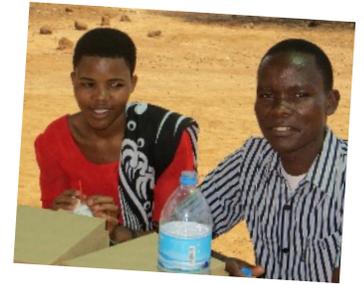
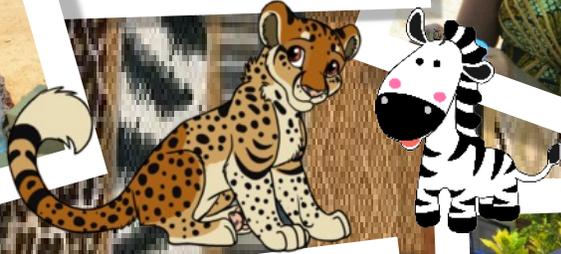
On behalf of the entire ICM-TZ group, we thank you for your support during this past year of significant change and growth and are excited to have you with us as we begin 2015!

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

www.thelarsons.webs.com

Happy New Year!

From ICM-Tz



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PRAYER ITEMS

- We begin our Spring semester at Moody Theological Seminary January 13
- The MKPTC Class #5, Session 1, is January 21-30, 2015. Jim and Edmond will be teaching.
- We are praying for additional funding for the many training centers to be conducted this year. Lives are being changed and the church leadership equipped through these efforts.