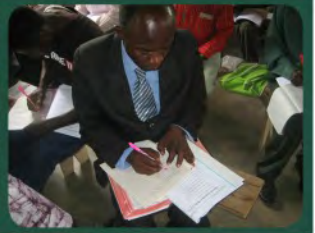


HEART FOR AFRICA



July 2015

Larson Mission Update

"Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him."

Proverbs 30:5



EQUIPPING THE CALLED

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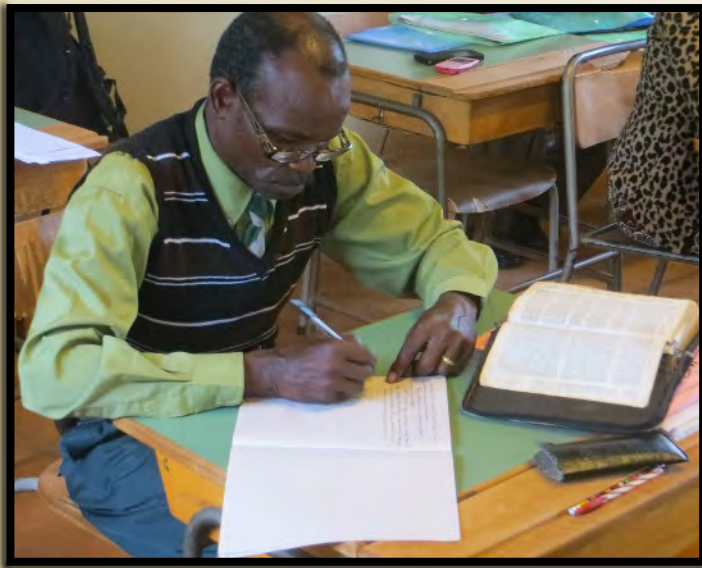
MOSHI, TANZANIA

TANZANIA CELL PHONE 011 255 78 454-8658

This has been the year of the Mount Kilimanjaro Pastoral Training Center (MKPTC) since we will graduate three classes this year. The Lord has also blessed us with the inauguration of our first class of the Mount Kilimanjaro Women's Training Center (MKWTC) which takes female leaders through the same program of Bible training and practical preaching/teaching exercises as their male counterparts. This first class will finish in 2016.

***"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."
Hosea 4:6***

If you remember, each training center class is conducted in three 10-day sessions, with a gap of 2-3 months between each session which allows the students to "try out" the biblical knowledge and preaching skills in their own pulpit before returning for more training. This repetitive, step-by-step approach helps us make the most effective and efficient use of the 30 contact days we have with each student in their particular class.



What we see at the end of each class are students who are equipped with the knowledge, methods, skills, confidence, and enthusiasm for teaching through the Bible in their church. Most have never attended a Bible College or seminary, but are clearly called as a teacher of the Word.

***"Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."
2 Timothy 4:2***

In May, we graduated our third-ever MKPTC class (first one of 2015) at our satellite training center located about 110 kilometers from Moshi in a town called Same

("Sah-may"). Each class is unique with its own character and personality. The Same class was special to us with their hunger and thirst for God's Word as well as their intense desire and drive to work at improving their teaching. After developing 20 expositional sermons and preaching 6 of them over the course of 30 days, each pastor was transformed into an amazing preacher—confident and clear in their teaching. The change from their first sermon to the sixth was a great blessing to observe and experience. We deliberately keep the class sizes small in order to maximize the preaching opportunities for each student.



***"Let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth.
For in these I delight," says the LORD."
Jeremiah 9:24***

The testimonies of the ten men in the Same class encouraged us greatly. They reminded us of our calling in Africa to train and equip "disciple makers," those national pastors who will take the teaching to their own people in much the same way the Lord multiplied His ministry by calling and equipping gifted men to continue His ministry after His ascension to heaven.

Bishop Peter, who is a headmaster at his denomination's Bible college, spoke of the training as extremely focused and clear—he could not comprehend how we squeezed so much into 30 days. He appreciated the emphasis of Inductive Bible Study on extracting practical applications from the biblical text and mentioned how he is using this approach at his own Bible college with great success. Bishop Peter will also join ICM-Tanzania as the Site Director for another of our satellite training centers which is an 8-hr drive from Moshi. We are seeking to

expand access to our training further from our home base here.



Pastor Tuarira explained emotionally how he was trained as a teacher from his earliest years, but he could not seem to teach the Bible in his church as he truly desired. Something was missing and he found it in our class—an effective method! He begged us to let him join ICM-Tanzania. As a gifted teacher and one of the best in the Same class, we will let the Lord determine if the call is really there to join us. **Pastor Sifunieli** was one of our top students who had found it difficult to find the time and resources to attend formal Bible training. Like many pastors here, he has a full-time occupation to provide for his family while also leading his church. The 10-day sessions worked perfectly for him, and equipped him with a level of Bible knowledge he really thought was impossible to obtain given his family situation. He also implored us to allow him to join ICM-Tanzania so he can further develop and improve his teaching of the Word. This humility is what we look for in a prospective missionary.

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2

Then there is **Pastor John** who is a young man from high in the mountains around Same. He was so grateful for the training because he has always yearned to preach God's Word with confidence. His sermons would be long

on encouraging words, but devoid of any biblical truths. He did not lack for desire, but had no opportunity or resources to attend a Bible college due to an early start in growing a family.

Pastor Marko (center) receives his graduation certificate from two of the ICM-TZ instructors for this class – Pastor Jeremiah (L) and Pastor Silas (r).



"He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it."

1 Thessalonians 5:24

The other pastors had similar testimonies. Of the ten students, six will be invited to further explore a call with ICM-TZ. Each demonstrated superior preaching skills, consistent godly character, and near-perfect scores on each of the academic tests in the program. We will give them considerable time to confirm their call as we believe the Lord must have the final say.



We shared our training center compound with several classes of nursery school children. They would greet us enthusiastically each morning and then we would all begin our respective lessons for the day.

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

www.thelarsons.webs.com

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



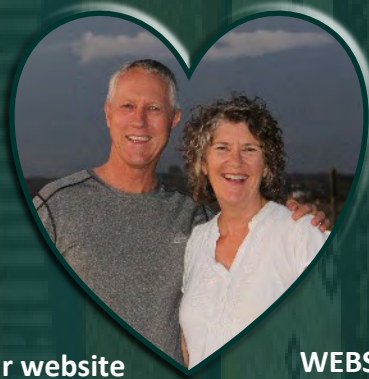
These are some of the students who attend the Sunday Services we do at the local boarding school. They are holding up the Bibles we distributed recently, and they now eagerly follow along each week and take notes in their own Bible. Thank you to all who helped make this possible.

CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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On-line giving available via PayPal on our website



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PRAYER ITEMS

- Praises for Session 1 of the Women's Training Center class in June having gone very well!
- Prayers for the final session and graduation of MKPTC Class #4, July 1-10, and the Lord's discernment in whom He might call to join this work.
- We are conducting a biblical marriage and family planning seminar on July 17. Pray for our travel and those who will attend.
- Teacher Training for new Tanzanian pastors joining ICM-TZ will be July 21-23.
- Praise for entering the home stretch on pastoring our local church here. Our pastor and his family return from a 15-month furlough and resume leadership on August 1! We have been blessed tremendously through this opportunity.