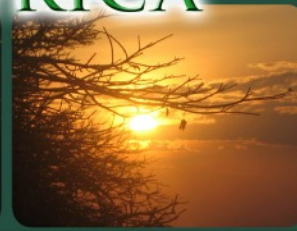


# HEART FOR AFRICA



*July 2016*

*Larson Mission Update*

***“Behold, the days are coming, says the  
Lord GOD,  
That I will send a famine on the land,  
not a famine of bread,  
nor a thirst for water,  
but of hearing the words of the LORD.”  
Amos 8:11***



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# Hunger for the Word

We learned in studying the rich history and interesting demographics of Tanzania that this country is very large and diverse. As we extended the reach of the ministry to cover the outlying regions, we soon began to confirm by personal experience these very same facts...Tanzania is a huge country made up of many tribes, each with their own language, culture and customs. What ties them together is a common national language (Swahili) as well as their spirituality.

*"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*  
Ephesians 4:4-6

Last month we took a trip to the far western part of Tanzania to conduct seminars among the Nyamwezi tribe in the Tabora region. We knew in advance this would be a new experience for us as it would be our first time working in this region and with this unique tribe. This is always a time of great excitement and anticipation as each of these new experiences helps fill in another blank area of our cultural-awareness mosaic. Tabora is important because it is one of the largest regions in all of Tanzania. We would be expecting 40-50 pastors if the



*"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."*  
Proverbs 16:9

host pastor's estimate proved true. Our minister who had conducted the initial Inductive Bible Study seminars with this pastor assured us he was reliable and trustworthy. So, we finalized our plans which involved being gone for a week with five days of teaching.

Then at the last minute we were advised by the host that we needed to obtain special approval from our local immigration officer due to the great number of Burundian refugees in the area. The reason is because government officials in that area have been overwhelmed with visitors trying to provide social services and aid to the refugees, so they needed to limit access.



Having just resolved the issues with our current work permits, we decided it would not be a good idea to risk disturbing the process further with a new request. We were disappointed at what was looking like a last-minute cancellation of an important seminar. We let the host pastor know that it might be next year before we could come, when we were in a better position to ask permission from Immigration. The host didn't want to hear that; they desperately wanted the training as the initial seminars had really whetted their appetite for IBS training. He proposed moving the seminar 100 kilometers away to a city outside the refugee area. He assured us he would have a large number of pastors, including many from his area, so we agreed. The fact that things were still coming together in spite of the turmoil gave us a strong sense that the Lord was in the middle of it. He would work things out in His perfect way and



timing. We would need to walk by faith, trusting the Lord in all of His goodness and mercy. Pastor Loth, the ICM-TZ minister who conducted the Levels 1 and 2 training earlier, assured us that the people in Tabora were hungry for the Word of God...the Lord Himself would bring this training about.

*"Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever."*  
Psalm 125:1



True to what both the host pastor and Loth said, the seminar was truly amazing as the 45 people in attendance—30 of who were pastors—were exceptionally hungry for God's Word. This hunger is a great blessing for the teacher as the students are eagerly attentive and furiously taking notes of all that is said and all that is written on the board.



*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."*  
Matthew 5:6

Just after the first break on day one of the seminar, when we asked if there were any questions on the teaching so far, one pastor stood up and asked us point blank what took us so long to bring this training to them? This pastor remembered that we had stated in our opening remarks that ICM has been in Tanzania almost nine years. He then reminded us that Tabora is the largest region in Tanzania and must surely become important to ICM. Everyone cheered and clapped for this pastor's boldness to speak what they all were thinking. No beating around the bush here...welcome to the Nyamwezi tribe! This type of response has the effect of compelling the teacher to raise the level and enthusiasm of their teaching in a good way. Only our "A-game" will suffice in this environment.

Each following day was just like this first encounter. The students would be ready for the seminar two to three hours earlier than those who came to our other seminars, then they would encourage us to teach until dinner time. It does not get any better than this for a teacher! They also demonstrated their commitment to further IBS training by agreeing to host another eight seminars conducted over the course of several months to be conducted by two of our ministers. We expect a regular presence in this faraway region that also helps keep us close to Burundi. Last month, in June, two of our ministers inaugurated IBS training in Burundi which we pray will be a deeper ministry opportunity among an oppressed people.

Photos: (L) Pastor Silas putting examples on chalkboard. (Top R) Students copying notes from the board.

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

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



# PICTURES OF THE MONTH



ICM-East Africa  
Country Directors met with Jim  
and ICM Executive Director Dan  
Finfrock last month in Nairobi

(L to R):  
Fred - Kenya;  
Silas - East Africa Director;  
Felix - Uganda;  
Pst Dan Finfrock;  
Jean Paul - Dem Rep of Congo;  
Jeremiah - Tanzania;  
Jim - Africa Director

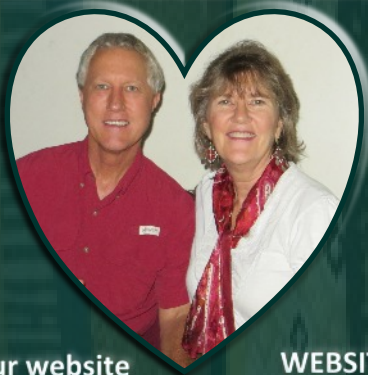
Given the additional territorial and personnel responsibilities we've acquired, we found it necessary to rent a small building in Moshi (right) to provide us much-needed storage space for supplies, office space, and even sleeping space for a few people. We are thankful to have found such a multi-purpose space.



## CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

Intensive Care Ministries  
P.O. Box 109  
Mentone, CA 92359-0109

Note "LARSON" in Memo of check



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## PRAYER ITEMS

- We are thankful for accomplishing many seminars and activities during June which included two pastoral training center classes.
- The Lord closed the door to Jim traveling to Zanzibar last month, and though disappointed, he was so busy with other work that it turned out to be a blessing. We will trust for His timing for a future trip.
- Winter has arrived, the rain is still coming down, there is very little dust to speak of, and we (Janice) sleeps under a blanket at night now! Those are all good things for us, but it is uncomfortable for the Tanzanians who don't do well in cold temperatures. Pray for their health and protection from the elements.