

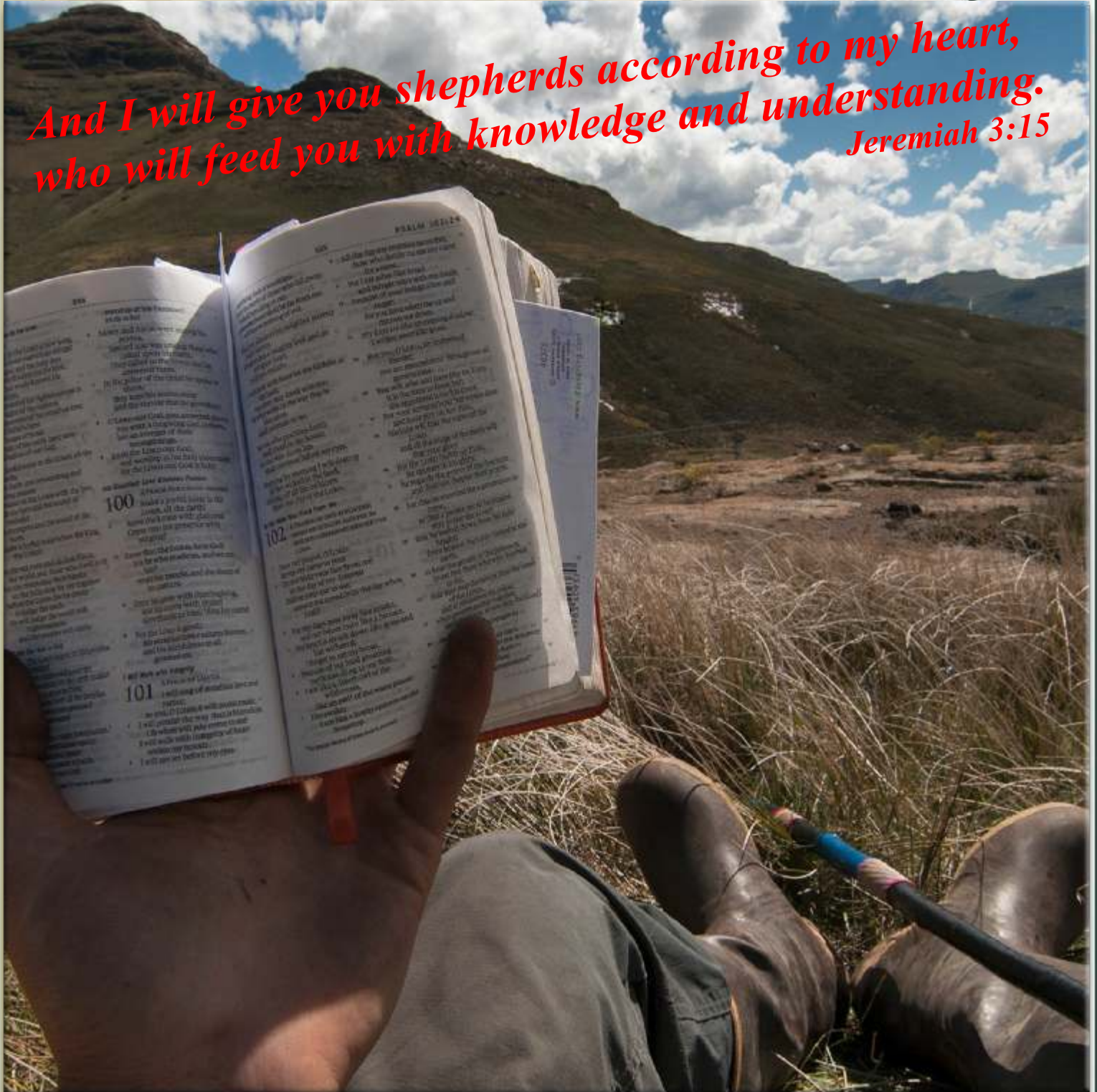
# HEART-FOR-AFRICA



March 2016

Larson Mission Update

*And I will give you shepherds according to my heart,  
who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.  
Jeremiah 3:15*



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# *“Shepherds According to My Heart”*

From the moment we first arrived here in May 2011, we tried to envision ourselves moving toward a point in time where Tanzanians would have the primary role in the ministry. We didn't know the people, but this approach just seemed to be the most effective way for us. The theme of beginning a ministry work with a long-term view of turning the work over to nationals, or as some seasoned missionaries would say--“working yourself out of a job”--was a recurring principle in our missionary preparation and training program.

It even hit painfully close to home when some close missionary friends and ministry partners recently turned their work and legacy over to a capable team of Tanzanians. As we began our work here, they reached out to offer help and soon began serving as our in-country mentors, encouragers, and frequent companions. They were also faithful ministry partners by providing the facilities for our Mount Kilimanjaro Pastoral Training Center site here in Moshi. We know the Lord called them to our side “for such a time as this,” to pour their lives into ours, to use their amazing wisdom, experience, and steadiness to help steer and guide us in making difficult decisions and to keep us on His narrow path.



**William & Eunice**

*“Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.”*  
1 Corinthians 10:24

Maybe some of you are thinking this is beginning to sound like Jim and Janice are about to announce their own departure from the field. We are not – that will only happen in the Lord's perfect timing which He alone already knows. It is really the acknowledgment of a significant milestone for ICM-Tanzania as in February we began our first pastoral training center class conducted

and taught completely with Tanzanian instructors, the first of three 30-day classes that will be conducted in 2016 this way.

*“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”*  
2 Chronicles 16:9a

It has been a long road, a process that began almost five years ago with the search for and identification of faithful men whom we could train and equip to learn Inductive Bible Study, then teach it in seminars to their own people. We then selected the best of the best to further train and qualify to serve as training center instructors. Not all stayed with it, for many were initially called, but only a few were chosen. After a careful examination of their teaching gifts and character, we began to slowly and methodically integrate them into our teaching rotations which has been a two-year process.

*“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.”*  
Ezra 7:10



**Silas**

For this class, our sixth since inaugurating the MKPTC in 2012, we selected Pastor Silas to teach the 66 book studies and Pastor Jeremiah to teach the three expositional verse-by-verse studies in Acts, Romans and Revelation (one during each 10-day session). High caliber students were also chosen, hand-picked pastors and bishops from regions distant from ours. Each of the

eleven students undertook one-day journeys at their own expense to attend the first ten-day session.



Jeremiah

It was a great blessing to observe Pastors Silas and Jeremiah take complete responsibility for administering and teaching the class, conducting it with the discipline and assurance of college professors. That is important to our method, for we find that if we treat the students like college students, they rise to the occasion and produce outstanding work. Both were extremely well-prepared, having carefully written out their lessons and even what they planned to write on the chalkboards to ensure the students committed them to their own handwritten notes.



Silas & Jeremiah

To be honest, it was also quite impressive to see how much material they could cover since they did not require a translator for their teaching nor their board work. We even noticed another interesting and unexpected dynamic – the students were very willing to ask probing questions during the teaching which allowed Silas and Jeremiah to go even deeper into the material. Our experience is that most students are very reluctant

to ask such questions with western teachers or even respond to questions from western instructors.

*"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

A critical component of the training is the practical expositional preaching exercises, for they represent the application of what we are trying to accomplish here – taking the IBS method and tools and using them to develop expositional sermons for preaching God's Word verse by verse. When Western instructors conduct the sessions, we have to be very careful in how we give the feedback to each student after he preaches his sermon. Too harsh...even if the feedback is true...and we risk offending not only the student, but the whole class as well.



MKPTC Class 6

But we saw with Pastors Silas and Jeremiah, they could provide candid and insightful comments to each student and it would be received well. Sometimes the feedback would be very pointed and direct; we could tell a severe correction was going on. Still, what we heard and saw from the students was that the inputs were properly received- another amazing aspect of this Tanzanian-led approach to ministry.



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

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

# PICTURE OF THE MONTH



The shepherds of Jeremiah 3:15

## CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE & MAILED TO:

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## PRAYER ITEMS

- Pray for students and instructors at the March MKPTC.
- Pray for us as we adjust to more solitude with the departure of our missionary friends.
- Pray for the Lord to assist us all in working to His plan and not our own, and in His timing for all things.