

TIFFANY IN TRANSLATION

Serving the Lord with Lutheran Bible Translators

"If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal... Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:1,13

Learning Language and Culture

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On August 27th, 3:30pm BST, I arrived safely at Moorlands College. It is in a tiny town named Sopley, but about two miles away is a city, Christchurch, with lots of other little towns and communities between. Campus is about a ten-minute drive from the ocean, and in the heart of a national forest. In addition to the beautiful nature, there are little shops and pubs around, and plenty of old, beautiful churches to visit! However, on Moorlands campus, there is a little community of its own comprised of 10 Masters students representing 8 different countries and 10+ languages, nearing the end of their first module October 8th!



Aside from memorizing the phonetic alphabet and writing papers, I think one of the biggest lessons I have learned so far at Moorlands is the meaning and importance of community. I was not aware of just how small my community would be here at Moorlands, nor how much I would need a community. For six weeks, our small campus will be occupied by only the ten of us who are attending the course in person, and there are only six of us who are staying full time on campus. With that being said, I have learned that having a community is both wonderful and challenging. It is wonderful to have a group that I can always eat with and talk to after class, but it is challenging at times coming from so many different backgrounds. Whether it is language, religion, ethical issues, education, etc., we all have different worldviews, but one common denominator: Christ. Nevertheless, when it comes to *living* in community, there is still much we can learn from one another.

I would love to share with you some of the things I am learning from my new community (aside from phonology and language learning strategies)! These are some areas I have been challenged by so far and want to grow more in:

- *Listen to Understand, Not to Correct:* My way of doing things is not always the "right" way. I can learn a lot from the people I am with about theology, language, practical advice, and much more. I just need to listen and be open to change. Different is good!
- *Be Hospitable:* The English are very hospitable, and extending invitations as well as accepting them is not a strength of mine, I'll admit. But so far, I have had some of the most delightful conversations with classmates and instructors simply because I accepted their offer to stop, sit down, and enjoy a cup of coffee.
- *Love thy neighbor:* This may be an obvious statement, but it occurred to me again as I read the verses from 1 Corinthians above. Even if we could speak all the languages of the world, if we do not love as Christ loved, then our ministry in Bible translation will be in vain. Faith, hope, and love for Christ and my neighbor - that is what is going to carry me through the mission God has entrusted to me. Phonetics will only get me so far.

I look forward to learning more and sharing with you what God is teaching me through my time here at Moorlands. Thanks, as always, for supporting me and joining me on this journey!

In Christ, Tiffany Smith



Prayer Requests:

- **PRAYER and PRAISE:** That I arrived in England safely, and pray that my transition into the culture and learning environment will go smoothly and successfully.
- **PRAY:** Pray for my classmates and I as we begin an intense course in language acquisition. Half of our class will be learning Arabic, the other half Syrian Kurdish, both from mother-tongue speakers who have volunteered to teach the course!
- **PRAISE:** That God is working in people all over the world through the ministry of Bible Translation!
- **PRAISE:** That I am making new friends every day here and that my professors and staff are caring and welcoming!
- **PRAY:** That the spread of Covid will be kept at bay so that we can continue to learn in person and so that students online can travel to campus soon!
- **PRAY:** That I will find a "home" congregation among the churches here so that I can continue to be fed spiritually over the next 6 months.



Above: St Michael's Anglican Church.
Sopley, Christchurch, UK

There are many old churches where I am
that have beautiful architecture and
artwork that date back hundreds of years!

Consider Becoming a Financial Partner!

Ongoing gifts (donations made monthly, bimonthly, annually, etc.) can make all the difference in ministry. Whether you are able to give \$10/month or \$100/month, the point is that you are helping create a sustainable ministry for me overseas. It also means that together we are creating a sustainable project in the ministry of Bible translation!

Being able to depend on future gifts and donations from my supporters means being able to go into the mission field knowing that I can live and work there for as long as our partners need me to for a Bible project. It also means we can begin planning ahead for the future without wondering if I will have the support I need financially.

If becoming a financial partner of mine is something you would like to consider, here are some options:

- Online Donations: lbt.org/Tiffany-Smith
- Checks/Cash Payments: "Smith 459" in the memo line and sent to the LBT address below!



A Day in The Life of Tiffany:

MON.-FRI.

9:00a - Class Session 1

10:45a - Coffee break
(or Chapel on Tuesdays)

12:00p - Class Session 2

1:00p - Lunch
(Every Friday is Fish n' Chips!)

2:00p - Language Learning Practicum
(I am learning Syrian Kurdish!)

5:30p - Tea (Supper)

6:00-10:00p - Homework, fellowship,
and catching up with friends and
family back home!

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS
PO BOX 789 CONCORDIA, MO 64020
PHONE: 660-225-0810

EMAIL: TIFFANY.SMITH@LBT.ORG

[Missionary Tiffany Smith \(lbt.org\)](http://Missionary_Tiffany_Smith(lbt.org))



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