

TIFFANY IN TRANSLATION

Serving the Lord with Lutheran Bible Translators



"Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thirteen days in quarantine, family matters, 3,200-word assignments and lots of prayer... That is just a glimpse of what the last five weeks have looked like for me here at Moorlands. Tears from sorrows (and laughter!), frustrations with learning online and in-person alike, deepening relationships with classmates and then saying goodbye to some at the end of their courses - all of this and more made for a long, hard, and yet rewarding month of October and beginning of November. And despite all of the ups and downs, I have a lot to be thankful for! I am also beginning a new course: Scripture Engagement, but here are some highlights from last month:



Quarantine: We had a couple of positive covid cases in our class, so beginning on Oct. 8th we were immediately ordered to go into isolation in our dorm rooms. It was a whirlwind of emotions over what turned into almost two weeks, and my five hallmates and I had to learn to adapt quickly and work together as a family unit.

Fortunately, we had many friends and classmates who took care of us from the outside by giving us care packages, delivering our meals, and doing any necessary shopping for us here and there. I was beyond blessed to be quarantined with my hallmates as well, some of whom I have become even closer with and two visitors I otherwise would not have come to know so well!

Family and Home Life: Trying to balance life as a student in England while also keeping track of friends and family back home is an exceptionally difficult challenge! Fortunately, I have an amazing family who keeps me informed when family members are sick or in need of prayer and when there are occasions worth celebrating too! Even though it is hard to come by, there is always time when I need it to call my sister or mom just to have a quick chat. Once in a while I get a little homesick, but remembering why I am here and thinking about the wonderful connections I am making and lessons I am learning helps me to keep smiling! And thanks be to God that he has given me a resemblance of family in the community that I am finding here at Moorlands! This gives me hope that in the future, no matter where I go, God will provide a circle of friends and "family" to sustain me and help in my life overseas.

As I did in my last newsletter, I would love to share with you some things that I have learned in the last five weeks through classes and my experience here in England:

- **Expect the Unexpected:** Just like quarantine, assignment deadlines, and rainfall on what looks to be a sunny day, life can throw a curveball at you at any given moment. I'm learning that God has a rhyme and reason for everything, even rainy days. You end up sitting with friends, drinking tea and having encouraging conversations; you learn to manage your time better and humble yourself by asking other students for their advice on an assignment; you learn to be flexible, adapt, and have patience as you spend thirteen days cooped up in your hallway with five people you hardly know (now I sure do!). The unexpected can be scary and annoying at times but also a God-given blessing.
- **Embrace Your God-Given Abilities:** Our last class was about community engagement. The third week we talked about being members of a team and of the Body of Christ. I'm learning a lot about myself: areas in which I need to grow and how to use the gifts God has given me to help grow the kingdom of Christ! **It is so exciting to know that God has created each of us uniquely with the intention of using us for His glory!** Embrace who God has made you to be, using your gifts and talents to share the Good News and witness to others what a wonderful God we have!
- **There is always something to be thankful for!** (See more on page 2)

In Christ, Tiffany Smith

Prayer Requests:

- **PRAISE:** That we made it to the end of another module (we are halfway finished with the course!) and **PRAY** that we will continue to learn and grow over the next 10 weeks.
- **PRAY:** Pray for my colleagues in Botswana and for the ongoing projects in the country, especially asking God to prepare my heart for ministry in this area.
- **PRAISE:** For the friends I have here at Moorlands! They are all so unique and wonderful in their own ways, and I am learning so much from them every day. I couldn't be happier with the class I ended up studying this course with.
- **PRAY:** For God to raise up financial supporters for my ministry. I am in serious need of funds in order to move to Botswana in 2022, and raising support while overseas has been difficult.
- **PRAY:** That the spread of Covid in this area of England will not get worse. The delta variant (among others) has been affecting church and class attendance and causes general fear and frustration for students and staff alike.



Above: Outside of studies I have had the privilege of traveling to Oxford and Bath with friends. Here is a moment I captured of my classmates in awe of the architecture in Oxford. The university happens to be our classmate's *alma mater*, so he was able to give us an amazing tour of the city center!

My Budget:

As many of you know, I am still raising money for my first term overseas - **3 years!** I am raising about **\$80,000** for a resident's permit, travel expenses, vehicle maintenance, printing costs for my newsletter, language training and more! **I am currently only 35% fund-raised, with a goal to move to Botswana in late 2022.**

This means that I am in need of financial partners to support my ministry. Would you prayerfully consider becoming one of them? Consistent monthly giving goes a long way and gets me one step closer to helping put God's Word into Batswana hands! Little gifts add up over time, and **100% of what you give to my ministry goes towards my work overseas.**

As the end of the year approaches, consider my ministry with LBT in your year-end-giving plans. Here are some ways to give:

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



Giving Thanks For You: 1 THESS. 5:18

When adjusting to a new culture and learning to live by that country's rules and expectations, it can be difficult to remember to give thanks to God for all that He has provided along the way. For me, recently, this has especially applied to my supporters and family and friends back home. Despite the fact that it's challenging to balance a life here and a life back home in the US, God is still providing, and you all have been incredible supporters for me both spiritually and physically!

Giving thanks for you who are reading this and those who are supporting me in other ways has been my prayer and focus for this month of November, especially as I approach the holidays that focus on being grateful for God's great gifts.

Thank you for all that you do, and for staying with me on this journey. God bless you all!

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

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