

# TIFFANY IN TRANSLATION

Serving the Lord with Lutheran Bible Translators

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6***



## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**I have exciting news to share! Just before the New Year, I was told what my official role in Botswana will be...**

I have been assigned to work as an exegete (a translation advisor) for the Botswana Sign Translation Project!

I am so incredibly excited about this opportunity and cannot help but feel that God has been preparing me for this for a long time. This project is being put together by several organizations and churches, and Lutheran Bible Translators has been asked to provide an exegete for the translation: me!



## Looking Ahead in 2022

### So what does this mean for me and my year ahead?

My training at Moorlands finishes on February 11th, and I will be back in Iowa until the end of Summer, 2022 when I am aiming to go to Botswana. During this time, I will be doing many things: Fund-raising, packing, studying some Greek and/or Hebrew, refreshing my American Sign Language, and catching up with family and friends.

Only four days after returning to Iowa, I will fly to Dallas, Texas to take a short course in practical medicine and health for when I am in Botswana. This course is for three days, so I will not be gone nearly as long as I was for my training here in England!

Beginning in March, I will put a lot of energy into preparing for Botswana. This will include studying some Greek and Hebrew since I was not able to fit these course into my undergraduate studies or here at Moorlands. This will help me as an exegete in future translation projects.

I also hope to visit many churches on my weekends, especially those with whom I have begun to develop a wonderful partnership with. It will be great to share with them everything I am going to do next year and what I learned here at Moorlands during my studies!

## How Does Signed Bible Translation Work?

**This picture (left) is an example of what a signed Bible could look like in video format.** This example is from the Deaf Bible Society's website, which has many translations available to watch!

Like any translation project, our team will consist primarily of translators, a consultant, and an exegete. However, we will also make use of recording studios and similar resources in order to create a visual Bible such as the one in the picture. We will begin by translating either the Old or New Testament (yet to be decided), and perhaps other short stories in Scripture as well to provide our audience with more biblical resources.

The language we are translating into will be a variation of Botswana Sign Language. I have experience learning and signing American Sign Language, but like any other language, every sign language has its own alphabet, vocabulary, and grammar system. I am excited to learn the similarities and differences between ASL and BSL! While I am learning the language, especially during the first few months, I will have translators available to communicate for me.

**Working in a Deaf Bible project is something that I could have only dreamed of doing years ago.** The need tends to be overshadowed by translation projects in minority or dying languages.

If you know me, you know that I have been fascinated with sign languages for many years, and have even been able to use what I know on my mission trips in the past! I am so humbled that God has guided me to this point and is giving me this incredible opportunity to work more closely with a Deaf community *and* in Bible translation.

I am hopeful and excited to share with you all that He will be doing through the organization and my personal journey in 2022! Thanks for joining me in His mission!

**Your Sister in Christ, Tiffany**

## Prayer Requests:

- **PRAISE:** I have come to the end of my studies at Moorlands! I am so humbled and encouraged by everything I have learned since coming here and feel much more prepared for going to the field than I did six months ago.
- **PRAY:** Pray for my travels back to the US and to Texas for the next stage of my training. I still get nervous flying and expect to be very tired over the next few weeks recovering from jet lag.
- **PRAISE:** For the relationships I've built here at Moorlands. It will be hard to say goodbye to everyone, but I am so excited to stay in touch and see what they will be doing in their own ministries back home!
- **PRAY:** For my diligence and patience as I readjust to a normal schedule at home. I am going to have a busy and possibly overwhelming six months ahead as I prepare for Botswana.
- **PRAY & PRAISE:** For my team in Botswana who are already working so hard on their own projects as well as helping prepare me for my move overseas. They are amazing!



Above: I found this courtyard during my visit to London last month. Inside was a coffee house, chocolate shop, and clothing store - my kind of place!

Below: Telling stories and sharing experiences with one another in our lounge has been some of the best parts of my time here!

## Budget Update:

I am currently **40% fund-raised**, with a goal to move to Botswana in late 2022. Here are some specific needs I am still raising money for: A reliable vehicle, housing, travel expenses, everyday living expenses, and language lessons. **I am happy to be direct about what I need, so please feel free to ask me if there is anything specific that you can help support!**

I am still 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 Botswana 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](http://lbt.org/Tiffany-Smith)
- Checks/Cash Payments: "Smith 459" in the memo line and sent to the LBT address below!

ADDRESS:  
PO BOX 789  
CONCORDIA, MO 64020

PHONE: 660-225-0810

EMAIL: [TIFFANY.SMITH@LBT.ORG](mailto:TIFFANY.SMITH@LBT.ORG)



**Lutheran Bible  
Translators**



## Scripture Engagement:

NEW WAYS TO INTERACT WITH  
GOD'S WORD...

Like many people, at the beginning of every new year I try to set a goal for reading my Bible, praying, and so on.

In classes we have talked a lot about effective and innovative ways to read and listen to Scripture. Some friends suggested to actually put those concepts into practice and listen to the Scriptures via a Bible app in our free time after class. In just four weeks we have listened to 7 books of the Bible including Acts and Isaiah, and we are still going!

LBT has also released *Living Water*, the New Testament put to music! I have been listening to this as I get ready in the mornings or as I paint or bake during the weekends. ([lbt.org/LivingWater](http://lbt.org/LivingWater))

I hope that this is an encouragement to you and inspires you to begin interacting with God's Word again or for the first time - it has certainly changed my Bible reading habits!