



Lutheran Bible  
Translators

# Tiffany in Tanzania

Prayer Letter and Mission Update

September  
2022

## Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Summer has been busy but fulfilling. I have traveled all over the Midwest visiting churches, attending conferences, seeing family, and preparing for my move to Tanzania

This month, I am temporarily moving to central Michigan to continue speaking to congregations about my mission with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) and how they can help. In between speaking engagements, I continue to do the myriad of small things to prepare for my departure like getting recommended immunizations, arranging for a POA, organizing documents for my resident permit, and getting an international driver's license.



*A snapshot of some choir members singing and dancing during a Sunday church service in Shinyanga.*

## Speaking Schedule:

Over the next couple of months, I have booked almost every weekend for speaking—if you are in the area and interested in what I am doing, please come listen to my presentation! Or reach out to me to see what mid-week opportunities can be arranged for me to share about LBT.

- August 29<sup>th</sup>: St. Peter's, Richmond MI (Monday night service).
- September 4<sup>th</sup>: Faith Lutheran, Marine City MI.
- September 11<sup>th</sup>: St. John, Saint John's MI.
- September 13-14<sup>th</sup>: Fort Wayne Theological Seminary.
- September 18<sup>th</sup>: St. John, Decatur IN.

**I am at 57% of my funding goal.**

**Please consider partnering with me so I can reach the goal of departing by mid-October. This decision will be made in early September, so your help now makes a big difference.**

## October 15<sup>th</sup> is the goal. Here's Why

1. Language and Culture Learning Classes begin on November 4<sup>th</sup>, and I'd like a couple weeks prior to that to settle in. Few people speak English, so language school is a first stop for a strong start. If I can't make it by November, the next available class begins on February 4<sup>th</sup>—an entire 5 months from now!
2. The partners in the SELVD are ready for me to arrive. They have been preparing for this project for a long time and are finally seeing it come together. I am also ready to go and was inspired by their excitement and vision for work among the Datooga.

**Together, I believe we can get me to Tanzania.** I know many people who have my back and are as excited as I am to go on this journey. I'm comforted by Philippians 1:6, when Paul says that *"He who has begun a good work in you will see it through to completion."* I cannot do this on my own, but since God put this mission on my heart, I believe He will see it through by using partners like you. Let's see it done!

Your Sister in Christ, *Tiffany*



*Lutheran church in the city of Shinyanga.*



*Lutheran church in the village, Bukundi.*



**ENCLOSED IS**    ☐ \$25    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$250

☐ \$.....    ☐ One time    ☐ Monthly

**PLEASE USE MY GIFT FOR:**

☐ Smith Ministry 459

☐ Other .....

**Please make your check payable to Lutheran Bible Translators.** Remember to sign and date your check. Go to [lbt.org](http://lbt.org) or call 660-225-0810 to use a credit card or set up monthly payments! Lutheran Bible Translators is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



### A Word from Tiffany's Supervisor

My name is Sarah Esala, and I've been with LBT for 20 years. Last winter as I was thinking about the Datooga project, I had concerns as to how LBT would be able to adequately support this translation project. Even though we have a strong partner with the Lutheran Church in that area, translation work requires a lot of specialized training and support, and our partner is not familiar with the process. The early stages are SO important yet so difficult—I wanted a good start.

And then Tiffany shared that she was feeling called to do Scripture Engagement and Community work—a perfect fit and answer to my prayers. When we traveled together to Tanzania this summer, she practiced the little Swahili she knew and had a posture towards learning and listening. I think she's going to be fantastic at supporting this work and bridging the unknowns.

I also think it's going to be very challenging for her. Your prayers are vital for her support. Would you consider adding her to your weekly prayers at church or Bible study? Could you put her name near the sink where you brush your teeth, so you remember to pray for her often? Tiffany is your ambassador for the Gospel to the Datooga. She takes this very seriously, and my prayer is that you will support her on this journey in every way the Spirit leads you.



Did you know that LBT is celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's German translation of the New Testament? His translation was foundational to the Reformation's spread. It's the same today. Bible translation supports the flourishing of the Church around the world, and it will greatly benefit the churches in the Datooga area.



*Inside a church in the village of Bukundi.*



*The Bishop of the SELVD, sharing the number of baptisms in June through evangelism – Praise God!*



*A Taturu pastor, Sarah, and I inspecting salt on our drive through the salt pans.*

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that my funding comes in and that all of my practical needs are met when I arrive in Tanzania.
- Pray that the transition is smooth and enriching. Especially keep my family in your prayers as this move will be difficult for them too!
- Pray that my time in Michigan is a blessing and that I have stamina with my busy speaking schedule.
- The language community is at the heart of Bible translation and starting a new translation project is slow hard work, especially when there are few Christians. Pray that God would continue to prepare the way and draw people to this work.

### CONTACT

Tiffany Smith  
Cell: 515-493-6566 (WhatsApp also)  
tiffany.smith@lbt.org  
PO BOX 789 Concordia, MO 64020



**READ** about Tiffany's work in the United States at [go.LBT.org/smith](https://go.LBT.org/smith).

**PLAN YOUR IMPACT** with other giving options at [go.LBT.org/give](https://go.LBT.org/give) or call 660-225-0810 and ask for the Finance Manager.

**DISCOVER STORIES** in the Bible translation movement at [go.LBT.org/messenger](https://go.LBT.org/messenger)!

Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Lutheran Bible Translators has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Lutheran Bible Translators will attempt to honor gifts preferenced to support particular workers, but the final decision on the use of all funds rests with the organization.