

"My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved..." | ROMANS 10



*Jambo! (Hello!)*

Merry Christmas! Since my last letter, I have had several more team meetings via video calls with my LBT and Tanzanian colleagues (picture next page). We are planning ahead for workshops in 2023. These workshops will help train and equip translators and other key participants in the various Bible translation projects we are starting in Tanzania. I am blessed, excited, and slightly nervous to be involved with a Bible project from such an early stage. I get to witness the pieces of the puzzle fit into place, and will even have a role in helping fit those pieces together! God is so good.

The first workshop is scheduled for the end of February. At that time, I will have only been in the country for roughly 6 or 7 weeks, so I will be more of an observer than an actual leader of the workshop. I will, however, take it as an opportunity to get to know some of the Taturu-speaking participants, as well as practice my Swahili with native Tanzanians.

The first 6 weeks of my time in Tanzania will be spent at language school in Iringa, TZ (map below). There is a school there that specializes in teaching Swahili and Tanzanian culture to expats, missionaries, and other non-natives who want to learn the national language. I have spent the last several months teaching myself some Swahili, but I am looking forward to being in a classroom and practicing with other speakers. Learning alone is possible but much harder than learning with others. During my 6 or so weeks in Iringa, a city with a population of around 150,000 people, I plan to explore the city often and really immerse myself into environments where I can practice my Swahili with native speakers.

*(Continued on next page)*



*This is a map of TZ and the Iringa region in red. To drive from Shinyanga (~1/4 of the way down from top of map) to Iringa, it would be a 10-hour car ride (Tanzania is a big country!). I will be taking a bus straight from Dar es Salaam (East coast) to Iringa shortly after arriving in country. A female employee of the SELVD will be accompanying me to the school.*



**TIFFANY SMITH**

is serving with Lutheran Bible Translators, in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, to support the Datooga people as they begin translating the Bible into a language called Taturu.

Tiffany would humbly ask you to consider joining the mission of LBT and putting God's Word into the hands of the millions who don't have it in their heart language!

### STAY IN TOUCH

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*If you would like to give to Tiffany's ministry, please mail all checks to Lutheran Bible Translators' headquarters at the address below, or give online.*



**Lutheran Bible  
Translators**

**2022 is fully funded! Thank you! | Pledged Support for 2023: 35%**



## Did you know?

In Tanzania, Christmas doesn't go for the entirety of December (or beyond), as it does in the US. It is also not nearly as commercialized. Gift-giving isn't even a regular tradition, but it is becoming more popular because of the West.

On the day before Christmas, churches normally offer 1-2 services, a Christmas Eve service and a midnight service. (I attended a midnight service last Christmas Eve in England, and it was a lot of fun!) On Christmas Day there can be 3-5 services. You aren't expected to attend all the services offered, but some families and friends might make it a fun tradition to do so.

Decorations are not confined to the red, white, and green that we typically have. The more colorful, the better in Tanzania! In churches flowers are hung upside-down from the ceilings, and colorful fabrics are draped everywhere as decoration.

### Learn Some Swahili!

Merry Christmas!  
Swahili = *Krismasi njema!*

Happy New Year!  
Swahili: *Heri ya mwaka mpya!*



## Prayers and Praise

*Philippians 4:6-7*

**Pray:** For my final days in the US and for smooth flights and layovers during my travel to Tanzania.

**Praise:** That my family is able to gather during the Christmas season! We rarely all get together anymore because of our jobs and locations, so I'm grateful I got to see everyone again before leaving.

**Pray:** For my transition into language school and settling into a new country.

Once I am done with my language and culture training, I will move into my new home in a town called Mwadui. Mwadui is a gated community surrounded by a diamond mine, not far from the city of Shinyanga. The SELVD (South East of Lake Victoria Diocese) office is based in Shinyanga, so I will be making regular trips to the city for work, but my personal office will be at the boarding school and orphanage in Mwadui, just down the road from my house.

This school has been funded by many Lutheran churches, LWMLs, and individuals over the years, and I had the privilege of getting a tour during my visit in June this year. Last Spring there was an addition for children with albinism - a place for them to live and receive an education. Albinism is quite stigmatized and misunderstood in Tanzania, and about 1 in every 1,400 people is born with it. The Lutheran church is working hard to provide albinos in the Mwadui/Shinyanga area with equal opportunities and education. I am looking forward to learning more about the school and other SELVD ministries in the area. If you want to get a glimpse of the work they are currently doing, you can visit their website: [elct-selvd.org](http://elct-selvd.org).



*Left: Working from home means lots of Teams video calls, emails, and messaging back in forth in the chat. We make it work!*

*Below: Walking up to the SELVD's main office, located in Shinyanga.*



## BUDGET UPDATE:

I have reached the funding needed so I can move to Tanzania! I'm thankful you have joined my ministry team. Please keep your prayers and gifts coming to ensure the longevity of this ministry. Your partnership is vital.

I am still raising money for a truck or another 4WD vehicle in Tanzania. This project is perfect for one-time gifts or end-of-year giving since it is a one-time expense. Consider designating some of your gifts to this specific project!

It's surreal to think about what will be different only a month from now. Leaving will be hard, but the reason I'm leaving gives me confidence in this big change in my life. People need God's Word. They need the Light of Christ (see John chapter 1). God has, for some reason, chosen me to be His vehicle for the Gospel at this time, and I couldn't be more humbled. I can't wait to share the ups and downs of 2023 with you all... stay tuned!

*Your Servant in Christ,  
Tiffany*

## TIMELINE

**December 28th-29th: Flying to Tanzania!**

**December 29th-31st: Rest and recover from jet lag in Dar es Salaam.**

**January 1st: Travel to Iringa.**

**January 2nd: Language and Culture school begin!**

