

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



Wapendwa Ndugu wa Kristo,
(Dear brothers and sisters in Christ)

I cannot believe it has already been 10 weeks since I arrived in Tanzania! I've been incredibly busy in the last 2 1/2 months, but through it all God has been so good and full of grace and mercy. Here's an update of my first few months in beautiful Tanzania:

Weeks 1-6: I rode a bus from Dar es Salaam to Iringa where I began Swahili classes straight away and stayed with a wonderful host family (pictured next page). This was a sudden but wonderful blessing! I had no idea where I was going to live while in Iringa only a few weeks prior to leaving the US, but God always provides. My host father, Emmanuel, had been friends since childhood with the Bishop of the SELVD diocese, so, according to him, it was a no-brainer that he and his family would help us out by hosting me. I spent many days getting to know my host parents, their three children and house-girl, and it made for some incredible memories of my first six weeks in Tanzania. I still call them once in a while to check in with my "Tanzanian Family".

Learning Swahili has been a challenge, but in the best way possible. I had a private class in Iringa - 5 hours a day, 5 days a week. I learned not only Swahili, but the culture of Tanzania. I was worried about being the only student in class - I typically enjoy working in a group - but I believe the one-on-one learning experience helped me get further in my Swahili than being in a big class would have. Being the only student forced me to speak more and wholly participate. My teacher was very good at getting me out of my comfort zone and allowed me plenty of room to make mistakes and ask silly questions.

During weeks 7-8 I traveled to Shinyanga by bus and began the process of applying for my resident's permit, visa and purchasing items for my house. Fortunately, most of my house is furnished, so all that's required now are things like a water filter, cooking utensils, mosquito nets, bathroom and laundry supplies, and anything else to make it feel like home.

Upon my arrival in Shinyanga I was reunited with my supervisor and other American colleagues who came to Tanzania for the 3-language workshop. We currently partner with two Lutheran diocese in Northern Tanzania, and many months ago we invited three language communities within these diocese (one being Datooga, pictured below) to come and learn about Bible translation processes and to begin the search for 2-3 translators from each community who will work in future projects for their respective languages. These languages do not have Scripture yet, but we are hoping to begin translation programs for them in 2023 or 2024. This workshop was a good first step to get the ball rolling. I am looking forward to getting to know people from the Datooga community better and working alongside them as they begin to translate the Scriptures into Taturu!*



**There are many people in Tanzania who are from the Datooga tribe, but not all speak one language. The language we will translate Scripture into is called Taturu. To the left are participants in the workshop whose first language is Taturu. They are passionate about their identity and were fun to watch as they did the activities and presented aspects of their language to the group.*

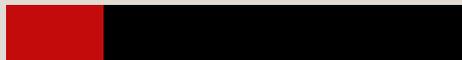
STAY IN TOUCH

EMAIL: TIFFANY.SMITH@LBT.ORG

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.



2023 Funding:



21%



Vehicle Need

Living 30 minutes from the city has opened my eyes to how difficult it is living without a car. I have been blessed by people who have taken time out of work or their weekend to give me a ride, but many people where I am living do not own cars, so there have already been several occasions where I had to cancel plans or delay them simply because a car was not available that day. Needless to say, this isn't a good solution long-term, especially once I begin traveling to the villages more for work, or if I need to go to Shinyanga in the case of an emergency.

I am strongly encouraging you, my supporters, to:

- 1) Pray that God will provide transportation for me while I wait for funding.
- 2) Consider giving to my vehicle fund so that I can purchase a car soon. This will not only be a blessing to me, but it will help many of my colleagues here as well!

You can help by designating gifts to "Smith Vehicle Project" by check or online at the addresses below.

Weeks 9-10 have been settling into my house in a small town called Mwadui. My house is comfortable and I share a yard with neighbors who I can rely on if I ever need anything. I went to the small Lutheran church here for the first time last Sunday and was asked to introduce myself to the congregation. I did the entire introduction in Swahili and even branched off of my usual, simple introduction! I made a few mistakes, but I received many compliments after church for my effort.

This month I began working in a small office at the Mwadui Lutheran Secondary School. It will be nice having a place to work that is separate from home, and this is a great opportunity for me meet more people from Mwadui and practice my Swahili regularly. The school is less than a 10-minute walk from my house, too.

The downside of living in Mwadui is that it is a 30-minute drive from Shinyanga where the SELVD's main office is, as well as the big markets. There are a few small fruit and vegetable stands in Mwadui, but the prices and variety are much better in Shinyanga. I plan to travel into the city at least once a week to buy groceries and visit my colleagues, but this is a hard thing to plan without a vehicle or taxi services.



Left: My house in Mwadui. Right: My host parents, Emmanuel and Asteria.

This month: Now that I'm over the initial changes of moving to Tanzania, the next step is to become more familiar with where I am living: where the shops are, the hospital, government offices, etc. These will be important for my long-term living as well as day-to-day. I also want to continue building relationships with people in Shinyanga, Mwadui, and the Datooga community.

The General Secretary of the SELVD and I are scheduling some visits to the villages where many Taturu speakers live and work. We, along with other team members, want to follow up with those who attended the workshop and ask Taturu speakers more questions about who they are as a community: their history, values, identity, practices, social issues, etc. so that we better know how to serve them as we go forward. Please keep this community in your prayers - pray their hearts will be open to the Gospel and that the believers there will remain strong in their faith.



Prayers and Praise

Philippians 4:6-7

Pray: That God provides me with the funding for a vehicle and transportation in the meantime.

Praise: For good spiritual, emotional, and physical health so far here in Tanzania!

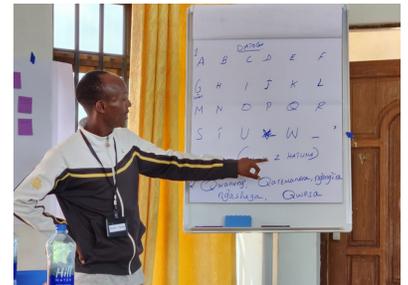
Pray: For my resident's permit and visa application to continue going smoothly.

Praise: For the successful workshop with the 3 language groups last month!

Pray: That my language skills continues to improve.

Now that we are a few months into 2023, I wanted to humbly ask that you continue your monthly or yearly support to my ministry. This work, as important as it is to expanding the kingdom of God, is impossible without people like you! You are what keeps a missionary like me on the field, and I couldn't be more grateful for you.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement - I have loved hearing from you via Facebook and email, and I look forward to sharing more of my life with you this year. God Bless!



Left: Beginning my resident's permit application. Right: A Datooga representative presenting the Taturu alphabet at the workshop in February.