

"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)

The last 8 weeks have been full of travel and new experiences for me! I got to travel to Thailand for the first time to attend two workshops, plus a conference for missionaries all over the world. The trip to Thailand was both another new adventure and a period of rest for me. Some definite highlights were worshipping in English again with people from all over the world and eating delicious Thai food! More on the conference in a bit...

Before flying to Thailand, I extended my layover in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for two extra days to visit LBT coworkers who are assigned there. This was another new country for me, filled with as many new experiences that we could fit into only two days! I thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship with my friends and loved experiencing an authentic Ethiopian dinner with coffee and dancing. The short weekend in Addis opened my eyes to the fact that I am very isolated in Tanzania. I am the only missionary within miles, and not having a car means I can't make regular trips to the areas where there are communities of expats and missionaries. I am introverted at times, but I genuinely love being in community - as most people do - and even though I have a small local community growing every day here in Tanzania, it's nice being surrounded with people from my home culture too. Please be praying for this situation I'm currently in.

While in Thailand, I learned new and innovative ways to share the Gospel with people in hard-to-reach places. I'm amazed at the talents and creativity of missionaries around the world who have spent countless hours creating apps, programs, films, and much more to try and reach as many non-believers as possible with the good news of Jesus Christ! Since I am working in an area where cellphones and tv screens are not really utilized for Scripture Engagement, I attended workshops that focused more on reaching people where they are at and using what's already around them to build bridges to the Gospel.

One of the workshops was called "Culture Meets Scripture". This class taught us how to help new believers break free from the parts of their culture that are not biblical (such as ancestor veneration, rituals, etc.) and to integrate what the Bible says into their culture in order to help them and others in their community fully convert to Christianity. In other words, we talked about how to keep the good parts of our culture(s) so as to not lose our sense of identity but to also change or reject the parts of our culture that clearly go against what the Bible commands. I was surprised how much of this workshop can be applied to American culture too!



In my last newsletter I mentioned that I was attending the installation service for the SELVD's new Bishop Yohana Nzelu (right) and Assistant Bishop Daniel Mono (left). I got a selfie with them at the end of the 8-hr(!) service. As assistant bishop, Dr. Mono will be the Datoga's Bible translation program manager.

STAY IN TOUCH

EMAIL: TIFFANY.SMITH@LBT.ORG

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

2023 Funding:



54%





Vehicle Need

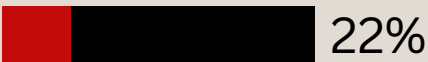
My need for a Landcruiser (or similar vehicle) is growing everyday, and I humbly ask for your support in the weeks and months ahead towards this specific project.

On my most recent trip to Bukundi, where I will be working, I was reminded how long a trip it is and how bad most of the roads are to get there. The car I am borrowing from the church right now is fine for in-town driving, but cannot make the long drives to Bukundi.

Please pray and consider giving to this special vehicle project soon!

You can designate gifts to "Smith Vehicle Project" by check or online at the addresses on the bottom of this page. Thank you for your support!

Current Vehicle Funding:



Prayers and Praise

Philippians 4:6-7

Pray: That God will show me how to be more intentional here in Tanzania, especially in my relationships.

Praise: For the wonderful experiences I had in Thailand and Ethiopia!

Pray: For this Summer and all the activities we have planned, esp. related to our Bible translation projects.

Praise: For the temporary provision of a car that I can use here in Mwadui and Shinyanga!

Pray: For steady health and spiritual growth.

My refrain over the last few weeks has been, "Be Intentional". The first 6 months here I felt like I was in survival mode, and living in that mindset really prohibits me from enjoying everything Tanzania has to offer. I've also noticed that I can go from having high energy to suddenly hitting a wall and becoming so exhausted that I don't even feel like myself. This happened during the busy weekend last month when I attended a wedding and the bishops' installation service. So I've decided that I need to be more intentional, both with my health and how I spend my time. Being around so many missionaries at the conference in Thailand helped me recognize my need for community, so I'm trying to be more intentional about visiting friends here in Mwadui and calling people from home more regularly.

I've also seriously thought and prayed specifically about how to be intentional, especially in these periods of waiting and learning. I believe God wants me to be intentional with every person I talk to and everything I do, even on the slow days. Whether that's sharing the baked goods I make with friends or sharing the Gospel with a stranger. This is truly a leap of faith sometimes, but at the end of the day I like being able to say that I was intentional with both my words and actions.



Left: My table group during the Culture Meets Scripture workshop.

Right: Me at the highest point in Thailand!

Most recently I had such an opportunity to be intentional when a team of Americans from the LCMS Mid-South District came for Mission Week here in North-Central Tanzania. They invited me to join them, so I did. I only knew that the missionaries were here to evangelize in the villages about 2 hours from Mwadui. I thought, at the very least, I could observe them and help translate if needed.

Of course, God had a different plan, and before I knew it, I was given a small cube with pictures on it and told to tell the Gospel story to all the curious eyes watching me. It was in this moment that I realized I had never truly, *intentionally*, sat down with a stranger and told them the Gospel story. I've discussed plenty of theology with friends and family at home, but I'd never sat with a stranger on the street and asked if I could tell them about the Good News of Jesus Christ right there and then.

I'm so glad I had fellow Americans, local pastors and evangelists there to support me. I wasn't the only one telling the story - there were four teams made up of about 5-6 people each, and we walked from house to house evangelizing for five days. **After sharing the Gospel, we offered for anyone, who wasn't already, to be baptized. In one week almost 800 people were baptized, *Bwana Yesu Asifiwe!* (Praise the Lord!)**

The last two months have been full of new adventures, joys and challenges. There will be plenty more stories to share in the upcoming weeks! I am, as always, grateful to you reading this and for following my journey and supporting me along the way. *Mungu Akubariki sana* (God bless you very much).



Left: Sharing the Gospel with a family in Mwaukoli, Tanzania. Right: Rev. Bob Allen baptizing a young boy in Mwakipogila, Tanzania.