

"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)

A theme that came to my mind as I sat down to write this update was, "In the passenger seat". What does that mean, exactly? Well, it all started about a month ago when I began to give some of my friends in Mwadui driving lessons. Teaching someone else how to drive is one of the few times I've ever been in the passenger seat of my own car. It takes a lot of trust to sit there and not panic, especially knowing I don't have one of those brakes on my side like they did in the learner cars in Driver's Ed. I have to believe that when I say, "Stop!" or "Slow down," or "Look behind you first," that my student is going to listen and follow my instructions. There are also the times that you have to remain calm when they accidentally back into a bush or almost graze the passenger side of the car against a fence. All of this is to say that living and working here in Tanzania is a little bit like riding in the passenger seat of a car. You don't always know what is going to happen next. You don't know if the person telling you to "Trust me," is actually trustworthy. You don't always know where you are going or how you are going to get there. You simply have to trust that God is in ultimate control of the vehicle, and you have to accept that you are not.

Even in our projects between LBT and the Lutheran Church of Tanzania I am in the passenger seat. In LBT we are striving to have community-led, community-driven projects, and in some ways this is a huge weight off a missionary's shoulders, but it also requires a lot of trust in our partners. I, for one, have enjoyed letting our partners take the lead in the Datoga/Taturu language program. Moving here I knew that I had limited experience in the world of Bible translation, and even less experience in the world of living overseas, speaking Swahili, cooperating with international partners, etc. so I've always liked the idea of letting our partners sit in "the driver's seat" and have control in the decision-making and direction we take on this journey together. However, it does require a lot of trust and acceptance when the partner makes a decision that you personally may not have made if you were in their position. Not that the results of the decisions always turn out badly - in fact, so far I've seen that they turn out even better than they would have if I had made the final call! It just confirms that this new approach we have in our translation programs is working and is the best way to go about serving with international partners.

However, none of this is to say that I'm idly sitting in the passenger seat sleeping or listening to music with headphones on... *(continued next page)*



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:  79%



Vehicle Need

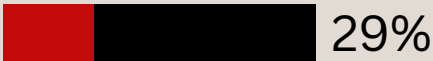
Thank you so much for continuing to give to this project! In August we raised more than \$2,000, and this month the number continues to grow!

My goal is to raise enough money by the end of October so that I can have the new car in my possession by early 2024.

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: For my vehicle funding goal to be reached by the end of October or November.

Praise: For my good health since moving to Tanzania.

Pray: That God would provide me with a solid community that will encourage me in my faith. Mwadui gets lonely at times, even among local friends.

Praise: For my partners here in the SELVD. I have appreciated them so much, especially in the last month when our work has been exceptionally busy.

Pray: For my language learning, specifically that I would be brave enough to start speaking Swahili more.

My role as the passenger in this language program is to help direct the driver(s) and give suggestions or advice when they need it. They know the environment, the patterns of the roads and traffic, and what materials we should bring along for the journey for just-in-case scenarios. I have a Google Maps, so-to-speak, where I can see alternative routes, a list of different resources enroute, and approximately how long it is going to take to reach our final destination. I can also help re-route at roadblocks we may encounter and find a different path to get us back on track.

Okay, so I'm probably giving myself too much credit for what my day-to-day job actually looks like, but **together** my partners and I are navigating our way through this program, and it's very exciting to see all the pieces falling into place!

At the end of August I got to teach a few sessions on Community Engagement at our 3-language workshop! This was one of the ways I showed the participants those "alternative routes" they can take in their language programs. Maybe they want an audio Bible or the traditional written Bible. Maybe they want to create



Left: Driving lessons in Mwadui!



Right: Datoga/Taturu team meeting.

short Bible stories through oral methods if their community doesn't know how to read and write well. Maybe they want to create liturgy and church music in their own language and in their own style. Maybe they want short videos they can watch online or project on a screen in their villages. The possibilities for what you can do in a translation program are almost endless, but the main point that I emphasized during the workshop is that we have to work together with the whole community - all sectors of it - to ensure that the program is successful.

Since we want our language programs to be community-driven, we are taking our time and not rushing into the actual process of translation quite yet. We still need to visit some areas around the Shinyanga region where there are Datoga-Taturu speakers and inform them about our translation program and get their input on what kind of Scripture products (Bible, music, video, etc.) they would like in their language. The Datoga are very spread out and don't live in one single area of Tanzania. This means that we will have to make extra efforts to go visit all different villages and districts where Taturu speakers live so that we don't leave anyone in the dark about this project. We want everyone to be included and have a say in the project. After that, we will begin the training phases of our program!

Please keep my team in your prayers as we continue to move forward with our language program in the last quarter of 2023! I'm so encouraged by you all everyday, especially knowing you are praying for me. May God richly bless you in the weeks ahead.



Left: Goodbye party for my friend who moved to Dar es Salaam last month.



Right: Oral Bible storying workshop with the Datoga in Arusha.