Constructive Word

Spring 2023

The Esala's Prayer Letter

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from another trip to Tanzania and am more excited than ever at the emerging work there. Please enjoy journeying with me, through pictures, as they tell the stories in this prayer letter!



LBT has a new missionary in Tanzania! I spent the first part of my trip helping with Tiffany's orientation process, which included things like identifying locations of hospitals and clinics, moving her into her home, visiting a pharmacy, discussing how to manage health challenges, shopping for household items, and visiting local markets. Martha, who is pictured here with Tiffany, was excellent at coaching her in new situations and Tanzania culture. **Pray for Tiffany as she adjusts to life in Tanzania and builds relationships.**



During the second half of the trip, LBT's Tanzania support team came to facilitate a workshop with 3 language communities that are initiating projects this year. There is a shift happening in missions where people within the country are taking the lead in key roles that missionaries held in the past. There's still a learning curve, and this team is supporting our Tanzanian partners through the process via virtual connections and during shorter trips like this one.

Praise God for the variety of skills and personalities that make this team strong.



Cheers to Soma Biblia Kila Siku! (Read your Bible every day!)

Eshinee Veith (pictured to the right), assisted by various Tanzanian Lutheran leaders, guided participants through most of the workshop discussions. In this picture, she is listing the languages spoken in the community—each language group has a column. As the chart indicates, multilingualism is the norm here, but churches have found they still need to translate for people to understand sermons and Scripture. Bible translation will help the Church's efforts in discipleship and evangelism.





During the workshop, it was a joy to see each language group work together on assignments they were given. Groups consisted of a variety of people from different churches and towns. Although many of the individuals didn't necessarily know each other before the workshop, it was encouraging to see their commitment to the work. Each group had robust discussion and a keen interest in learning. Join us in prayer as the foundation is laid for the Sumbwa, Datoga, and Kara translation programs. Pray for strong community support and wisdom as our church partners guide the communities in this work.

Ghana Update: The Komba team has made important progress towards completing the Old Testament. They found some good rhythms, and Nathan and the rest of the team experienced a great sense of accomplishment when they recently finished consultant-checking the long book of Isaiah. **Praise God for the progress that was made and continue to pray for a strong finish in translating the Old Testament.**

I continue to support other programs in Botswana, Southeast Asia, and Papua New Guinea and will be traveling to some of these places in upcoming months. All these places are experiencing various transitions. **Pray for wisdom for me and the teams** working in each country.

With a grateful heart, Sarah for Nathan too!

CONTACT US

BY EMAIL <u>Sarah.Esala@lbt.org</u> Nathan.Esala@lbt.org

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