

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



Wapendwa wa Kristo,
(Beloved in Christ,)

I safely returned to Tanzania in early August. I was warmly received and immediately hit the ground running.

About four days after I returned home in Mwadui, I turned around and went to Ukerewe Island to greet the team there and learn about the most recent progress in their translation program there. I like to learn from other teams like my Kerewe partners because it can cast a wonderful vision for partners in new programs like the one here in Shinyanga. We can envision where we are trying to go, and see that it's possible to get there.

My supervisor Sarah came in August for a week of planning and budgeting with our team. Since we are working with two Lutheran diocese here in Tanzania, it is helpful to communicate with one another and make plans for our different programs together so that we can all be on the same page. We wish to facilitate a team mentality between the two diocese, even if they are at different points in their various projects. Although I technically work with the Shinyanga diocese, I am the only LBT missionary on the ground in Tanzania, which means I also often consult the Mwanza diocese and occasionally work with their teams. We are all one big team, in my eyes. *(Pictured below left to right: Sarah, assistant bishop Dr. Daniel Mono (SELVD), Rev. Domisian Alloys (ELVD), bishop Rev. Oscar Lema (ELVD), Rev. Frank Mdindi (SELVD), myself.)*

We are planning for some exciting things at the end of this year and next year! For those of us here in the SELVD, we are in the process of arranging a language survey for the Taturu with an organization based in Kenya. We hope to have the survey finished before the end of this year. It should give us some clarity on the differences in Taturu dialects. We want to know what dialect(s) are mutually understood between the most people so that we know which to use for translation. Beginning in March or April next year, we will start the Oral Bible Storytelling workshops in both diocese. Translating short Bible stories into these vernacular languages will not only help jumpstart the full Bible translation process, but it will be a great evangelism tool to use in the villages where the languages are spoken!



STAY IN TOUCH

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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.



2024 Funding Goal: 99%



Culture Corner: Weddings!

Weddings have a lot of variety in presentation here in Tanzania, but the order of events is usually the same. I appreciate that at the reception the bride and groom take turns introducing every guest in the room. What a way to honor your friends and family! The guests also take turns presenting the gifts right there at the reception, which of course is preceded by lots of loud music and dancing up to the front bearing the gifts. I think one of my favorite parts of the weddings here is that guests are expected to dress to impress! This gown was my latest wedding attire. So sparkly!

I want to write a short THANK YOU! to all of my supporters, friends, and family that took time to see me during my trip back to the US this Summer. It was so nice seeing you all in person again, and I loved sharing about my first year or so in Tanzania with you. I also want to thank you for helping me reach my personal budget goals for this year. I encourage you to continue giving to this ministry so that the needs for our partners here can be met. We have a lot of goals to meet, even for the end of 2024, like training for team members and workshops that will also need funding. As I said on the first page, we are all one big team, and you are just as important to this team as anyone else. We can't do it without you guys!



(L) Evangelist Daudi's funeral in August. (R) Sarah and Adria working on finance reports at the ELVD office in Mwanza.

I unfortunately have some more bad news to share... Since my return in August, I have heard of at least 4-5 deaths in our Lutheran church and my community of Mwadui. Two were caused by more car accidents. The first was an evangelist named Daudi, who was in a roll-over accident. He was only 24 years old. The other was the Bishop of Mwanza Diocese (near Kilimanjaro), who was driving home with his son late at night and was hit by a semi truck. I have been to too many funerals since moving to Tanzania, more than I had ever been to in the US and too many of them have been car or motorcycle accidents.

I share this with you to say that I've learned we can't always control what happens, but we can always pray and take preventative measures. Wear a seatbelt/helmet, drive the speed limit, and make sure your vehicle is always in good condition. The same rules apply in the US as they do in Tanzania.

I also want to ask you to **pray** for our partners here, myself, and all others who drive frequently for our work, or even just to go to the market for some food. God's timing is always right, but any time I travel or know of my colleagues traveling, I send a little prayer their way - that God would protect them in their coming and in their going. I ask that you do the same. Every day, if you remember to, include us in your prayers. That we would be safe on the roads, and that there are no more accidents among our dear friends and families.

I will finish by saying that funerals do give me some unexpected comfort, because they remind me that this life is not the end. We have a home in heaven waiting for us. I pray that the communities here in Tanzania also know that truth and carry that hope with them as well.



(L) Meeting at Nyakato



(R) Gathered at the cemetery for a burial



Prayers and Praise

Philippians 4:6-7

Pray: For safety on the roads whenever we travel.

Praise: For successful planning and budgeting in August and September.

Pray: For our end-of-year here in the Shinyanga diocese. We still have a lot of goals we want to reach before December and there is lots going on for the church here.

Praise: For you, my supporters, and your generosity!

Pray: For my colleague Pastor Frank, who is working so hard trying to visit all the Taturu communities before the end of this year. I plan to also join him for a few trips.