

AUGUST 2025

Tiffany in Tanzania

FAITHFULLY
SERVING THE
DATOGA

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



Wapendwa katika Kristo,
(Beloved in Christ,)

I pray and hope you are all enjoying your Summer, whatever that looks like for you. Traveling, VBS, county fairs and camping, maybe just spending time as a family! I've had a pretty eventful Summer here in Tanzania, which has included my parents visiting, a trip to Dar es Salaam and Mwanga, visits from my US colleagues, and - can't forget to mention - getting engaged!

I'll begin with work-related items... In June, I attended the annual Bible Translation Summit meeting in Dar es Salaam. This is a forum of Bible translation agencies around Tanzania and Kenya. We meet to share ideas and encouragement with one another, as well as what we do as organizations. We try to find areas in which we can collaborate and work together. I got to co-present a short update on what LBT is doing in Tanzania alongside my colleague, Mpoki. It was really fun getting to introduce three new people from our LBT-Tanzania team to the other Bible translation agencies. I have previously attended Summit meetings with Bishop Oscar Lema, but this year we also came with Mpoki, Rev. Timothy, and Rev. Frank Mdindi (our Taturu program coordinator).

In early July I traveled all the way to Mwanga, Tanzania to watch my friend and former colleague, Rev. Dr. Daniel Mono, be ordained as the new bishop of Mwanga Lutheran diocese. Although I couldn't find much time to speak to him at the celebration, I ended up seeing him a week later in Shinyanga because he came with his wife for the annual theological symposium. We shared some meals together and talked about the need for Scripture engagement and Bible translation in his diocese. It hits close to home for him (literally!) because Mwanga is where he was born and where his mother tongue is spoken. The Bible is currently being translated into that language by another organization, praise God! I am looking forward to seeing how his experience as our program manager in Shinyanga plays into his part as a bishop in Mwanga. This same week, some LBT colleagues of mine were visiting for our annual program planning for next year (*picture below*). Yes, I also can't believe we're already thinking about 2026! I had a productive and relaxing time with our visitors and especially enjoyed finally getting to drive them around in my new car!



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.



2025 Funding Goal: 62%



Culture Corner: Engagements

Engagements have been on my mind lately, so let me tell you a little bit about engagement procedures in Tanzania! What's considered "traditional" or not varies from tribe to tribe, or region to region, but here are the most common components of an engagement:

First, the man is supposed to go with his father and uncles to negotiate a dowry with his future father-in-law. My father, as you could probably guess, did not require this of my fiancé. Once the dowry is agreed, the man and woman can have a small ceremony where a pastor (if they are Christian) blesses the ring and the couple. We had our ceremony at Steven's parent's house in Mwanza with family and friends.

During the ceremony, the woman (not the man!) kneels to receive the ring. This is because when you receive a gift in Tanzanian culture, it is polite to bow or kneel, in thanks. In some tribes women kneel all the way to the floor when receiving something. This is why I am kneeling in the picture above - I am receiving a very important gift!



Prayers and Praise

Philippians 4:6-7

Pray: For my team and I as we prepare for the upcoming OBS workshop.

Praise: For my parents' visit and my engagement to Steven. I feel so blessed, a little nervous, but also very excited for our future together!

Pray: For storytellers like the Taturu, who sometimes find themselves in difficult situations. May God give them courage and hope as they tell the Bible stories in their own language!

In late August we will have our second Oral Bible Storytelling workshop! I am really looking forward to this one, especially because I have been hearing wonderful reports from our storytellers and coaches about how well the storytelling is going in their home places. I can only imagine the testimonies that will be shared at the next workshop.

I can't share all of the reports in this newsletter, unfortunately, but there have been accounts of people repenting and asking to be baptized after hearing the stories! A Taturu storyteller, in particular, was discouraged by his family to participate in this program, but by the power of the Holy Spirit has gained



(L) A lovely breakfast with Bishop Mono and his wife, Heavenlight.



(R) Meeting with General Secretary, Happiness during LBT's visit to Shinyanga.

Courage and is now bringing families together by telling the stories in his community! Rev. Mdingi and I love watching the videos he sends us each week!

Finally, I am very happy to share that my parents visited Tanzania for the first time back in June to attend my engagement ceremony! I am grateful for my mom and dad's flexibility, willingness, and trust in me to come all this way and see my life and work here. It's been about 2 ½ years since I moved to Tanzania, and their visit could not have come at a better time! We laughed, cried, gasped in awe during our safari at elephants that came just a little too close to the car for our comfort, and spent most of our time just catching up and talking as family. I was relieved, but also not surprised at all that my parents get along very well with my new fiancé, Steven.

Steven and I became friends only a few months after I moved to Mwadui. We bonded over singing worship music and talking about culture, theology and family. I was amazed that only after a short time of knowing him, Steven became one of my favorite people who constantly surprised me with how alike we are. We come from different cultures and languages, and yet I somehow felt more understood by Steven than I had by most people from my own country. Long story short, we started dating a few months later, and the rest is history!

I look forward to updating you on our journey and my endeavors with LBT. With OBS beginning, the translation program continuing to develop, planning a wedding and just enduring the regular ups and downs of life, I'm sure this next chapter of my ministry in Tanzania is going to be pretty exciting! Please keep us in your prayers as we navigate the next steps. God Bless!



(L) A picture of my family at the entrance to the Serengeti.



(R) Me and Steven entering our engagement party!