

Living Letters

2 Corinthians 3

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Dear Family and Friends,

Our life has been one of travel and transition since July. We took a two-week trip to Tanzania in July to see work that Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) is doing there and to meet national partners in the country.

When we arrived back in the US the end of July, we hit the road running. Between August and September, we traveled through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado. In October we went to churches in Kansas and Missouri. We are grateful to have visited churches, schools, Bible study groups and LWMLs, and many individuals. If we saw you along our way, thank you. We appreciated the opportunity to visit. If we missed you along the way through these states, we apologize. You are important. We are thankful for you. If you would like to visit, please feel free to reach out to us. We would love to hear from you! Our email is on the back of this letter.

The end of October brings more travel for us. Michael is planning to attend a biannual Bible translation conference the end of the month. He will present research from his thesis. This is an honor, being that it is an academic conference and not every abstract gets selected. This conference is an opportunity to hear about latest developments and thoughts taking place in the realm of Bible translation. Michael is looking forward to connecting with colleagues as they geek out over translation discussions, visit with international partners, and meet/reconnect with people in other organizations. Naomi and the children are planning to be with family during this time.

A week after Michael returns from the conference, our family will head to Ghana for the dedication of the Komba Bible. Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we consider the glories of God's riches given to the world through His word in any language. We look forward to singing, dancing, and praising God with our Komba brothers and sisters as they receive the entire Bible for the first time in their language. We are excited to reconnect with our Komba family and friends during our short two-week trip. Our son is talking about the trip. We hope that it is a special time of connection for him, too.

Our return to the US at end of November will be followed by visiting a few more churches in Kansas before Christmas. We are also looking forward to being with both of our extended families as we celebrate Christ's birth. The new year looks like possible trips to Florida,



Our trip to Tanzania in July started on a Wednesday. We were thankful to have reached our final destination on Saturday morning. The kids did great and we were thankful for all we experienced. (above)

We have enjoyed reconnecting with many people in the US this fall. Naomi enjoyed getting to share her experiences with a LWML group. (below)





The house in Tanzania that we will live in needs to have some repairs/upgrades and other one-time expenses (e.g. fridge, oven, furniture). We also hope to purchase a vehicle for ease of travel for work and daily living. The costs of these two projects combined is \$63,000. Checks written to Lutheran Bible Translators with “Ersland house” or “Ersland vehicle” on the memo line will apply funds to these one time projects and help us as we plan to move to Tanzania.

Nevada, Illinois, and Wisconsin. We hope to finish reconnecting with churches in February, and we will then focus on sorting our possessions and packing for our next placement.

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we were in talks with LBT regarding our next placement. We are excited to share that God is calling our family to work in Tanzania! We are preparing to move there in the Spring of 2026. Two dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania have been partnering with LBT for several years. We are planning to work with four different translation projects taking place between these two dioceses.

You may wonder, “What will you be doing in Tanzania?” Much of our first year will be focused on Swahili language and Tanzanian culture learning. We will gradually take on roles of training and mentoring with these four language projects. Each project is in a different stage of Bible translation and has different needs. Michael will work alongside Tanzanians and LBT colleagues to provide support as needs shift and teams grow. Each of these are different languages, but Michael will not learn them to the extent that he learned Komba in Ghana. Instead, he will work alongside colleagues in providing training in oral storying, beginning stages of translation projects, discourse analysis, and other needs as they arise. Naomi will continue managing our home, caring for and teaching our children, and building relationships with people in Tanzania. We look forward to sharing more about this work in the future.

Confident in Christ,

Naomi and Michael Ersland

Prayer Requests

- Praise that the Komba Bibles arrived in Ghana and pray that all will go well for the Komba Bible dedication in November.
- Praise for God’s direction as we prepare to move to Tanzania. Pray for this time prior to moving into our house there. Challenges with transitions each week build up and it becomes hard to build routines, to grow in deeper relationships, and to maintain stability on the road.
- How may we pray for you? Please let us know so that we may be praying for you!

Contributions:
Lutheran Bible Translators
PO Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020

Checks written to Lutheran Bible Translators with ***Ersland Ministry*** on the memo line. You can also give online at LBT.org

Michael-Naomi.Ersland@lbt.org



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