

DECEMBER
2025

Tiffany in Tanzania

FAITHFULLY
SERVING THE
DATOOGA

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



Wapendwa katika Kristo,
(Beloved in Christ,)

We are already at the end of 2025! I knew looking at my calendar eleven months ago that this year would be jam-packed with events, but the months went by even faster than I thought they would. As I reflect on the past year, I see how good and faithful God is. Thanks to Him, we as a team in Tanzania have accomplished a lot, and we are only getting started! Here is what's happened since I last wrote to you...

In October, we organized and lead our first OBS workshop in Bukundi! Of course, I could not have done this without the help of pastors Hosea and Timotheo. Pastor Hosea is the pastor of Neema (Grace) Lutheran church in Bukundi, and one of our OBS coaches for the Taturu team at our 5-Language OBS workshops. Pastor Timotheo is helping me with the Taturu project while pastor Mdindi is studying at seminary in the USA. He was selected by Bishop Nzelu to be the Scripture Engagement Coordinator for the South East of Lake Victoria Diocese, so I am slowly helping him grow in that role. The two of them helped me organize and plan a mini OBS workshop in Bukundi for local Taturu Christians, as well as people who speak Sukuma and Nyiramba, since these tribes are also found in Bukundi and other nearby towns.

The workshop went really well, especially considering we did it in a small church building with no electricity, running water, tables or special equipment for teaching. We had a flipchart with some markers to take notes with, and thanks to Neema Lutheran we had enough chairs for all fifty participants. Breakfast and lunch were provided for us every day, cooked by some ladies who attend the church.

We had around ten Sukuma participants, ten Nyiramba participants, and thirty Taturu participants from Bukundi - some coming all the way from the Tabora region. I was very happy to see some of the men from Tabora whom I first met almost two years ago. They live in a small village near Igunga town, and they have been so helpful by organizing meetings in their community and giving input for the translation project. The Taturu are very spread out around central Tanzania, making it difficult for me to frequently visit every town or village they reside in, so the last time I saw our friends from Igunga was back in March during our language survey. It's always nice to see familiar faces and encouraging to know they are still involved in the work. One, named Makubi, gave me his bead necklace as a gift - very kind of him!



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: 100%



Culture Corner: Kid-Friendly

Something I love and appreciate about Tanzanians is that they are very accommodating when it comes to working mothers with children. We have several mothers with young children in our storytelling groups. Their participation might not be possible if they were not allowed to bring their babies with them to the workshops.

Everyone chips in and helps with the kids - whether it's holding them while their mother goes up front and tells the story, or playing with them outside to give mom a break and allow her to focus on the workshop.

Until children get too heavy, mothers will often carry them on their backs while working or walking around (*example pictured above*). They use a cloth tied around their chest or shoulders that creates a sort of sling the baby rests in. It's very practical and allows the mother to carry her baby, awake or sleeping, so that she can be hands free and participate in the fun!



Prayers and Praise

Philippians 4:6-7

Pray: For Tanzania and their government - that everything will stay peaceful and steady.

Praise: For another wonderful year! We accomplished many things in 2025 and we praise God for his provision and protection.

Pray: For the Taturu team - that they will be able to begin translation in 2026, learn more Bible stories, select translators and advisory committee members, and remain faithful in the work God has called them to do!

The stories the participants learned were from the book of Mark, chapters 4-5. God willing, we want to do a mini workshop like this twice a year so that we can encourage Christians in Bukundi and other towns, and help them to tell Bible stories in their vernacular languages.

At the end of the workshop, one man from the Taturu group said that this OBS workshop was like electricity. He said it brought light to show them the way, and now they want to take it to all their villages so that others can also have the electricity. I thought this was such a cool analogy, and it encouraged me to hear that our effort teaching the Bible stories was more than appreciated.



(L) Me and some of my Taturu brothers during our OBS workshop in Bukundi
(R) An up close and personal encounter with an elephant in Thailand!



At the end of October, I attended the Bible Translation Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand. This was my first time attending the conference, and I got to go with Bishop Lema, who was experiencing it for the first time as well!

The BT conference is the largest gathering of Bible translation agencies in the world. Because it was held in Thailand, more of our partners from outside the USA were able to get visas and attend this year. In total we had thirty people representing Lutheran Bible Translators! This included some of our church partners from Tanzania, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Nigeria and Southeast Asia.

Tanzania held its presidential election on October 29th this year. The results were unprecedented. Shockingly, many people protested and rioted in the biggest cities of Tanzania, sadly resulting in many deaths. I was still in Thailand during this time, so Bishop Lema and I had to reroute and delay our return home. We stayed in Kenya for a few days until it was safer to return to Tanzania. Though things are peaceful right now, we have learned to expect the unexpected. We pray that Tanzania will remain the peaceful and harmonious country it is known for being, and that the leaders of the country will lead with integrity, compassion, and wisdom. Please join me in praying for this country and for the people who we work with.

It is because of your prayers and financial gifts that we are able to work with the Lutheran church of Tanzania. In appreciation of your support for me as a missionary, I would ask you to consider giving an End-Of-Year gift to one of our Tanzanian language programs. We will need a lot of support to accomplish all our goals for 2026! Thank you all, and God bless your Christmas season!



(L) Taturu participants sharing a song with us at the end of the workshop (R) Nyiramba participants interpreting for one another during their storytelling

