

SEPTEMBER
2026

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 (Brothers and Sisters in Christ),

I've had a wonderful but challenging 2026 so far! I traveled to the US at the end of May and returned to Tanzania at the end of July. Then, in the last week of July and for three weeks in August I was busy with meetings and workshops here in Tanzania. Steven and I are doing well, but we are definitely looking forward to a holiday so we can spend some quality time together! **Being apart for almost three of our first six months of marriage was not our dream, but we made it work and we are so grateful for all the wishes and prayers that were sent our way during that time.** We are feeling very blessed to have so many friends and family supporting us in this new chapter of our life together. Our plan now is to continue settling into marriage and practice balancing life between two continents.

In August we hosted our fourth Oral Bible Storytelling workshop in Shinyanga. The participants learned the entire book of Ruth, which was divided into four stories: each story corresponding with one chapter of the book. This was our first workshop that was entirely Tanzanian-led, and it went even better than I could have imagined! **We are trying to work towards a sustainable OBS program in Tanzania, and this was one of the first big steps to steer us in that direction.** One of the blessings of having technology is that we were able to meet remotely every week for two months prior to our workshop with our partners in OBS from the US and Europe so that we could discuss the book of Ruth and prepare ourselves to facilitate the workshop. As we make plans for OBS in 2027, we are looking for more ways to move the workshops out into the communities with whom we are working. **Please pray that God continues to bring in funding for OBS programs in Tanzania, and also pray for our Tanzanian pastors, evangelists, deaconesses, and lay-people who are helping to facilitate these workshops and tell the stories to people in their communities!**

Something valuable that I took away from this OBS workshop was the lesson we can learn from Naomi's story. Naomi and her husband, along with their two sons, left Bethlehem because of a famine and went to the country of Moab. However, the story takes a sad turn. We don't know much about the death of Naomi's husband and sons, but we know it left her in a dark and depressing place for the rest of chapter one. She tried to push away her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, and even insisted on being called a different name to reflect her bitterness and sorrow. But in the fourth chapter, Ruth and Boaz are married, and Naomi is given a grandson, Obed. She is blessed by her peers and her joy is restored! **Difficult times come to us all, but they will not last forever. It is just a season of life, much like the harvest season featured in the book of Ruth.**



A photo with my siblings at my youngest sister Amanda's highschool graduation party.



Storyteller from Ukara island having fun telling Ruth chapter 2. His colleague behind him is recording it on his phone so we could do a back translation for quality assurance.

STAY IN TOUCH

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2026 Funding Goal:  85%

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A Sumbwa storyteller giving an emotional performance of Ruth chapter 1.



Taking a family walk around my small home town this Summer!



Prayers and Praise

Philippians 4:6-7

Prayer: For the "Senders" back home, AKA my family. They are so supportive of me, but they could also use spiritual support as those with a missionary child/sibling.

Praise: For another successful OBS workshop and the lessons we learned from the book of Ruth!

Prayer: I was sick for a week shortly after returning from the US. I believe it was due to too much activity and not enough time to recover from travel. Please pray it doesn't return and that I have time to rest and recover between these busy work events!

In Oral Bible Storytelling workshops, we teach participants how to prepare the stories and then how to check the stories for quality assurance. Preparing for the story requires reading or listening to the story a few times and naming the characters, describing the setting, and talking about the culture and context in which the story takes place. We then go through the sequence of events to help us remember all the details and not forget an important part of the story when we are retelling it. **A great way to put all of the components of the story together and help the participants internalize it is by acting it out as a drama.** In the picture on the right below, some of the participants are acting as Ruth and the harvesters in Boaz's field just like in Ruth chapter 2, while another participant narrated the story in Swahili.

After the participants have learned the story, they practice telling it in their mother tongue (e.g. Taturu), then they retell it in front of the large group alongside one of their teammates who simultaneously translates their story back into Swahili. As you can see in the picture on the left, this can be a really fun experience for both the storyteller and their translator! Sometimes there are mess-ups trying to translate from one language to another that make for a light-hearted laugh, but what usually happens is the storyteller takes advantage of having a person standing next to them and uses them as a visual for their story or directs them to be a character. This makes for a very entertaining performance, especially when a man, such as our Taturu storyteller Sebastian on the left side of the photo, had to act as Naomi since storyteller Esther (right) was the one narrating and already acting out the part of Ruth. **Many of our storytellers get really into the acting component of Bible storytelling, and it always brings a smile to everyone's faces!**



Reflection on Furlough 2026

I was blessed to interact face-to-face with many of you this Summer, but unfortunately I didn't have the opportunity or time to visit with many more. Two months felt long in some ways, but way too short in others! I hope that next time I come to the US for furlough I will be able to visit those areas which I was not able to get to this time. **God willing, my next anticipated furlough will probably be in the Summer of 2028 or 2029**, so if you already know you want me to come visit your home or congregation, please let me know anytime and I will put you in my calendar!

I want to thank all of those who hosted me this Summer and made every mile worth it: Special thanks to Peace Lutheran Waverly and the family of Pastor Neil, Susan and Larry Biel and the Silver Foxes of Seward, Our Savior Lutheran Manchester and the family of Pastor Isaiah, St. John Lutheran Sycamore, the Kolzow family, The Dietrich family, Our Redeemer Lutheran Peoria and their mission board, Donna Campbell, St. Mark's Lutheran Wasau, Faith Lutheran Whitehall and St. James Lutheran Montague, Laura Anderson, Immanuel Lutheran Columbus, and Zion Lutheran Dexter. **A very special thank you to the Krohns for letting me use their car for the entire duration of my trip!** God is so good and I am so blessed.