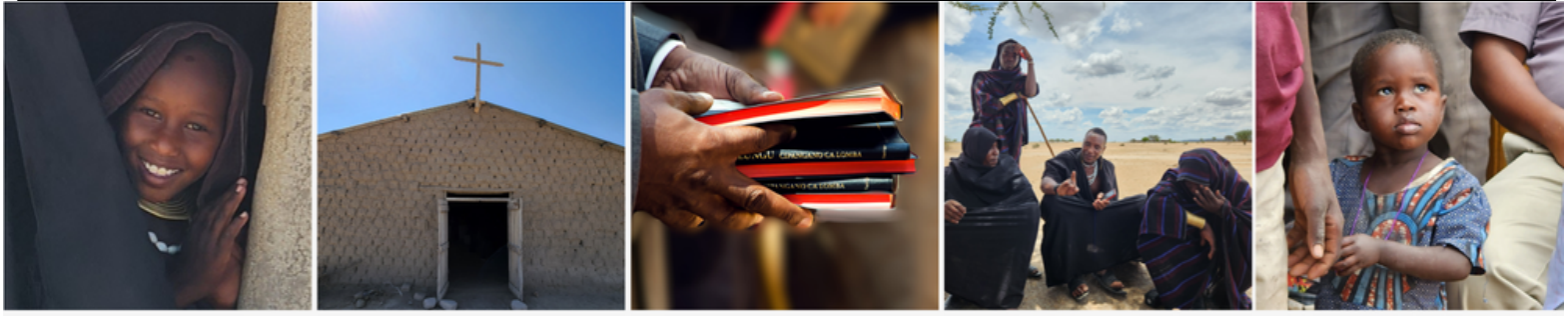


MARCH 2026

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,
(Beloved in Christ,)

Hard to believe we are already three months into 2026! December through February were some of the busiest but best months of my life: Preparing for my wedding, seeing my family, getting married, and settling into a new chapter of life with my husband, Steven.

During these months I prayed a lot and made personal as well as missional goals for this year. We have two Bible storytelling workshops scheduled for 2026. I will also be traveling to the US for several weeks this Summer for a short furlough (see *next page for more details*), we are welcoming new missionaries to the field next month, there are online conferences happening throughout the year, and lots more to do! Plus, now I have a husband whom I have to consider in everything as well. I realized at the beginning of this year that prayer needs to become a priority in my life. Through prayer God can navigate me through the endless tasks and help me balance my work life, family life, life in the US and life in Tanzania. I encourage you to join me on this prayer journey for your own life!

Although the past couple of months were less work-focused and more wedding-focused, I still met regularly with my Tanzanian colleagues to prepare for our first workshop in March. We met via Zoom every week, sometimes twice a week, to dissect the book of Jonah, which we will be using for our storytelling workshop with the five language groups. Those meeting together were myself, the program manager for the translation projects in Mwanza region, the storytelling coaches (1 per language group) and the facilitators from the US who will be coming to lead the workshop. The book of Jonah is short, but contains big messages - one of the biggest being God's mercy and compassion for those who are lost. I am excited to share with you in my next newsletter how this story impacts the storytellers after their workshop!

So far, the storytelling method has proven very effective in the villages and churches where our storytellers come from. We have heard many stories of people coming to accept Jesus as their savior because of hearing a Bible story told in their native language, as well as healing stories and an increase in believers' faith. Praise God! This is exactly what we hoped and prayed for when we decided to do Bible storytelling more than a year ago! We continue to do these workshops so that our storytellers can grow in their confidence to tell the stories to their communities, and so that those who will go on to be Bible translators can grow in their translation skills and knowledge of God's Word.



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.



2026 Funding Goal: 10%

PO BOX 789 CONCORDIA, MO 64020 | GO.LBT.ORG/SMITH



Culture Corner

Writing about my marriage in Tanzania would fill an entire other newsletter, but here are some fun tidbits about our Tanzanian wedding!

As the picture shows above, we had a whole roasted goat at our reception! Steven and I cut a piece and fed it to one another as you would with the wedding cake (which we also had). This is called Ndafu, a tradition in the Chaga tribes, which is where Steven's father comes from. Children are associated with the tribe that their father comes from, so Steven is also Chaga.

However, we did special dances for the Sukuma, Nyiramba, and Chaga. I was going to request a song for my American "tribe" represented, but our wedding day celebrations lasted over 12 hours, so by the evening reception I was exhausted!

During the ceremony that morning, we signed our documents there in front of everyone, and held them up as people cheered for us. I even attempted to read my vows in Swahili!

Praise God for that unforgettable day!



Prayers and Praise

Philippians 4:6-7

Pray: For our OBS workshop and the impact of studying the book of Jonah.

Praise: For my marriage to Steven!

Pray: For my travel to the US this Summer. It will be a long 8 weeks away from Steven, so pray for our marriage and that we stay well connected during that time.

Praise: For my teammates here who have been working so hard and keep us moving forward. I can't express enough how crucial they are to the projects!

I mentioned on page one that I will be coming to the US from May until July. I plan to visit my supporting churches and give a presentation on OBS (Oral Bible Storytelling) and my life in Tanzania working with the Taturu-Datooga project. If you are interested in visiting with me while I home, please reach out to me as soon as possible so I can make sure to put you or your church in my schedule!

Below is a rough schedule of where I will be and when. My weekends are filling up fast, but keep in mind that I can also come for midweek services and/or Bible studies. I am also available for meeting one-on-one as well!



(L) Curtain shopping with my husband! (R) Hosting Bible study at our house in February.

Schedule

May 24th - Peace Lutheran Church, Waverly, NE

May 31st - Iowa/Nebraska only

June 1st - Seward, NE

June 7th - Our Savior Lutheran, Manchester, IA

June 14th - Redeemer Lutheran, Peoria IL*

June 21st - St. Mark's Lutheran, Wasau, WI

June 28th - Faith Lutheran, Whitehall, MI

July 5th - Immanuel Lutheran, Columbus, NE

July 12th - Missouri only

July 12 - 18th - Concordia Mission Institute (MO)

Request for Car

I am currently looking at my options for getting around while I am on furlough. Renting a car for 8 weeks will be very expensive, so I am looking to borrow a car(s) for as much of my trip as possible. Likely, I can use a family car for short distances, but for some of my longer trips like Wisconsin and Michigan I am asking for some assistance. If you or someone you know has an extra vehicle that they would be willing to let me use, especially during the last few weeks of June, I would be most indebted to you. Please note that I will be based in central Iowa at my parent's home. I am very flexible, so even if a car is not available for 3 consecutive weeks, I can make it work. I appreciate your consideration and prayers for this request, Thank you!



(L) Nothing beats a cold, refreshing Pepsi on your wedding day! (R) Dropping my parents and sister off at the airport after our wedding weekend. What a blessing that they were able to be there!