



March 2018

## THE RESURRECTION IS COMING!

Hard pressed but not crushed. Perplexed but not in despair. Persecuted but not abandoned. Struck down but not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

Needless to say, this month in Tanzania has had many challenges. As you may know, we have been waiting for months to receive an official government letter that will allow us to work at Buhangija Children's Center. In short, we need a document called a Memorandum of Understanding, which creates a partnership between the Lutheran Church here and Buhangija, and requires signature from many of the different government officials in Shinyanga. It has been a long and complicated process. We have been so patient in the waiting but this month seemed to stretch so much longer as we waited. We are so ready to work with the children at the center and share with them the love that Jesus has for them; but the letter has been keeping us from it. We have spent many hours in government officials' offices to see where the letter is and remind them of our eagerness to work with the children. I have used their waiting rooms to pray that God, would go before us and be working backstage, to move our letter along, that way He can use us in the lives of the children. Even after promises of receiving our letter by a certain date, we are continuously left empty handed and feeling defeated. We will continue our efforts to obtain this letter so that we can advocate for these children as we hold onto the promise that God works everything for good. He has been so faithful to remind us to look to His promises through sending rainbows right outside our window.



In all this waiting, we were so excited when God opened up an opportunity for us to start a Bible class with the young adults with albinism at SHADE. It has been absolutely beautiful to see the young adults embrace the Gospel and connect the Bible to their lives.



On top of it all, we have also been struggling through moments of homesickness, missing family, friends, and the ease of the States. For example, recently, the dirt road to get out of our neighborhood had been fixed, meaning that the top layer of dirt had been scraped away to expose a fresh layer of dirt in order to make it smoother. This would have been great news if it were not the middle of rainy season making it very muddy and dangerous to drive on. This has made our transportation extremely difficult.

However, we are choosing to focus our minds and attitudes to see the beauty of the culture instead of focusing on these things. This place is so beautiful and so are the people; sometimes we have to

pinch ourselves that we actually live here. We have learned that this culture is all about hospitality and helpfulness. Through all of these struggles, we have built such great relationships with people that work at our home church. They will literally drop anything to help us with whatever we need. We were, also, able to take part in the culture of hospitality by hosting Global Lutheran Outreach missionaries Dale, Dixon, and Christiana in our home this month; it was so inspiring to hear their unique stories.



We, also, joined the Bishop, of our church, for a short distance of his walkathon along with many people from the church and it was so special to see their spirit of praise and support! The connections and relationships that we are forming here make it all worth it!



As we reflected back over the month, it struck me how closely it is related to the Easter story. We kept coming back to how the disciples must have felt when they saw Jesus dying on the cross. Hard pressed and struck down to say the least. However, the cross makes the resurrection so much more beautiful! Jesus defeated death for us and ascended all the more beautiful. Therefore, we are choosing to believe that where we are right now is just the dark before the sunrise. We're keeping faith because the resurrection is coming!

Keep up with what we have been doing here in Tanzania through our videos too; here's this month's video. [CLICK HERE!](#)

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Make checks out to  
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Write "REED" in the memo line.  
Mail to **Global Lutheran Outreach**  
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You can give online using credit or debit card at our  
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**Come See Us!**

We will be back in Texas April 11th to May 16th for Amber's internship requirements, church visits, and a wedding!  
Come see us at Faith Lutheran Church in Georgetown, TX on April 22nd and at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Houston, TX on May 13th (Mother's Day).

We will, also, be hosting an auction and dinner on May 11th at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Houston, TX. We will have many African goodies and cultural artifacts to bid on, in the auction, as well as many other fun items. Mark your calendars!

**Prayer Requests**

- Completion of the official paperwork we need to be able to work at Buhangija, as well as a lot of patience and perseverance on our part.
- Safe travels as we make our way to America on April 10th and that our visit would be fruitful.
- For protection over our Tanzanian home while we are away.