



November 2017

LIFE IN IRINGA

This past month, we have been continuing to adjust our lives to living in Tanzania and learning the language. And while we will only be in Iringa for two more weeks, as we complete our language school, we are treasuring all the moments we've had here. We have learned so much about culture, about the people, and about this country during our stay here. The people and culture here in Tanzania is very welcoming and proper. Everywhere we go people are always saying welcome, thank you, or sorry and respect for the elders is very important. One interesting thing we have learned about the culture is when your guests leave it is best to walk them half way back to their car or house. This is such an awesome concept to us and shows how caring and courteous the people are here. God's beauty is definitely evident in all of His creation here!

We have also been learning the art of choosing to be joyful in all circumstances. It has been amazing to us how even the smallest of things like ants, burning the toast, a difficult lesson, or poor phone signal can steal our joy so quickly. As we look around, we constantly see people here who are so joyful all the time with the very little they have. With everything we have been given in this life, both experiences and belongings, we have so many reasons to be joyful. We have begun to really look around and see joy in everything – children playing and laughing, a delicious meal, teachers that have invested themselves into us, birds singing, a beautiful sunset, the reaction we get when people hear us speaking Swahili with them, the cool air and a comfy blanket, knowing that we are eternally loved by our Heavenly Father. As we started to notice how much joy life has here, our joy has become harder to steal and our days are so much more beautiful. "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:3).

Although we are sad to be leaving the friends we have made here in Iringa, we are also excited and looking forward to moving to Shinyanga mid-December. Our mentors, Eric and Linda Funke, will pick us up from the airport, help us buy essentials for our house, and help us get settled in Shinyanga. We can't wait to begin our work with children with albinism and see God work in and through them.

This Month in Pictures...



On November 4th, we moved into a Danish Lutheran Compound, where our classes are held, after finishing our home stay. At the compound, we have our own little apartment room and are learning to live on our own here in Tanzania. We have also been participating in a Swahili devotion every morning before our classes start and each day we can understand more and more of what's being said.



We are now deep into our language learning adventure. Many days we finish class and are mentally drained. But we have been learning so many verbs, noun classes, and conjugations. In this picture we are learning the "U/N" noun class and the words associated with the class.



It is just the beginning of rainy season here in Tanzania. We like the rains because they usually bring cooler weather. We are also beginning to see more and more flowers of all colors blooming everywhere.



This is our grocery store, well one of the fruit shops which has quite a pretty display. Most of the items that we purchase for meals come fresh and ripe. While there are a couple supermarkets available here, they are much smaller than the ones we are used to in America. We, also, enjoy going to the market to practice our Swahili with the vendors who are very friendly to talk with us and help us learn even more.



We do laundry the old-fashion way here. We also have learned, from experience, that during the rainy season you must be very aware of the sky when your clean, almost dry clothes are hanging outside. :-)



We have been continuing to go to a local school on Saturdays to teach the choir club some American songs and dances about Jesus. It has been so fun to see their eagerness to learn new songs and their persistence to learn the words and dances. They are very fast learners and definitely know how to make a joyful noise to the Lord. This past Saturday, the students ran to give us big hugs when we walked into the school, we will forever cherish that sweet memory.



This past Saturday, we also celebrated Thanksgiving with another American family living in Iringa. The meal was complete with chicken, corn, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, French fries, rice, apple crisp, and pumpkin pie. The food was delicious but we enjoyed the company the most. We have so much to be thankful for!

Support Update

We have been so thankful for your support, love, and encouragement towards our ministry in Tanzania! It has been so awesome to watch God provide for our every need through you. However, He's not done quite yet...

As of now, we have raised enough for all of our outgoing expenses and 78% of our ongoing expenses for the year. This means that we only need \$6,700 of support to be fully funded for our first year. Will you prayerfully consider a year-end contribution?

RAISED TO DATE: \$51,800	TOTAL NEEDED: \$58,500
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Prayer Requests:

- Thanks for the Swahili we have learned thus far, the outstanding school we are attending, the rain and cooler weather, thanksgiving food and company, our house contract being finalized, the many people we have met and befriended here, Eric and Linda Funke for helping us along this whole journey, and so many more.
- That God will continue to stir hearts to action and raise up partners for our ministry in Tanzania.
- That God would begin to move in the children's hearts that we will soon be working with.
- That Swahili would begin to come naturally and that we would continue to learn the language quickly.

How To Partner With Us Financially:

Make checks out to
 "Global Lutheran Outreach".
 Write "REED" in the memo line.
 Mail to **Global Lutheran Outreach**
 6709 Ficus Drive,
 Miramar, FL, 33023

OR

You can give online using credit or debit card at our website.

All donations are tax deductible.

THRIVENT MEMBERS:

Choice Dollars® charitable grant funds can make a world of difference to our organization as we work together to send missionaries! Your Choice Dollars directed to Global Lutheran Outreach go to GLO's "Global Missionary Fund" (unless we are otherwise informed). Our Global Missionary Fund supports GLO missionaries who are underfunded or are experiencing a temporary shortfall in funding. **Directing Choice Dollars is easy.** Simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions. **Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.**