



January 2018

## New Year, New Home

It was beginning to get dark and stuffy in our house as the sun was setting and we had been without electricity the entire day. We had just used the last bucket of water from our tank, because our running water had been out for two weeks. We honestly had no clue what we were going to do next. Should we call someone and, with our limited Swahili, ask to send us water? Should we go buy bottled water from the shops before they begin to close? Anxiety and frustration began to build up as we tried to control this new situation. However there was really nothing we could do at this time of night so we decided to just wait it out. It was exactly when we stopped worrying about the whole situation that the lights flickered on and we could hear the slightest sound of thunder. A few minutes later the rain started to come down in full force and we grabbed every bucket we owned to set out in the rain to fill up. We had never been so happy for rain! And it was while we were standing out in the cold rain, that we realized when we stop, take a break from all our worries, and give it all over to God He never fails to show us He will take care of everything.

Recently, we have been thinking and praying about a word to use as a motto and daily reminder for this new year. During this month, we realized a common theme of our life here in Tanzania is that, regardless of our anxieties and actions, everything will work out just as it is supposed to. Whether it's waiting for some paperwork to be completed, getting used to "Tanzanian time", or begging/praying for rain to come, it all ends up being exactly as it is supposed to in God's perfect timing. If we just LET GO. We are constantly having to remind ourselves that God has the situation in His hand and He does not need our help. Psalm 46:10 puts it this way "He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Interesting enough in the Hebrew language, "be still" can be translated into to make fall away or to *let go*. The best part of it all is to know that the end result, no matter what, will always be that God will be exalted all over the world! If we believe this is true then what do we need to worry about? Let it all go; give it all to our all-powerful God. This year, in this new country and in our new home, we will try our best to focus on letting go and letting God do His work.

### This Month...

was all about getting to know our new home in Shinyanga, Tanzania. We officially moved into our house and began getting to know the people and organizations in our community. Just like any new house there have been some adjustments and struggles like getting everything in its place, spiders that lived in the house before us, and no running water for some time but we couldn't be happier to be living in Shinyanga now.



We were so excited to be able to go to the first day of school at Buhangija, a government run safe-housing for children with albinism. We loved getting the chance to serve them through simple tasks like tying shoes, sharpening pencils, writing their names in workbooks, and making sure they were warmly welcomed into their first day of school.



We live in a gated compound with three other separate houses with Tanzanian neighbors. And the first thing we wanted to do when we moved into our new house was meet our neighbors and start building a community here. What better way to do that than baking them cookies. They all accepted them with a big smile on their faces. We, also, have been enjoying experimenting with cooking different meals with the ingredients available here



We visited with the young adults with albinism in the SHADE program. We are also getting to know the American couple, Mike and Claire Fedele, who started this organization here in Tanzania. While we were there, they were eager to show us how they make the soap that they sell to the community. We were even able to get in on the fun of stirring the soap mixture. We also played a language "game" with one of the students where he would point to an object, say the word in Swahili, and we would say it in English. He wants to learn English so we were helping him study, but little did he know that he was helping us with our Swahili as well.



We have spent many days here in this building which is the main Lutheran church and also the headquarters for all the Lutheran churches here in Shinyanga. The church workers have been so helpful to us settling in here, with car stuff, legal stuff, lots of paperwork, and even helping us find a tailor. The church has also started a program for young women with albinism in Shinyanga that we enjoyed getting to visit and can't wait to begin helping with.



This is the main market where we do most of shopping for fresh from the farm produce. People in town are starting to learn our names and even help us use our Swahili. It has been fun exploring the town.



This was from our first Sunday at our new home church, where just this last week we became official members. The Bishop brought us to the front to introduce ourselves to everyone and we were able to do it all in Swahili. Major win!

You can see more pictures and updates on our Facebook group "Adventures with the Reeds".

## Thank you for your support!

We praise God for each of you as our mission partners. We are so glad that you have joined God in His work here in Tanzania and we look forward to sharing all of our experiences with you.

### **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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions. **Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.**

## Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for how things have been working out here, friendly and helpful neighbors, our growing community here in Shinyanga, the privilege to work with three different organization here who help people with albinism, running water again, Linda and Eric Funke for mentoring us through this time of transition, and so many more.
- Quick completion of some official paperwork we need to be able to work at Buhangija.
- For restored health after surgery and medical answers for Catherine, a 6 year-old girl with albinism, who lives at Buhangija.
- For safe travels as we drive to Mwanza, the major city that is about 3 hours away, several times this upcoming month for a marriage retreat and to learn about another program for people with albinism.