

"My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved..." | ROMANS 10



Wapendwa Ndugu wa Kristo,  
(Dear brothers and sisters in Christ)

In mid-October my colleagues and I traveled about 3 hours South of Shinyanga to a town called Igunga. It was here that we met for an afternoon with some of the Taturu who live in this region to tell them about our project and to inquire about their language.

My colleagues and I noticed at our annual Summit meeting back in July that there was some confusion about the Datoga languages and, I'll admit, it is a little confusing. There are basically three families under the umbrella tribe name "Datoga". One of those three families are the Taturu. However, with the Taturu (like most of the Datoga people) being so spread out across the country, we are finding that there are small differences in how they spell and pronounce words from region to region. Since we want the best quality translation and one that represents *all* Taturu, we need to spend extra time researching what these differences are and if they are significant enough that they would affect our project later down the road if we continue as we have been. My experience thus far has been with the Taturu in Shinyanga region, but there are many more people around Tanzania that also represent this language.

This is why we traveled to Igunga. There is a fairly large community of Taturu who live near this town, which is found in the Rift Valley. We ventured off the tarmac road in Dr. Mono's Land Cruiser and followed our guide to a small village called Mwakule. We were in search of a congregant member who agreed to meet with us that day. After speaking with some of the men who had gathered around us, a few hopped into the back of the Land Cruiser and led us further into the desert-like environment to a small house where we found the man we were looking for (*pictured sitting far left in the photo below*).

We sat for probably an hour talking with these Taturu men about the differences in how they speak in Igunga and how they speak in Shinyanga. They told us that here the differences are very small. We even showed them the recording we made back in September at our Oral Bible Storying workshop, and they said it was perfectly understandable. The bigger differences, they said, are found in some other regions where Taturu speakers live, which we have yet to go visit. As we spend more time in the next few months visiting these different regions we are going to make recordings of their speech so that we can compare and contrast the differences. If it is so different that it can not be understood by Taturu from another region, then we will have to think hard about how to move forward with this translation.



### 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.*



2023 Funding:  85%



## Vehicle Update

Wow, wow, wow, you guys! Thank you for all of your donations and prayers in the last month for this special project. I am excited to tell you that I am much closer to reaching my goal for a Land Cruiser!

I am still hoping to raise all of the funding by November. I have no doubt that God will continue to provide!

This is a \$38,000 project. You can designate gifts to "Smith Vehicle Project" by check or online at the addresses on the bottom of this page. Thank you for your support!

## Current Vehicle Funding:



## Prayers and Praise

*Philippians 4:6-7*

**Pray:** For continued funding for my vehicle project.

**Praise:** For some early rains here in Mwadui! I was not expecting any until at least November.

**Pray:** That God blesses the relationships I am building here in Tanzania.

**Praise:** For my hardworking "House Mama", Lucy, who keeps my house looking spotless when I'm traveling.

**Pray:** For our future trips to the other regions where Taturu are living. Pray that the discussions there would be fruitful and insightful so that we make the wisest and most informed decisions possible concerning the translation.

**Why worry about it?** As I've said before, if we are going to go to all the trouble of translating the Bible, we want to know that it is going to be accepted and used by all people who identify with the language we are translating into. That's why we are taking the time to visit these different areas and make recordings and ask questions about the language. We don't want to be four or five years down the road and be informed that there are Taturu who can't understand the dialect that we chose to use in our translation.

This is also why a document called the "Translation Brief" exists. Before we even begin translating we will sit down as a team and address (and hopefully come to agreement on) issues that arise in a project such as, "Who is this translation for?" or "How is the community represented in this document?" Ideally, we will gather representatives from each region where Taturu live who can come together and form a committee that will discuss these questions and give their input for this translation project.



*Left: Waiting under a tree to meet with Taturu.*



*Right: Greeting those in Mwakule.*

## Highlights from our trip:

I think the most encouraging part of the trip for me was watching the faces of the men we sat with as they listened to the short Bible story we recorded back in September. We wanted them to listen to the recording and comment on the language itself, but we ended up talking about the story for a long time. The Bible story we recorded was about Cain and Abel, and the men told us that they were touched by the story while listening to it. How could a man go and kill his brother like that? It led to some other great discussion about stories the Taturu learned from a young age about God the Creator. I will share those in another update.

Another encouraging moment for me was the amount of women that I saw that day. The first time I visited Tanzania over a year ago, we went to speak to the Taturu around Bukundi, but most of the women were nowhere to be seen. Even when we went to Mwakule and Igunga we saw that, as our car came closer to the houses, the women and children would run inside. We were told by our guide that this is because when they see a Land Cruiser, they assume it is a person from the government coming to talk to them. However, at the house where we had our meeting, the wife of the host was willing to come outside and talk to us and even let me take a picture with her! I don't feel comfortable taking people's picture without their permission first, but this mother seemed to enjoy the attention of the camera!

Please keep our team in your prayers as we travel over the next few months to talk to more Taturu community leaders. We want them to be actively engaged with this project and to one day have a Bible in a language they know and love!



*Left: Posing with a Taturu woman.*



*Right: Dr. Mono praying for our Taturu friends in Igunga.*