

Update from Nora

Inbox



Nora Hajian

Feb 23, 2021,
7:55 PM (16
hours ago)

to Nora, bcc: me

Hello, friends and family! I trust you are all surviving the beginning of 2021. I just want to update you all on what I have been doing and what I plan to be doing, and to thank you for your support.

Since January, I have no longer been helping out with CanIL's online courses, mostly because I am hoping to go back to East Africa as soon as possible. You may be thinking "Why say 'East Africa' instead of 'Tanzania'?" It is because SIL Tanzania is setting up a primary office location in Kigali, Rwanda, where we hope to have a much easier time getting work permits and residency permits. Rwanda is right near Tanzania, and it is a 14-hour drive (across a couple land borders) to get from Kigali to the part of Northwestern Tanzania where I had been working. Working in Kigali will (obviously) mean working remotely, not entirely unlike what I am doing now, but with the added benefits of being close enough to make side trips into Tanzania, and sharing office space with my coworkers.

While I was in Canada for most of last year, I continued working on the Ikoma database (in addition to helping out with CanIL courses). In the new year I have been focusing more on Partnership Development than on my regular work, and have also started doing pre-typesetting checks on some of the New Testament books that were translated by various communities in Tanzania. I have mentioned before that many New Testaments translation projects (about ten) are in their final stages this year, and with the joy of near completion comes a lot of pre-publication work - far more than what we would usually get in a year. Hence, my being recruited to the checking team. For my part I am very happy that God provided this opportunity to get more directly involved in the process that brings his Word to minority groups in their own language. Once I get back to East Africa, I am looking forward to working more closely with another lexicographer in our branch, and moving on to more sophisticated entry-writing tasks with the Ikoma database.

I was told last week that because the health situation in Tanzania seems to be deteriorating again, I would not be able to return to Tanzania in the near future. However, I also have some good news to share, which has been encouraging me in the midst of changing plans and uncertainty.

- I will be getting a COVID vaccination next week, easing the path back to East Africa.

- I already have some leads on living arrangements in Kigali (which is apparently a very safe and clean city).
- I will soon be able to end my lease on the place I have been renting out in Musoma (since last January), and friends have already packed up the possessions I had left in the house.
- I am now aiming for a late-April transition from Canada to Kigali. This will give the more experienced team members time to settle into the country before I arrive (and hopefully I can benefit from hearing about their immigration and transition experiences), and will give me time to get my COVID shots and concentrate on PD for another month or so.

There is still much involved in transitioning to Rwanda! Pray that all the paperwork that needs to be done will get done on time (it seems we need to enter the country on a tourist visa, and then talk to immigration in person about staying). Pray also for the translation teams in the Mara Cluster project as they consider whether or not to start translating the Old Testament into their languages. It is a big step for them, as they would be doing it with more control and independence. Finally, pray for me as I continue trying to learn Swahili. It has been slow going since I returned to Canada, without anyone to speak Swahili with, and yet learning it is important to my work with SIL Tanzania. I am praying God will provide people in Rwanda from whom I might be able to continue learning Swahili.

I am at about 84% support right now, and I am always looking for the next people who might join me as prayer partners and financial partners, or who might have an interest in this kind of work and some questions about it for me. Do get in touch, either by email or by phone (867-332-1872). If you are already supporting my work through prayer or finances, you should also get in touch! I really do love answering questions about what I do, and chatting with people, and praying with them. Perhaps you have your own stories about God working in your life, that you would like to share with me.

Thank you for praying for me. I am greatly encouraged and assured when I know I am being prayed for, and I also expect great things from God when I know I am being prayed for. I know that God's strength and provision have no limits, and that he works out his plans for us as we call on him.

God Bless,

Nora Hajian

<https://www.whitehorsesnazarene.org/nora.html>