



# Christine and David Torrance

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**Location:** Tanzania



**What we do:** Teaching at Kondo Bible College and coming alongside local Christians in discipleship and ministry.

Dear friends,

Greetings from St Andrews, Scotland! We moved into David's parents' home in March and will be based here until "the big move" to Tanzania.

It's been a wonderful summer so far. We spent April with family in the States. In addition to the joy of John delighting in his doting grandparents, Christine relished spending time with her own cousins at church and worship events. Back in the UK, on our way up north, we stopped for a week in Oxford to do paperwork and loved being at the community house again, catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Now in St Andrews, with the beach a 10-minute drive away, we've been taking every chance to wade in the sea and let John play in the sand.

Our in-laws have gotten us into Parkrun, so Saturday mornings revolve around David jogging, me (Christine) walking with the stroller and an hour or two for John to enjoy the playpark. We've also treasured godfamily time. Two of John's godparents have managed to travel up, and we're only 1.5 hours away from our goddaughter – what a treat!

As I write this, we've just celebrated John's second birthday with a beach trip and barbecue with his grandparents and extended family. His big cousins – who he's absolutely mad-keen on as they are such fantastic fun-makers for him – even constructed a play "train" out of cardboard boxes, which he's spent much of the last three days in.

We've been deeply blessed by our new home church here. Visiting our partner churches has broadened our experience of fellowship with British believers; being consistently invested in by a local family of Christians is now deepening us. Christine has been meditating on the glory, beauty, and power of the presence of God through the Holy Spirit, and hungrily desiring the set-aside times of sung worship and Bible teaching each week. David values being a "regular Joe" at church in this season, making friends, receiving prayer ministry, and worshipping weekly with the same group of people after being so nomadic for the last few years. Also, these guys serve doughnuts after the meeting, so John has been enjoying what we call "party time" every Sunday.

Among the spiritual growth has come some physical challenges. Over a two-week period, following a vivid encounter with the Lord during church, the following happened, in quick succession: Christine had a severe reaction to her meningitis vaccine, all three of us got norovirus one after the other, Christine had an ear infection, we had no running water, there were road closures such that Christine was carrying John's



*A breakfast benediction on our last morning in Oxford*

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To the edges**



stroller over wet tarmac to find a bus into town for water while David was stuck with noro symptoms but unable to flush, and then post-viral fatigue. It was not fun but God was with us in the middle of the night and in the exhaustion. This is no surprise for Christians. We have an enemy who doesn't like the Lord's plans – but praise God!, his plans for us are good and he is faithful to complete what he's begun.

We feel we are in a summer season of fun, family and both practical and spiritual preparation. We have started the process of getting travel immunisations, receiving medical consultations, getting our DBS certificates and discussing travel plans. David has finished his book and Christine's name is correct on all legal documents. Our regional manager, Joan Busolo, has been our effective, faithful leader on the ground and our champion in practical matters such as visas and language school arrangements.

At the moment, the plan is to join CMS partners Ben and Katy Ray in Iringa, Tanzania, for 3–4 months of language school to prepare us in Swahili, before we then move to Kondoa. Our hope is to arrive in Iringa in September, although we're aware this may become October or later, depending on the myriad factors that go into planning such a big move.

Looking forward, we're excited as we make plans to attend an Iris Global UK conference in August. We know that we walk with a mighty God who will never leave us, and we also know that the enemy wants to wear us down and get us to rely on ourselves so that we burn out quickly. Therefore, we feel that an extended time of praise, worship, testimony, teaching, and fellowship is ideal preparation for the adventure ahead. I (Christine) feel very thankful that a movement I so admire will be gathering in the same country in time for us to join in!

As we sign off for now, it's interesting to think that we might be next writing from Tanzania. Until then, we hope you're able to enjoy your summer, and look forward to seeing you again.

With every blessing,

Christine, David and John

### Prayer requests

#### For us:

- More of the Holy Spirit – that God would increase our hunger for him, and increase our experience of his presence
- Energy and wisdom as we continue to downsize, organise and pack up our belongings

#### For Kondoa:

- More of the Holy Spirit – that God would bless faithful believers as they desire to love their neighbours and grow in their own faith
- God's blessing on our future friends and neighbours, preparing us all for authentic relationship.



*Photos from top to bottom: Scottish beach babe; godfamily walk on the beach; the mini-train near us in Scotland, after Parkrun; "Beautiful are the feet of those who carry the good news" – John adores his godmother Abi, who visited in June and prays for him relentlessly*



## Going further with Church Mission Society

**Africa Conference:** Friday 7–Sunday 9 October – A weekend residential with opportunity to connect online. This year's theme is Out of Africa: Learning together about mission. Book your place now at [churchmissionsociety.org/ac2022](https://churchmissionsociety.org/ac2022)

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