



# Christine and David Torrance

Link Letter no. 4 | October 2022

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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,

We're happy to share that on 16 September, we joined fellow CMS mission partners Ben and Katy Ray in Iringa, Tanzania! In fact, I (Christine) am writing this from their cafe (Neema Crafts). I'm here for the internet and the chocolate brownies.

Let me catch you up on how we got here. At first, we couldn't find affordable flights in September, but we felt that the Lord impressed on my mind the number nine. We hadn't checked 9 September – and when we did, we found flights that were not only £1,000 cheaper, but involved a day-long layover in Cairo, Egypt. So, we left the airport after an overnight flight to get some sleep in Giza and this was our view at dinner.



*One of the Seven Wonders of the World... as seen from Pizza Hut*

How amazing is that? If you think God may have impressed something on you recently, it might not hurt just to check!

After consecutive overnight flights with a toddler, we were pretty worn out. We spent four nights with Arthur and Tamie Davis (CMS Australia) while preparing for onward travel. Tamie blessed us richly with the following advice: “think flexibly, delay judgement, and tolerate ambiguity” when encountering unfamiliar cross-cultural situations. That, and to buy superglue for closing small wounds. Who knew?

The journey from Dar es Salaam to Iringa was smooth. Across the first five hours, the scenery morphed from big city, to suburbia, to villages, to vast swathes of African wilderness and breath-taking mountain views before reaching Mikumi National Park. In the final hour, we had an impromptu sunset safari of baboons, antelope, a martial eagle, giraffes, wildebeests, and even elephants. Time seemed to stand still when an unimaginably tall bull giraffe crossed our path in slow motion to eat from the acacia trees along the road.

The following day, after 4.5 hours of incredible views on deadly steep-grade switchbacks (and approximately 6,741 iterations of The Jungle Book movie...), we reached Iringa town. At our new home, the guard, the landlord, her baby, his nanny and two friendly dogs greeted us. John was delighted by his new friend, and they led the way to our front door, hand in hand.

I can't tell you how much we love our place! It feels like a log-cabin-themed New York City apartment, with an open-plan kitchen/living room and single bedroom, exposed brickwork, minimalist furnishing, massive windows, and timber beams on a white tin roof. Since arriving, we've added some shelving for John's play area and a man from church lent us a lovely chest of drawers. Honestly, it's the nicest home we've ever had! We're extremely grateful to have our first few months here.

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**Support Christine and David Torrance:**  
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**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**



At the moment, life feels very full, but not stressful. David is in intensive Kiswahili tutoring from 8:30am to 1pm (plus homework) every weekday, and – in my humble opinion – is giving it his all and making excellent progress. So much that I do worry his brain might explode... but I love hearing him chat to people in town, and the learning trickles home. Hearing John saying “shikamoo” (the proper greeting of respect toward an older person) and seeing the recipients’ smiles of “marahaba” in return is such a delight.

Originally, I intended to join David in classes, but I decided to focus on settling John in during this season and postpone formal language learning until Kondo. My days, therefore, are very physical! Sweeping

and mopping (anyone who has lived in East Africa will understand just how often this must happen!), keeping a hygienic bathroom and kitchen, sourcing cooking ingredients and home supplies, preparing food, finding workmen to fix broken bed slats, plumbing and electrical issues, greeting said workmen who somehow tend to arrive just before naptime or bedtime, washing/hanging/collecting laundry, and trying to set aside time for Bible study and prayer. And in the midst of all this, I’m enjoying the company of a highly active, curious, energetic and playful little two-year-old. Can I just say – PHEW!

But we feel so certain and calm that we are right where God wants us to be, and that gives us immense satisfaction. We’re extremely grateful to be here after several years of preparation. Thank you to every single one of you who has made this move a reality!

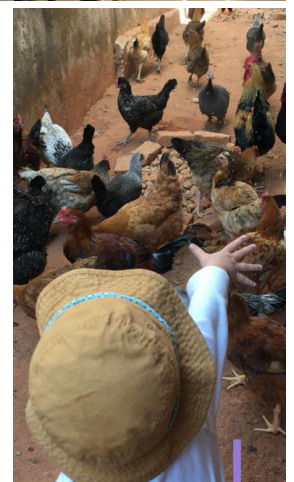
I’m also enjoying the very welcoming expat community, perhaps especially because we’re unlikely to know other foreigners once we move to Kondo. John is making friends and *slowly* learning how to think about maybe possibly sharing toys with a handful of other expat toddlers who we spend time with three mornings a week. These playgroups are a huge answer to prayer and have facilitated a “soft landing” in Tanzania.

Further golden advice we received was that many Tanzanians assume foreigners don’t want to interact, and therefore we should take a silent look as an invitation to make the first move. Time and again, broad smiles and friendly exchanges follow what might have seemed like a stony stare at first. I’m grateful for advice from those who have gone before! Anyone else have some wisdom to share? About cross-cultural living, moving, transition, or toddler life? I’d really love to hear your stories if you have time to write back!

Finally, while we’ve received enough financial support to get started, we’re still fundraising to meet our full budget. So, if you’ve been wanting to give, we would massively appreciate your financial support at this time. We also want to recognise the huge economic upheaval back home in the UK, so please hear this as an invitation to give *if* you have that desire and ability. We know it’s a challenging time, and we truly value your moral and prayer support just as much as your financial gifts.

So, as we say goodbye for now – and perhaps until Kondo – we bless you in Jesus’ name to be faithful in whatever he has called you to in this season.

Christine, David and John Torrance



**Photos from top to bottom:** Karibuni nyumbani – welcome home!; John’s play corner; our apartment – pardon the tent fort in the foreground!; feeding chickens at Monday playgroup



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