



# Christine and David Torrance

Link Letter no. 5 | December 2022

Contact details:  
torrances@protonmail.com



**Location:** Tanzania



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

Dear friends,

Can you believe we've been in Iringa for nearly three months? Thank you for every prayer and every penny you've blessed us with, because we wouldn't be here without you.

I'm especially excited to experience Christmas here. Of course, I love a hot cuppa by the fire, the crunch of leaves and a crisp, bright morning. But I don't miss the bustle, the spending or the "festive do's" of back home! Maybe it's the introvert in me, but I prefer the quiet of a winter walk to the buzz of a holiday party. I love slowing down and focusing in on the basics.

This year, I'm entirely captivated by the thought that a young man and his fiancée took some blankets and swaddled up God.

Can't you just imagine them faffing about with the cloths? Maybe they had to try 15 times because Jesus kept Houdini-ing his right arm out, or because the *first* corner was supposed to go *there* before that last one could tuck in *here*. Maybe they argued about it because they were so tired and maybe they laughed together over their tiny baby burrito. I'm sure on the one hand it was just ordinary new parent stuff. But on the other hand, they wrapped God up snug as a bug so he'd be quiet and go to sleep.

They swaddled *God*.

I just can't get my head around it. I probably never will, and I don't really know a "main point" to share with you about it. That's just what's on my heart today, the deadline for getting this letter to you by Christmas!

Well, there is one thing it makes me think about actually. From a passage we read at church or Bible study a couple of weeks ago, in Isaiah chapter 57 (within verses 14-21 if you want to find them):

"For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:  
I dwell in the high and holy place,  
and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit. (...)  
Peace, peace to the far and the near, says the LORD, and I will heal them."

I just love the incomprehensible vastness of the phrase, "the one who inhabits eternity," right alongside the plain and even offensive notion of God sitting next to us in the dirt of humanity as we humbly consider our broken state. That the God of the "high and holy" would offer me peace when I'm considered near to him is



Merry Christmas: Welcome, Jesus

**Support Christine and David Torrance:**  
[churchmissionsociety.org/torrance](http://churchmissionsociety.org/torrance)

**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**

miraculous enough – but that he has wholeheartedly determined to dwell with me when I'm far away? The beauty of it breaks me with gratitude and wonder.

However much or little you can relate to these highly inarticulate thoughts, I pray that you will experience peace, joy, and quiet, holy moments in the coming weeks, and a very blessed Christmas with your closest ones. Peace to you – far or near!

**To close, a few more “mundane” updates from us:**

- ▶ David has now been to Kondoa (riding up and back across three days in the cab of a vegetable delivery truck!) and been able to meet Bishop Given and his wife Lilian, as well as some of the other ex-pats there from Africa Inland Mission. This was a blessing in a number of ways; not only the chance to finally meet our hosts, but also to see our new home, which the Diocese of Kondoa has been preparing for us. We hope the house will be ready for us to move sometime in January, but we'll keep you posted!
- ▶ Our regional manager, Joan Busolo, is coming to visit at the end of November (during Thanksgiving, actually!). We're so excited to finally meet, as she's been a huge encouragement to us both before moving and while settling in.
- ▶ Our tourist visa will expire during the first week of December, so we're planning to visit Kondoa with Joan and then drive together to Nairobi on her way home, so that we can then re-enter on a new tourist visa while we wait for the outcome of our applications for work permits.

I also wanted to thank you for writing to us! I'm sorry it often takes me a few weeks to respond, just due to mom-life, but I have so appreciated the encouragement, connection and advice. Keep 'em coming! We love hearing from you.

Every blessing, Christine, David and John

**Prayers:**

**For us:**

- ▶ Please join us in thanking and praising God for the gifts of friends, fellowship with other believers and abundant provision of all we could need here.
- ▶ We're asking for wisdom regarding the new house, and how we can best make the needed repairs before moving, without delaying our arrival beyond what's necessary.

**For others:**

- ▶ More awareness of God's love and presence for those who know Jesus but are hungry for more of him (including us!) – because there is *a/ways* more, and always enough.
- ▶ Thanksgiving for the beautiful example of unity at our local inter-denominational fellowship.



*Photos from top to bottom: Neighbourhood “safari” at a local hotel; We’re thankful for affordable, local food: the eggs and chard are from next-door; Appreciating stillness and quiet during a (rare!) early morning walk; View from a friends’ car at Ruaha National Park.*



**Going further with Church Mission Society**

**Stories from the edges:** Find out how God is meeting people on the edges around the world through CMS people in mission. **Go to [churchmissionsociety.org/stories](https://churchmissionsociety.org/stories)**

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email [supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org) or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a mission community acknowledged by the Church of England. Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).