



<https://www.lcms.org/payne>

## Culture Bites

Here you will find a small sample, tiny nibble or little bite of some of the things we are learning about Tanzania.

If you have watched The Lion King, you have heard *Hakuna Matata*, which the movie states; “it means no worries.” While this phrase is used in Kenya, it isn’t actually used here in Tanzania. If you want to say, “there is no problem,” you would say, “*Hakuna Shida*.” You could also say, “*Hapana Shida*” which means “no problem.” Or better yet, you could say, “*Hamna shida*.” This actually means “no worries.” All three of these are used often with a little nuance, but *hamna shida* is used the most in many different situations. So, *Hamna Shida*, it means no worries, for the rest of our days!



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# Lost in Translations

Dear Friends and Family,

*“...the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished...” (Acts 2:6-7).*

The Payne family is now doing their best to get lost in translations of Swahili and English! We have completed half our language training and are loving every minute of it!



The Paynes with their language teachers Steward, Naomi and Upendo.

A typical weekday for us looks like this: We rise around 6:40 a.m. so we can get ourselves ready to go to school. We eat breakfast together before we walk down to the main road to catch transport to town where our language classes are held. The children learn together in one class while Bryan and Keah learn together in another. We have three language teachers, and they rotate between the classes so that we can hear and learn different accents. After two hours of learning and practicing it is 10 a.m. which is tea time here! Everyone from the non-profit next door takes their tea time near our classroom. People come around with various homemade foods for sale. We typically get *chapatis* (like flour tortillas) or *mandazi* (almost like donut holes with less sugar).

Our language classes continue on after our tea time for another two hours having us end around 12:30 p.m. Our language teachers encourage us to move about freely around town and to the markets to practice speaking Swahili. So a couple days a week we might walk around town and chat with people, but most days we head home for lunch. We eat lunch together as a family, typically just peanut butter sandwiches, chips and some yummy fruit.

In the afternoons we do our homework and try to rest a bit around our host family’s home. They have space for the kids to run and climb and play. The big boulders here remind us of the boulders of the Wichita Mountains in Lawton, Oklahoma. The kids are typically covered in dirt and sand by dinner time. Again, we eat as a family sometimes trying Tanzanian foods! One of the kids favorites is the *Ugali* which is Tanzania’s staple food made from maize flour. One of their less favorite foods is called *dagaa*. It is minnow sized fish, which are caught, sun dried and then cooked to rehydrate them. They are cooked with onion and tomato. When Rory saw dinner that night she stated, “their little eyes are staring at me!” Dalton followed with, “We have to eat all the bones too?” We have been asking the children to always try everything at least one bite, so they did eat *dagaa*, eyes and bones!



Rory and Dalton walking down the path.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our minds to comprehend the language of Swahili so we can better communicate for the mission set before us.
- Health as we are now in Africa.

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The birthdays of Rory and Bryan.
- Making it halfway through language training.
- The hospitality we have been shown throughout our travels.

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for, encourage and support us in so many ways, such as you!



All the friends Rory shared her cake with.

In the evenings after dinner we have some quiet time where the kids have been drawing or writing, Bryan reading and Keah doing some embroidery. This time is followed by showers or at least leg washing before tucking the kids into their beds and mosquito nets. We go to sleep to the local evening and night sounds of Iringa quieting

down. If we're lucky a gentle rain may sing us to sleep, but it may also be the dogs barking and crickets chirping.

There are Muslims here in this part of Tanzania, and therefore, we hear the calls to prayer very loudly every day. We use these as reminders for us to also pray for these people. God hears our prayers, and we are so thankful for all of you who are supporting our family through your prayer! We have been relatively healthy and adjusting slowly to this new country.

You can check out [our Facebook page](#) for more pictures and highlights. Also, don't forget to check out the podcast, "5 Minutes with a Missionary," at this [link](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts. We will be in Season 6.

God's Peace,

Rev. Bryan, Dcs. Keah, Rory, & Dalton

## Kids' Corner

This is a month of birthdays for our family. Rory and Bryan both are gaining another year! In Swahili classes we learned to sing Happy Birthday in Swahili to surprise Rory during tea time the day of her Birthday! We also had cake, and if you remember one of our first culture bites about sharing cake, Rory got to share her birthday cake with all the workers who have tea near our classroom. Rory also baked a cake which we shared with our host family.



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](https://lcms.org/service).

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rev. Bryan and Dcs. Keah Payne. Make checks payable to:

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