

## Summer UPDATE — 2022

It's hard to believe that the year is half over! Here are some glimpses of what 2022 has held for us so far here in Papua New Guinea (PNG)!

### January/February:

As per our February newsletter, we were able to finally return to PNG after 3 other failed attempts! We continue to be so grateful to be back where the Lord has called us and press on to finish the task He has asked us to do!

\*Refer to February newsletter on our website if you want more details about our trip and what we encountered on our return!

### March:

Kim was able to spend three weeks in Malasiga village, and then fly by helicopter back to Ukarumpa for our Branch Conference in mid-March. Some of you may have seen on Facebook the report of his findings... BIG NEWS was that for the first time in probably 20 years there were NO RATS! What a gracious gift on his return, especially considering that he found most of our major equipment to be non-functional! Solar batteries dead, radio antenna broken, water tank empty with broken pipes and spigot, plus many other issues – meaning no power, no water, no radio usage. Thankfully the cell tower in the next village was up and running so we could communicate by phone. Amazingly, he was able to have parts sent out from the nearest town by boat and repair most things during his time out there.

Conference meetings brought us many helpful and encouraging reports of God at work throughout the country even with the hindrances and disappointments during the “COVID” years of 2020-2022. We celebrated with great joy the Scripture publications in print, audio, and video that were completed in the past 3 years!

### April:

After Conference, both of us flew out to the village together. Although it was a bit of a challenge adjusting back to village life after being away for over 1 ½ years, we did have a very productive few months. Kim and the Tami work teams made great progress doing advisor checks (Kim meets with the co-translators and compares their first drafts to Greek, the language in which they were written), language checks (teams read through translated Scripture with Kim and make sure it is good Tami!), and village checks (teams respond to comprehension questions).

The ladies' Bible study did not start up this time out, but I (Annie) hope to begin again in October when I return to the village. Helping Kim with language work kept me quite busy! I was able to complete the back translation of 5 NT books. Also, Pastor Ongengsa and I finished the revision of Matthew. The day we finished, I recorded a message from him that he wanted those who sent us to hear. The translation of some of what he said is as follows: “The work of translating the Word, it is very good work! I do work with Annie and Kim and I see that when

the Word is in my language, it becomes clear. I am very happy about the translation work - that the Lord's Good News has come in the Tami language, in my own tongue."

It was such a blessing to be able to do daily life with two of our grown Tami 'children' who have mostly lived away for the past 15 years or so. Both Morea and Gawot grew up with our kids, calling us "Mother" and "Father". Now, Morea (below) lives next door with his wife and young son. He has been a huge help to Kim with daily issues that come up and need his muscles! 😊 Morea is also now a part of one of the checking teams and says he is so very happy to be helping to finish this translation project.

Morea's sister, Gawot, also has come back to live next door with her young son. She was my best language teacher when she was a child. She is a delightful young woman whom we love dearly. Megan actually led her to faith in Jesus when they were girls. Having her nearby helps fill the empty space in my heart that misses my own girls so very much! Plus, she does our laundry! 😊

### **May:**

In mid-May we joyfully welcomed the arrival of our 9th grandchild! Noah Ilirian Stambolliu was born to Megan, Ilir, Isaiah and Analia.

It is wonderful to have an upgraded cell tower in the next village now, which allowed us to meet Noah within minutes of his birth! It was such fun to make video calls and be able to show many of the other grandkids around the Tami village where we live! They were excited to see images which their mothers had told them about – out-rigger canoes parked behind our house, coconut palms all around us, grass roofed houses, huge crab holes, little brown skin children huddled around the phone screen wanting to see their faces and say “mbung mong lamec” (good morning)!

### **June:**

In early June we flew back up to the mountains for the 'winter' months at Ukarumpa while we wait for the rainy season to calm down on the coast. We are grateful for the new terminal recently built at the airstrip. Now we have a place to wait out of the sun or rain for our plane to arrive. Before there was literally not even a tree to sit underneath! Over the next few months Kim will be working on final preparations for consultant checking of 7 NT books in August. Two men from the Tami Islands will be coming up to Ukarumpa for that checking. I will continue to work on the back translation of Hebrews, and then Matthew. I would also like to have a study ready to begin with the Tami women in October. Please ask the Lord to direct me as to what they currently need to hear!

On a fun family note... On June 4, my 86-year old mother married the best friend of my dad (who died in 2010). They went to high school together and the men played football together. George and Mom were married in the same church where they each had married their first spouses over 60 years ago! A very sweet story.

For those who might find it interesting 😊, here is a short glimpse into the task of back translation (vernacular to English) of Hebrews 4:16 ~

### **TAMI:**

Baitale ŋgit taêna tatangai pa Anôtô ne lepoŋ kinik ka, kip alec yei njô, ma kip tale kip ŋga ŋgit sai sumoŋ ka le, ma ŋgit tamatat mamon. Ŋgit taêna yei ne mai tanga yei ne katemôc nalam pa ningit ma tanga yei ne ŋga sai sumoŋ ka nalam pa ningit nawin, mai yei nanga ŋgit nasai ka ndeŋ dim mapapac nawaja pa ŋgit nen.

**BACK TRANSLATION (VE):**

Therefore, we go near to God's king chair, the place that he sits, and that place is the place of free help (grace), and we must not fear. We go to him in order to receive his broken heart (sorrow/mercy/compassion) coming to us and receive his free help coming to us also, so that he will help us at the time troubles/burdens will come to us.

- Praise the Lord with us for the good progress made on the translation checking in these past few months
- Praise that we were able to replace our ancient Mazda pickup with a 1996 Pajero in great shape.
- Ask the Lord to give wisdom and direction to Annie as she prepares the next Bible study for the Tami ladies.
- Pray for wisdom and clear thinking for Kim, our consultants, and the 2 Tami men coming to do the upcoming consultant checking and hopefully audio recording of 7 more NT books, August 8-26. There are still many details to be sorted out for travels, scheduling, etc. One of our consultants will be working remotely from the States, which requires a different kind of planning!
- The two young Tami men who will be here with us in August have not been involved before in any of the translation work. Please ask the Lord to use His Word in their lives powerfully as they encounter it in a pretty intense way over the month!
- Thanks to the Lord for keeping us healthy! Please keep praying about that!
- The husband of another of our Tami daughters has been quite ill and has just been sent home from the local hospital, basically to await his death. They have 5 young children. Please pray for Masina and her family. There have been many unexplained deaths in the village over the past couple years. The hospital tells them they can't find any sickness, but the people call it 'sibalak mala ka'- or 'village sickness'. In their worldview, often this implies spirits of the jungle. Please pray against the evil one and his attacks!
- Please pray for wisdom as we prioritize the numerous repairs needing to be done both for our house at Ukarumpa and in the village.

Thanks so much for your continued friendship and partnership with us both in finances and in prayer!

Love to all with many blessings,

*Kim & Annie Colich*