

Dear Family and Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It is a season of **NEWNESS** among the Tami!

NEW LIGHT In John 12:8, Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Over 100 years ago, the LIGHT first came to the Tami. A number of years before that a huge star (meteor) fell on a beach of the Tami Islands. They say it was preparing the way for the German missionaries who brought the LIGHT of the Gospel to them, coming ashore in their canoe on the very beach front where the star had fallen. In November, the Island villages gathered on that same beach, and heard the words of LIGHT from the Gospel of John in their own language for the first time. As Pastor Ongenga shared these words, he called his people to come back to the Living Water, to the Light that their ancestors had received with faith and obedience, but that this current generation has turned away from. He said, “We have a new chance! Another LIGHT has come to us on the beach in Malasiga! Kim and Annie came to bring the light of God’s talk in our own language. God in them cries out to us to COME BACK!”



NEW JOY “I am just dust, an insignificant man. But as I spoke to my people, and read God’s words in our own language, I felt the Holy Spirit pour out from me and ‘hit’ the people. They received God’s talk with great joy and weeping. While we were singing our joy was so great that we wanted to cry out!” Pastor Ongenga

NEW UNDERSTANDING One Tami leader said, “When I read the Bible in another language I need someone to explain it to me. Now reading this book of John in Tami it is clear, ‘out in the open’. It explains itself!” An old ‘father’ of the Tami people cried as he said, “I desire that these words go to the ears and hearts of every Tami man on these islands. I have been waiting for this time.”



NEW LIFE “The words I have spoken to you are spirit, and they are Life.” We saw the power of God’s Words bring new life to a Tami man this year. Angam was a man far away from God. Yet when his wife shared with him Scriptures in his own language from a Bible study Annie was doing with the women, he began to hear the Lord calling to him. He came to the next study, ‘hiding’ in the back corner of the church, and listened to the teaching about the love of God, and his life has not been the same since. His wife told me that she WATCHED his face physically change during the study as the Word of Life brought him alive! She jumped with joy, hands raised up to heaven as she said to me, “Thank you, Jesus! Look at him! He is a new man!”



NEW LEADERSHIP God’s ways are beyond finding out.... Through some amazing circumstances, Angam was recently elected the new Translation Committee Chairman! His new life brought an immediate new desire to serve the Lord. He has jumped in with both feet and is already having a noticeable impact on the work and the workers! He said, “We MUST make this

translation a number one priority, helping Kim and Annie to finish this work! Then, they can leave us.” 😊

NEW OWNERSHIP Finally, after years and years of fruitless attempts, a larger number of people are beginning to understand that this Bible Translation project is THEIRS! It is NOT just something that Kim and Annie are doing. It is THEIR ‘CHILD’, therefore THEY must take care of it! We have been told, “We get it in our hearts now, that WE are the ‘fathers’ (owners) of this work!”

NEW COMMITMENT Philip said, “I am so sorry that I have wasted so much time just walking past the house watching Kim and Annie doing what I thought was THEIR work. Now that I am part of a checking team and see what this work is really about, I have given my heart totally to the translation work!”
Yabem said, “We should all sit down and work with Kim and Annie on this translation. It is like going to Bible School! It will help us.”



NEW HELP Angam’s wife, Aikiba, has joined with Annie to do the back translation! This is something we have been praying about for many years. She is a retired community school teacher and has excellent understanding of English. Annie was able to do some training with her over the past few months and she is doing a great job!

Please give thanks with us for all this **NEW**ness the Lord has brought about! Praise His holy name!

Also please pray for:

- 📖 Pastor Ongensa who will join us at Ukarumpa for a week or so to finish revising Luke
- 😊 Annie as she heads to the States mid-February to be with Megan until the end of March as she delivers a baby girl!
- 💻 Kim as he tries to recover unbacked-up data from his hard drive – that just died.

We love you. We couldn’t persevere without your faithfulness in praying and giving.

Kim & Annie