

**December 4, 2013**

Dear Family and Friends,

“We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.” {Proverbs 16:9, NLT}

FALL PLANS: how it all turned out...

We had a busy schedule planned through the end of the year, and it has turned out to be even busier than we anticipated...

Kim had difficulty arranging for a ride to the coastal town of Lae and so was unable to get there until the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. The solar equipment and the panels had to be unpacked from the crate and repackaged with cardboard and plywood attached to each of the 6 panels. That and the gathering of other needed supplies took a full week of long days to “get ‘er done”. Once he got to Malasiga village he started to de-rat the place once again (and hopefully for the last time... ☺), make arrangements with a boat to get Annie the following week, and assemble what would be needed there for the installation of the new solar system the week after her arrival.

The airstrip had been officially closed as Kim took off from Finschhafen in May and we didn't know if the grass had been cut yet, thus making it ready to be reopened or not. And yet God's timing is impeccable! As it turns out the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea was scheduled to visit Finschhafen in early November and so the airstrip, entire town, and environs underwent a rather major 'makeover' to prepare for his coming. Thus the airstrip was in the best shape it had been in for the last 15 years, just in time for Annie's arrival October 3<sup>rd</sup>!

In mid-October two men (Loren & John) who work at Ukarumpa came out to the village for a week and installed our new solar power system. It is wonderful to now have enough power to do everything we need to do. Even if we get some rainy days we can keep on going (for a while at any rate), whereas with the old system no sun would shut us down. We are so grateful for their willingness to give up a week to do this major project for us. Thanks guys!

Then in November a team of 6 arrived from Grace Fellowship Church in Kentucky, to do some major house repair projects. They were with us in the village for 9 days. We are so very thankful for the enormous amount of work they did! We have new wooden siding on our exterior walls now and it looks great. We are very hopeful that this will put a stop to what has been unending cleanup and repair work each time after the rats have done what they do best – destroy things and make messes. Hopefully this new siding will also keep the bees from making hives in our walls again and invading our rooms. A week before the team arrived an errant bee was buzzing around Annie's head and then dive bombed her, stinging her in the middle of the chest. She had a rather unpleasant reaction in the surrounding skin that lasted many days. This last time after spraying and killing off hundreds of them, I removed the outer wall portion and cut down 4 honey combs they had constructed inside the wall (my apologies to those of you who are bee lovers).

We are currently back at Ukarumpa and leave tomorrow for Brisbane Australia for Annie to have her required checkup with the oncologist. We will get to spend some time there with family friends and also see some friends who were in PNG when we first arrived, but who've been gone from here for many

years. It will also be a nice opportunity to do some Christmas shopping ☺. We will return to PNG to celebrate Christmas with friends at Ukarumpa.

Our current plans are for Kim to return to Malasiga in February with Annie to follow a couple of weeks later. We hope to get back to translation and literacy and remain in the village then until late May or early June.

We have much to give thanks for as we look back on 2013. The Lord's lovingkindness indeed never ceases – great is His faithfulness. And thanks to each of you for your faithfulness to us in keeping in touch, praying, and giving. We could not be here without you.

A very Merry Christmas to you all!

Kim & Annie