

## October 2021 UPDATE

*A few of you will have already read the following disclaimer. Unfortunately, many, many of you will be reading this for the first time. Since our last update in February (which most of you didn't receive until April), I've learned that my "fix" did NOT take care of our database address list problem. I think I have it fixed now, and hopefully all who are wanting to receive this prayer letter update will get this current one.*

*You see, my hard drive died in 2019 and somehow our email database became corrupted, only I didn't realize that at the time. This corruption was uncovered earlier this year, and while fixing it, I discovered a couple of other 'issues' that meant quite a number of you have NOT been getting our updates for a long, **long** time. If you are one who is in this category, please forgive this unfortunate lapse of communication with you – assuredly, it was unintended.*

*I have spent many, many hours fixing the uncovered issues, as well as trying to delete duplicates in the database. I have since discovered that there was an additional problem that inadvertently eliminated many names from our "send to" list – including some supporters who have partnered with us since the beginning of our ministry. If you are one of these, please forgive our lack of communication. If you would like to receive previous updates, please email me at [kim\\_colich@sil.org](mailto:kim_colich@sil.org). Thanks so much!*

Per our last newsletter, we made plans to travel back to Papua New Guinea (PNG) in September. We had flights booked, tickets purchased, and bags packed (mostly! 😊) for a September 28 departure. Kim had been dealing with increasingly difficult neck pain issues and tingling down his left arm into his hand for a month or so before this. We kept hoping he could get the pain under control with meds and therapy, however this proved unsuccessful. A week before our planned travel dates, we made the very difficult decision to postpone our departure. After visits with both ortho and neuro surgeons, x-rays, MRI, and nerve pain tests, it was discovered that there were a couple of compressed disks and pinched nerves. Thankfully, the neurosurgeon had an opening, and he is scheduled to have surgery on October 11 to remove a cyst and a disk and then fuse the C5 and C6 vertebra together. He has been put on medical leave through the end of the year. We are hopeful that we will be able to head back to PNG early in the New Year. Right now, COVID seems to be escalating again there in PNG. Travel restrictions are being reinstated in and out of high-risk provinces, one of which is in the Eastern Highlands where our mission center is located.

### **Summer Review:**

We have spent the last seven months in Hampton, Virginia. This area was our home pre-PNG, where all three of our girls were born, and where our sending church is located. Our intentions have been to resettle here when it comes time for retirement. But the Lord led and made a way for us to actually purchase a house in preparation for that

time. What a blessing it has been to have a home now, as well as to have a place ready for us when we DO retire in perhaps 3-5 years!

It has been such a joy to be back at our church for an extended time. We have had opportunities to meet new people, renew old friendships, serve the Church body in children's ministry, and participate in retreats, women's Bible study, and a weekly men's discipleship group. We are very thankful for the encouragement and refreshment these months have provided for us!

In June, we attempted an "experiment," using ZOOM to do translation checking with some of our Tami coworkers. Three Tami men traveled to the town of Lae and met with Kim online to do the checking of the book of Romans. Timing and logistics were a bit tricky, but we were able to successfully complete the check. These dear Tami friends were very excited to have the chance to do this work with us and to interact together in this way!

Highlights of the summer included entertaining many visiting family members! Wonderful memories were made with Larissa and family at the beach, Megan and family at Busch Gardens, and Kim's sister in Williamsburg. Annie also was able to have some vacation travels with her 3 sisters, brother, and mom.

We are so thankful for:

- This "extra" time to be with family!
- For this house that the Lord provided for us to purchase
- For faithful partners in this ministry, who support us in prayer & financially, in friendship & love

Please pray:

- For skill and discernment for the surgeon as he operates on Kim's neck
- For full recovery for Kim and patience for both of us through that process
- For the Lord to clearly direct our steps as we plan (again) to return to PNG, this time in Jan 2022

Please note our US phone #s: Kim: (859) 910-7603, Annie: (859) 910-7604. 😊

Thanks for your commitment to us, to the Tami people, and for your continued partnership and encouragement. We couldn't do this work without you.

Love to all,

Kim and Annie