

February 11, 2011 – Colich Chronicles: update September 2010 - February 2011, to the US & back again

# The Colich Chronicles

February 2011

Dear Friends and family,

We appreciate so much those of you who have supported us in so many ways during this season of loss and challenging events. We are now back in PNG at Ukarumpa, hoping to secure some much needed down time and try to recover a bit before heading back out to the village sometime later this month. Following is an update, briefly covering the many issues that the Lord has brought into our lives over the past few months.

I returned to Malasiga in September 2010, and the house had numerous repair issues that needed immediate attention – mainly leaks. Most of the house repairs were able to be done by a village carpenter (the same one who originally built much of the house). I was not particularly happy with the outcome but at least we got the roof fixed and the house stayed dry after a major rain.

Annie joined me 3 weeks later. She began her literacy classes again and I got back to the translation. Annie ended up having classes 3 days a week with over 40 participants. I was able to finish Matthew and Luke. We now have about 64% of the New Testament in rough draft and advisor checked.

One of our co-translators, Amoi, had been sick for some time and we got her to a hospital. She has now been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. She is much improved after starting on some medication. We have no idea what the future will look like for her. She thought she was going to die while we were away for so long, but she believes the Lord spoke to her and told her she still had much work to finish with us before He takes her home to Heaven.

One of our village daughters (and Megan's best friend growing up), who had married into a different language group elsewhere in the country, was being beaten by her husband and threatened with a bush knife. At much expense in finances and time, Annie and I put together a 'rescue plan' to get her along with her four children back to Malasiga where she could be protected. This plan was compromised and did not take place before we had to leave the country.

About a week before we were scheduled to leave, one of our co-workers turned on us, shouting unkind things and making demands for compensation. This individual said they were through with us. They did not cooperate with Kim's attempts to talk through these complaints. This individual is a good friend among the Tami. What a shock the whole situation was to us!

Three days before we were scheduled to leave, we received word that my (Kim's) dad had suddenly died. We were evacuated from the village the next morning to Ukarumpa. We had 2 hours to unpack and pack again to leave for the capital city and get a flight out of PNG to the States.

We arrived in Norwalk, Ohio, to a temperature of 6 degrees. It was 93 in Malasiga when we left! Thus began a whirlwind of activity for 5 weeks. It was a bittersweet time of reliving old memories but a great time with our family – especially the grandkids.

We wrestled much with whether we should return so quickly, but PNG requirements for work permits and visa renewal weighed heavy on us – and our PNG administration “highly recommended” that we be back in the country prior to the end of January. And so we’re back. We still are uncertain of our exact plans both short term and long term. Please lift these needs before the Throne of Grace on our behalf:

- For God to give us a time of rest and renewal before we return to the village.
- For the on-going grieving process as Annie's father passed away last May, Kim's father in Dec.
- For God to work in our friend’s heart – the co-worker who turned against us.
- For God's peace and wisdom as we commit this situation to Him and seek lasting reconciliation.
- For our co-translator, Amoi, who has Parkinson’s Disease. She desires to continue translating.
- For endurance as we forge ahead to get all the checking steps done so that we can publish the four Gospels and Acts as a single volume.
- For the health and strength to carry on with the repair work on the village house.
- That God would provide for our financial needs. The supplies for the house repairs and plane tickets for the trip back to the States in December were rather expensive.

Thanks for your partnership with us. We could not be here doing this without you.

Kim & Annie

**Kim and Annie Colich**

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