

## Winter/Spring UPDATE — January 2018

Dear Friends and Family

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all you dear friends and family! We have enjoyed a few weeks of rest and fun with friends here in the cool, wet highlands, as we celebrated our Savior's birth over the Christmas holidays. Now it is time to head back out to Malasiga village again. Kim will leave in mid-February and Annie will follow 3 or so weeks later. We will return to Ukarumpa in mid-May, and prepare to leave on furlough a few weeks later. Although our furlough is still 5 months away (we hope to leave here on June 8th), we need to begin planning the specifics for our travels, as well as for living arrangements and itinerary while we are in the states. Pray that our plans would be God's plans for those 6 months in the USA and that the details would fall into place with as little "drama" and stress as possible!



We are trusting the Lord that if all goes as planned, we will complete the rough draft of the entire New Testament in March! Pray for health and wisdom for the translation team to press on and see this work FINISHED! Besides finishing the draft, we also have just over 50% of the New Testament consultant-checked and ready for publishing with the remaining books at various stages of checking in between. The end is in sight! Only by His grace and strength! Thank you, Jesus.

In April several 'Scripture Use' workers from Ukarumpa will join us in Malasiga to hold a 8-10 day workshop called "Culture Meets Scripture". We really believe it is God's timing to hold this workshop now, challenging the Tami community to evaluate the cultural norms that often dictate their choices in light of the Truths of God's Word. We will be using the translated Scriptures for this workshop, so it will be another great opportunity for more people to encounter the Word of God in their heart language and have the chance to try reading it, some for the first time. We are believing that this will be a significant event for the Tami! Please be praying with us as we prepare.

A huge "THANK YOU, LORD" piece of news is that Pastor Ongengsa has gotten permission to remain in the village and work with us for yet another year before he is posted to a new church! He is playing such a valuable part in this work, both the translation itself (he has drafted Hebrews, and finished Romans!) as well as preaching and teaching from the Tami Scriptures. We thank God for this precious brother and co-worker! This means, however, that he spends another year with no income other than the few kina we give him for each work session and an occasional small offering from the congregation. Pray for peace and provision for him and his wife concerning this!

Thank you for your faithfulness in praying and giving. We love you. 😊

Kim & Annie

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