

Dear Family and Friends,

Happy New Year to you all! We, probably like many of you, have taken some time as we begin a new year to think, discuss, and pray about what God has for us in 2015. A common theme has been how short our life is here on this earth. Psalm 39:4 says, "Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered- how fleeting my life is." We are grateful for friends who challenged us early in our marriage to "give your lives to things that are eternal". That list is fairly short! - God Himself (Isaiah 43:13 From eternity to eternity, I AM GOD.), His Word (1 Peter 1:25 The Word of the Lord remains forever.) and the souls of people (Ecclesiastes 3:11 God has planted eternity in the human heart.). So as we start another year, we want to publically say THANK YOU to the Eternal God for calling us to this life's work of giving His living Word, WHICH ENDURES FOREVER, to the Tami people of PNG. May their eternal futures involve enjoying God forever, as they hear and believe the Good News of redemption through Jesus Christ!



2014 was mainly all about John ☺. We completed a "language check" of this Gospel, which really ended up being a revision of the rough draft done over 10 years ago. This involved a group of 12 Tami men and women who sat with Kim day after day to read through the book S L O W L Y, examining the Tami words chosen to best communicate these precious truths. Next came the "back translation", where Annie translated the Tami text back into English as literally as possible. This step uncovered some questions that Kim discussed with our co-translators and got cleared up before the village checking was done. Kim did this check while Annie was in the States with Megan. Now we are ready for the consultant check, which will be done here at Ukarumpa in early February. Two Tami men will be coming in from Malasiga Village to do this with us and our translation consultant. When this is finished, John will be ready for publishing! Before we send it to the printer though, our plan is to first do an audio recording of John in April. In an oral society, often mistakes in the translated texts aren't uncovered until they HEAR it being read. A friend who is involved in doing a lot of recording here in PNG advised us to get the audio version out into the community for a while and see how people respond before putting it into print. So we are taking his advice!

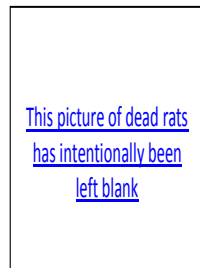


ANNIE'S TRIP TO USA:

Thank you for your prayers for me as I flew to the USA in October. I had a wonderful time catching up with the girls and their families. Lots of precious grandkid hugs and stories and play time. At one point I wondered if there were any other grandmas in the world crawling around on the floor playing “catch the rats and throw them into the ocean” with their 3 year old grandson, though! Baby Isaiah William Stambolliu was welcomed into the family on October 31. What a joy it was to be there with Megan and Ilir for this event! The whole family was together for Thanksgiving, and then celebrated Christmas the next day. Great memories! We sure missed Grampa Kim, though. His story was not quite as fun...

KIM'S VILLAGE ADVENTURES

And why do you think Grandma Annie was playing “catch the rats and throw them into the ocean”?...☺ Well, when I got to Malasiga I was greeted with an obnoxious aroma when I opened the front door, and my heart sank – RATS! Last Fall we had a team of folks come from Grace Fellowship Church in Florence, KY, to install solid wood on the walls of our village house. I thought our ‘rat days’ were finally over – silly me. They found a few holes and the first one in put up a “Vacancy” sign. By the time I plugged the last hole, caught my last rat and threw it into the ocean the body count was at 26. Good riddance! But it was a whole lot of work and sleepless nights while they had the upper hand in the battle. [Did you know rats can chew through Action Packers?!]



The major goal of my time in the village was to get the village check of John done out on the Tami Islands. We ended up not being able to do that in the islands’ villages due to a number of issues relating to sorcery. A Tami man and his sons have accused three Tami men of killing five other Tami people using poison (magic). The one who is perpetrating these allegations recently stated at a public meeting that he did not believe God’s word and did not trust what it says. This has generated a lot of fear and questions in the community. During this time I was reading in Hebrews 12 and came to verse 15, “Look after each other so that none of you will miss out on the special favor of God. Watch out that no bitter root of unbelief rises up among you, for whenever it springs up, many are corrupted by its poison.” It seemed to me that the **real** poison in this situation is unbelief. And indeed it is working at corrupting many. May the Lord reveal Himself and His Truth to the Tami – even in a supernatural way among those who are in chains of unbelief.

It seemed like our “enemy” was making numerous attempts at preventing the village checking from happening. But, praise the Lord, we did get it completed, finishing the last verses the day before I left!

LOOKING AHEAD:

Our current plan is to head back to the USA in July this year for a 7 month furlough. An overview of our possible itinerary looks like this:

Mid July-August	time in Kentucky and Michigan with kids and grandkids, and “home away from home” at Grace Community Chapel
Early September	visit a supporting church in New England

Mid-Sep –mid December in Virginia with our home church, Peninsula Community Chapel
Christmas back to Kentucky with family
January Missions Conference in Virginia; trip to Florida to visit Annie’s mother
February 2016 Back to PNG

Please give thanks with us:

- Our support has been at or above budget for this entire field term!
- God continues to give us grace, strength and health to press on!

And pray:



- That all this talk of poison will cease and God’s Truth would prevail.
- For the Consultant Check of John to go well and that the 2 Tami men will arrive without incident.
- The Gospel of John will bring forth fruit in the hearts of the Tami, both in written and oral formats.
- The Lord will go before us and give us His wisdom as we work on finalizing furlough plans.

FLASH-UPDATE: The Administration here just issued the following Public Statement:

Ukarumpa International School is in urgent need of teachers for the upcoming school year and beyond. Opportunities are available in most subjects and age levels from preschool up to the end of high school, with teachers for grades 3-6 being the highest priority need from June 2015; administrative/leadership positions are also available. Visit www.uispng.org, see our video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uFwFYNvcyw>, or email hr-UISrecruiter@sil.org.pg for more information on supporting the work of Bible translation in Papua New Guinea by teaching Missionary Kids.

Thanks for beginning a new year with us, faithfully praying and giving so we can continue to be here bringing the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the Tami people. Thanks for sticking with us. We hope to see many of you when we’re in the States later this year. We love and appreciate you so much.

Kim & Annie

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(Include a separate note "For the ministry of Kim & Annie Colich.)