

Summer UPDATE — June 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

We have just returned to Ukarumpa after a long stay in the village (March 22-June 3). Our hearts are full of joy, and we want to give praise and thanks to God for the many wonderful things He did for us and through us and among the Tami during the past few months!

SCRIPTURE IN USE

Translating the Scriptures is NOT the ultimate goal we are striving towards. Many completed Bible translations are gathering dust on shelves or sitting in boxes... unused and unable to offer any HELP to those who would understand their life-giving words. We want to give the Tami God's Words in their own heart language, to be USED, so their lives and community will be CHANGED, to the glory of God! This was my (Annie) heart's cry as I went to Malasiga several months ago. We were about to publish the Gospel of John, and I wanted to help my Tami friends learn to read it better, understand what it says, and apply it to their lives. During my first week there the Lord gave me a "plan!" I asked if I could do the teaching for the next 2 months during our weekly womens' church meetings. I began writing a Bible study on the "I AM" statements that Jesus makes in the book of John- I AM the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Bread of Life, the Good Shepherd, the Vine, and the Light of the World. I used the recording of John on the AudiBible during the studies, as well as printed papers with verses from John in Tami for the ladies to read. God was very present during these studies! He used His Word to stir up faith, hope, and joy in the hearts of so many Tami women, as well as motivated many to faithful obedience in their Christian lives. Sometimes it was overwhelming to watch Him at work! And the Tami men NOTICED what was happening among the women! Some of the village leaders began asking for the verse sheets to read, too, and preached from them during other church meetings. They publicly acknowledged that the women were taking the lead in learning to read and understand the Tami Scriptures! WOW! That is amazing in a very male-dominated society like Tami! Rejoice with us! And pray that God will continue the good work He has begun among the Tami women!



Dozens of women were eager to study God's Word



Annie teaching the Women's Bible Study

Here are some quotes from women concerning the **I AM** studies:

- "This study has been like medicine to my heart." Mrs. Mukidu
- "I can't sleep at night because I am thinking so much about the study." Donga
- "This is the cry of our hearts – to study God's Word. Please come and teach us some more when you get back!" Linna

- “We used to only give our time and energy to things pertaining to our physical lives, but now this study has motivated us to follow God’s will and His ways and be concerned with things pertaining to our spiritual lives. Now we have given ourselves to God and to worship Him.” Donga L.
- “I rejoice to have God’s Words in my own language! It is clear now. It has gripped my heart.” Meri M.

DEDICATION OF JOHN

On the last day of May the Gospel of John was dedicated during an inspiring and joyful service. The church was packed. We rejoiced together with guitars and traditional kundu drums and LOUD singing! Our translation committee chairman, Yaking, spoke these words over the newly printed books: “This talk is Jesus. This talk is true talk. This talk is holy talk. This talk is pure talk. This talk is Life. To those who receive and follow these words correctly, God will come and dwell within them and remove darkness from them, and give them light and life. God’s words will help all who believe and hold tightly to them.” Afterwards, in an impromptu ‘interview’, Katepu told us he rejoiced that his people finally had the words of John in their own language after many years of very hard work! He said, “We give thanks to God who watched over us and Kim and Annie, and gave His strength to us.” This powerful book is in the hands of many Tami people today, in printed form as well as on AudiBibles and cell phone SD memory cards. God has begun a good work, a new work, in some of these precious hearts. Believe with us that this work will continue and produce much fruit, for the glory of our God!



Yaking (Translation Committee Chair) Tangalau and Katepu who rough drafted of the Gospel of John

All of the AudiBible and all the phone SD memory cards were sold, as well as a small number of books. It became very clear that Scriptures in AUDIO form are what the people are most excited about! We heard the recordings being listened to and talked about as we walked the village. This is not at all surprising in an oral society. Many times we saw faces light up as an AudiBible was turned on and they heard John being read in Tami. Over and over the comment was, “YES! This is REAL Tami. It is CLEAR. Now we can understand!”



Kim demonstrating how to navigate the AudiBible



93 year old Yakobus listening to John

TRAVEL PLANS

On July 6 we leave PNG for a 7 month furlough. We will spend a few days resting in Australia and Fiji on our way home and to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary! Mid-July thru mid-September will be spent visiting our kids and grandkids, then on to Virginia for 3 months with our home church family at Peninsula Community Chapel in Yorktown. We look forward to re-connecting with old friends and opportunities to make many new ones.



Rejoice with us that the powerful, life-giving, life-changing Word of God is now in the hands of many Tami people in a language that speaks clearly to their hearts!

And please pray:

- Ask God to continue using the book of John to change lives in Malasiga village.
- Pray for strength and clear thinking as we prepare for our furlough. Much packing and paperwork are involved!
- Pray for peace and safety as we travel many, many miles over the next few weeks.
- Ask the Lord to enable us to communicate well as we share with others the things God is doing and what the needs are here in PNG while we are stateside.

We hope we'll get to see many of you when we're in the States. We love you and appreciate your faithfulness in praying and giving.

Kim & Annie

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