

June 22, 2014

A TRANSLATION UPDATE

Dear Family and Friends,

Kim spent 3 weeks in February consultant checking the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians for some colleagues, Tommy & Konni Logan, who live and work in the remote Kasua language area of the Western Province. It was hard work but it went well and they were able to finish all the verses (503!). Here are a few pictures. (He brought the drinks with him as a treat for them. They don't have a fridge and the drinks were warm by the time he got there- still, these were a treat!)



Mid-March through the end of May was spent in Malasiga village working on a “language check” of the Gospel of John. Four small teams of Tami men and women worked with Kim to read through, edit, “fine tune,” and do what really ended up being a revision of the rough draft of John, which was done over 10 years ago. We also got through approximately one-third of the book of Acts, doing this same editing-revision process. Kim is very pleased with the results. Annie is now working on the back translation of John, taking this revised Tami translation and translating it back into English as literally as possible. This is a required step, to be used by a translation consultant who will do a final check of the book after we do a village check later this year. Since the consultant will not understand the Tami language, this back translation into English is essential to allow him to get a good understanding of the Tami text and check it against the Greek.



Leaders from the 2 Tami Island villages joined with invited leaders from our Malasiga community to discuss issues related to the spelling of specific Tami words. We went through a list of over 60 words, considering them one at a time and voting on how we would spell them in the translation work. Some

words inspired rather heated “discussions!” We began the meeting with everyone in agreement to support whatever decisions were made that day. We are hoping that this will prevent future spelling disagreements that have had the tendency to slow the work down.



The women’s literacy class was slow going again. There always seemed to be another meeting, sickness, bad weather, or some other reason not to meet. Annie was sick herself for most of the 2 ½ months. The larger group, which is becoming more like a reading club, actually only met one time, but the smaller group of basically illiterate women was keen to meet. She and the women gathered in a quiet spot on the beach and had a great time together reading short Tami stories, doing phonics lessons and writing practice.

Kim had the opportunity this month to help another one of our colleagues by doing the consultant checking of her translations of the books of Galatians and Philippians. He met with her and a team of people from the Nek language group to check their translation- verse by verse. It was tedious work, but necessary to ensure the best translation possible!

GOD AT WORK

It is always so exciting and encouraging to return to Malasiga and see God using His Word in the lives of the Tami people! How wonderful to remember that He loves the Tami and has a plan for them as a people group and as individuals. He is at work, calling people to Himself, giving some of them a hunger to know Him and His Word, convicting some of sin and showing them His great mercy and kindness. We saw God’s ‘fingerprints’ in the lives of many people over the past few months. Here are a few of their stories:



*Morea, our Tami ‘son’, met with Kim to begin studying the Gospel of John. As I listened to him reading through the Tami text, I commented on how well he could read it. He told us that as a young boy he had

gotten a copy of the very first book we published into Tami, the Christmas story. While other kids were playing in the school yard, Morea would sit and try to read his own language for the first time. As a result, he seems to have become quite a good reader of Tami and is hungry to use the translated Tami scriptures to help him understand God's Word better.

*Donga and Aiku went to a church women's conference and came back changed ladies. They heard a talk there about the power of the Word of God to change lives and were both deeply convicted and challenged. They wanted to help their Tami friends and families understand the importance of "eating" the food of God's Word on a daily basis so their spirits could be strong and healthy, and they could live in a way that would please God. I was at the meeting where Aiku stood up and through many tears shared passionately about what God was teaching her.

*The Lord convicted Mocepe of the need for daily repentance. Typically, after a women's meeting, Annie is asked if she has anything she wants to say...and she almost always does 😊! One morning a small group of them gathered on the beach for their weekly meeting. As it closed, the leader asked, "So, Annie, do you have anything you want to add?" Following up on the verses from Hebrews 12 that they had just read, she stood and gave quite a long and animated sermon about how sin weighs us down and hinders our ability to run life's 'race.' She encouraged them to run often to the Cross of Christ where they could find forgiveness and freedom from sin's burden. When she finished, Mocepe immediately began to speak, repeating much of what she had said and challenging the group with strong emotion, saying, "Yes, this is what we need to do! Living with unconfessed sin is messing up our community!"

*Katepu, one of our main co-translators, was deeply moved as he prepared the sermon for Easter Sunday. He told us how he was so overwhelmed that he could hardly speak as he pondered that God loved him, a wretched, unworthy "tamu isan" (bad man), and had sent Jesus to die for him.

*Matam is a member of the team who has been working on revising the Gospel of John. He stayed after work one day and told Kim he was sorry that in the past he had criticized how long it was taking to translate the Tami Bible. He said he didn't understand before, but now that he himself is participating, he sees what an extremely difficult task it is. He thanked us for coming to PNG to live among them and do this work. He wants to continue being involved with us in the translation project.

Well hopefully we will get out the next update out in a more timely manner. Thanks for your faithfulness. We are so grateful for your friendship and love. May the Lord bless you mightily.

Kim & Annie