

## Colich Spring/Summer UPDATE —Mar/June 2016

Dear Family and Friends,

We returned to PNG in mid-February excited to find out what God had been doing among the Tami while we were gone. In early March Kim went to the village and later that month attended a Translation Committee Workshop in Lae (a coastal town) with 3 Tami Translation Committee members. There was a good deal of excitement (for Kim) as the 3 came to the realization that the Tami people needed to 'own' this translation project, and that the Coliches were in Malasiga to help the Tami get God's Word into their Mother Tongue – NOT the other way around. As the 4 returned to Malasiga it was with great plans to share this new insight and stir up community support for the program. Sadly none of that took place while we were there, but more on that later in this missive.

The highlight for me (Annie) during this village stay came from an unexpected place! Doing a revision of the Gospel of Mark was NOT on my 'do list', but apparently it WAS in God's plan book since He clearly inspired me, enabled me, and gave me a gifted partner for the task! It was a joy and privilege to work alongside Pastor Ongengsa Molo. He is a Tami man but generally is assigned to work outside the Tami language area. He is temporarily back home in Malasiga while he waits for a new assignment. Ongengsa has helped us with other language work in the past. He is a wonderful Christian man and dear friend of ours. It was such an encouragement to begin each session sharing the burdens and joys of our hearts—for the Tami community, for our families, and for our own desire to know and love the Lord more. We laughed together, cried together, prayed together, marveled together over the life-giving Word of the Lord. I am so very thankful to have had this time with such a dear man of God!

Why do a revision of Mark? I'm glad you asked! Mark was the very first book that we translated and was published more than 16 years ago! We have learned much about the language and culture since then...to say the least! Before we add Mark to the list of things we hope to record on the AudiBibles, it was essential to do a revision and make necessary changes, on everything from spelling to more major changes based on better understanding of vocabulary and even Tami grammar. These changes will require additional consultant checking, so I'm now preparing for that by editing the Mark back translation to make it consistent with changes we made in the text.

Speaking of consultant checking – We look forward to two Tami men arriving here in Ukarumpa in mid-July to do the consultant check of the book of Acts. It will then be ready for printing and recording! Kim successfully completed the village checking of Acts during the month of May, which involved working with a total of 28 Tami men and women. After reading the text, comprehension questions were asked to help determine the understandability of the translation. It was an opportunity for many of them to be exposed for the first time to the challenge of reading their own language, as well as getting a deeper peek into the work of Bible translation.

If the men who come to do the consultant check are good readers, then we also hope to record Acts while they are here at Ukarumpa with us. We explained to those involved in the decision making that the ones they send MUST have some experience reading Tami and we left copies of the book of John for them to practice their reading skills before coming. So, we'll see how that works out ☺.



Women's Bible study (partial)



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#### Women's Bible Study:

We believe that our 'enemy' has been very busy in Malasiga, attempting to 'kill and destroy' (what he does best) those seeds that were planted last year during the studies and dedication of the Gospel of John. We left Malasiga a year ago in the midst of what seemed to be a 'new beginning' of some kind; God at work in new ways and the people openly excited and hungry for His Word. We returned in March to an atmosphere of apathy and EMPTINESS. Opposition to both the Women's Bible study and the translation work came from all fronts, including illness, equipment failure, weather, and over-commitment and irresponsibility among the leadership. We have an 'enemy' who has been hard at work. Please pray that the 'strong man' would be bound and that the Word of God would bear fruit in the lives of many.

I was able to teach 3 Bible studies in May during the Women's church meetings. They were on Believe and Receive, Sin, Judgement and Forgiveness, and Love. I wanted to hit on some BIG topics, and those certainly are BIG! After one of the studies, three young Tami women came and sat with me to discuss what we had learned. One of them thanked me for presenting difficult issues in a 'soft' enough way so the women could hear, understand and receive Biblical truths. I continue to thank God for allowing me the privilege of teaching His Word to these dear women.

For me (Kim) the time out was overall an encouraging one – but mixed with several major disappointments. Someone who is an integral part of the translation work and a village leader was gone most of the time we were in the village. Thus numerous scheduled activities and visits to the other three Tami villages did not take place as planned. And thus the AudiBibles have still not been introduced to the people there. Nevertheless, in addition to completing the village checking of Acts we also completed the editing of Ephesians and the advisor check of Psalm 119, which, if you haven't read through that Psalm recently, I heartily commend it to you.



Morea breaking off the chunks of rust



Bottom of the stairs shored up with wood

blocks

I also had the usual compliment of house maintenance projects to attend to. Our front stairs (the house is 8 feet above the ground) are a metal frame affair with two planks per step bolted onto the frame. Since our house lies a mere 25 feet from the Pacific ocean, the salt air is an invasive, corrosive, constantly destructive factor in all things metallic. Since we didn't have a sand blaster available (☺) to prepare the metal surface we had to use hammers, scrappers, wire brushes and sandpaper to get it ready for the rust-proof marine paint. Did I say "rustproof"? Believe me, there is no such thing as "rustproof" on the coast here! The bolts (four per plank) were almost completely rusted over and all had to be removed replaced. Needless to say, this was a huge job for us. Thankfully our village son, Morea, helped me with this job and we're hoping it will last until our translation work is completed. I won't bore anyone with details of the other jobs that needed done... ☺

It was encouraging spending time in the Word with certain individuals, especially Tomas, one of the two men who recorded John last year. As we were working on editing Ephesians chapter one, he was so thankful and really overwhelmed with all that God has done for us **in Christ Jesus**:

- He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places;
- He chose us to be holy and blameless in his eyes, even before he laid the foundation of the world;
- In love he decided beforehand to adopt us into his family according to his own desire and purpose;
- He has lavished his glorious grace on all of us who belong to the Son whom he loves;
- He has redeemed us – bought our freedom from sin – through his blood, and he has forgiven our sins;
- In infinite wisdom and unfathomable understanding he has extravagantly poured out his grace on us;
- He has unveiled the mystery of his plan to us, to fulfill his own purpose and pleasure;
- We have obtained an eternal inheritance;
- He chose us to fulfill his purposes;
- He is working out everything in accordance with his will;
- He has included us who believe as recipients of his promised Holy Spirit and marked us with his seal;
- His Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive his promised inheritance.

I think being overwhelmed with all this is a really good place to be... ☺ May you also be overwhelmed with joy and thankfulness as you consider all that Jesus has done in your life.

Please pray:

- for the Consultant Checking and recording of Acts, mid-July through mid-August
- that God would work in all our hearts while immersed in His Word day after day
- that the ones selected to come will be good readers, or we won't be able to record Acts
- for wisdom and perseverance as we set our translation and literacy goals and priorities
- that God would bind the 'strong man' and rekindle the flames he began last year in the hearts of many
- that our Tami friends will see us grow and change as we try to model His life
- That the Lord would intervene in a 'family matter' in a supernatural way
- Give thanks that we have been able to make good progress in translation and revisions and that this would continue in the coming months

Thank you for your partnership and faithfulness, for your generosity and friendship. We love you and appreciate you persevering with us through the years. May the Lord receive much praise and glory because of our collective efforts for His Kingdom.

Kim & Annie