

June 4, 2013

Dear Family and Friends,

Well I (Kim) am so happy to be together with Annie again after being apart for 5 weeks. But allow me to digress... This is a long one so if you are short on time you can read the following highlights and skip to the prayer requests below...

Highlights: Kim was able to finally get to the village and was there for 4 weeks cleaning and doing repair work on the house.

The water system was repaired and a complete assessment of needed repairs was made (a long list!).

Kim was able to share the Gospel over several occasions with a woman before she died.

Three Tami men in two different boats went missing for days – Praise God that all three men survived!

The Translation Committee met and discussed the possibility of a “Mini-Bible” and “Audi-Bible”.

Katepu and Tangalau plan to come to Ukarumpa in August to work with Kim translating the book of Romans.

THE VILLAGE TRAVEL STORY:

I finally got a ride to Lae on a Wednesday, and thought the use of cell phones would make it easy to arrange a ride to Malasiga village (silly me). On Thursday I saw a Tami man in town and found out he and his brother each just purchased a new boat. He told me that one of them would be able to get me to Malasiga either Friday or Saturday. However, Friday he called and said it would be Saturday. But Saturday he said they wouldn't be able to get me until Monday! By Saturday evening I wasn't feeling well at all, and Sunday I found myself very sick and weak. The ride that was promised for Monday fell through again, and the same thing again on Tuesday. Obviously it was God's sovereign will that I stay put in Lae and recover a bit before the arduous ride to Malasiga. Wednesday I went down to the wharf in the morning and began my normal “search, ask, and wait” process to attempt to find a boat. I found one on its way to a hospital about an hour further down the coast from our house and was able to negotiate a fair price to transport me and the cargo to our home. I was still rather weak for about the next week but ended up on some meds that helped me feel a little stronger as each day progressed.

THE PEOPLE STORY:

It was so good to be back in Malasiga and be reunited with many, many Tami friends and “family” members. I was able to spend time in good conversation with the village leaders, church leaders and translation co-workers. One of the new leaders apologized for the community's lack of commitment and support in the translation project through the years, and expressed a strong desire for this to change. They discussed the possibilities of doing an audio recording of one of the Gospels, as well as preparing a “mini-Bible” in the next several years. This would allow a good portion of what we already have translated to be published, and would probably include 2 of the Gospels, Acts, several epistles, and a portion of Psalms. Our team of 12 Tami men and woman who were doing checking on rough drafts of John and Acts were happy to have us back and looking forward to getting back to work. Our dear friends and co-translators, Katepu and Tangalau, are excited to begin doing translation again. They will travel up to Ukarumpa at the end of July and be with us for 4 weeks for an Epistle Workshop where we will be working on translating the book of Romans.

Kim was able to minister the love of Jesus on nearly a daily basis to a Tami woman who had been sent home from the hospital to prepare for her death. Some days he took his guitar to her house and sang to her. Some days he took copies of the Tami Gospel of John and read God's truths to her in her heart language. He shared the Good News clearly with her on several occasions, and we trust she was welcomed into the Father's arms when He called her Home two weeks ago.

THE VILLAGE HOUSE STORY:

Oh what a mess! If you've never had problems with rats you may not 'get it'. When I was in high school my Dad scolded me on more than one occasion by telling me my room "looked like a rats nest" – at the time I really didn't appreciate the simile. Fortunately for him and the rest of my family, my room never smelled like a rat's nest... ☺ However, I have come to understand the simile in a most intimate fashion, and I now appreciate just how badly he was disparaging me...(☺) But I did eventually get their left-behind-messes all cleaned up. We also had someone break into the main house for the first time ever while we were away. Apparently he is a young man who is 'mentally challenged' as a result of overdosing on Marijuana. He didn't take much of anything but moved stuff around and removed the plastic from everything that we had covered up in the house to keep the salt spray and mildew off of things. This made the clean-up task much more intensive! The most unfortunate thing he did was to leave the kitchen cupboard doors ajar. The rats found this to be a most amusing place to frolic and do their business. This chore alone took 3 days to tackle!

Thankfully, I had the daughter (Aisape) of our good friend Agoi to assist with all the cleanup. She was a major blessing, helping me with the scrubbing, the laundry, and hauling water into the house since neither pump was working. I finally got the water fixed 3 days before I left. The hand pump was broken and needed replaced and there were broken pipes as well. I ran out of LP Gas after the first week and so had to cook on a small one-burner gasoline 'camp stove' for the remainder of the time out there (it had only one setting: High). I couldn't find a ride into town to get the LP Gas or to check on the airstrip, which our Aviation Department had requested. And my last day there I finally got a ride to town to get the gas bottles, and also got to the airstrip so I could determine the condition of the field. The next day there was a flight coming back from the islands that was able to put down in Finschhafen and get me back to Ukarumapa. However, the pilot wasn't happy with the airstrip condition after all and ended up closing the airstrip after my departure. That is something else I will need to work on when I return after the rainy season lets up in late August or early September.



The village house needs so much work! Here is a brief overview of what I found that needs done:

- replace our solar power system which is about 20 years old now and not functioning properly (BIG job)
- shoring up the underside of the roof with wire to support the 'heat shield' foil
- remove the woven walls of the house (which is ~26' x 26') and replace them with clapboard siding
- repair the front stairs (removing all the steps, wire-brushing the steel frame, repainting the frame; and reinstalling the steps - with stainless steel hardware this time!)
- repair/replace the office windows and walls
- replace the steel gutter in the back of the house with PVC gutter because it's all rusted out and no water gets from that side of the roof to the tank! (this will entail building scaffolding since the gutter is about 17' off the ground)
- replace numerous pieces of plywood flooring inside the house that the termites have devoured
- miscellaneous. electrical repairs
- several window replacements



We are so grateful for generous gifts from several of our supporting churches that allowed us to replace the water tank at our Ukarumpa house, and to order a scaled down version of the necessary solar power components we need to replace our current system. This solar equipment shipped last month and should arrive in Papua New Guinea sometime late July to mid-August. What we need now are some **folks** to help with the solar system install, and some **funds** to get them here and back home again. Please pray to that end.

Other things to pray for:

- Praise that we got Annie's laptop back to the USA for warranty repair and found someone to bring it back to PNG later this month.
- For Katepu and Tangalau who will be here for 4 weeks in August for an epistle workshop on the book of Romans
- For the two of us as we pray and discuss how to best meet the Tami's need for God's Word during this 2 year field term
- For Kim as he prepares key terms and concepts in preparation for the translation of Romans
- For relief from the migraines that Annie has been having all too frequently

Thanks for your faithfulness in praying, giving, and loving. We are so blessed to have friends and partners like you.

Kim & Annie

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