

May 31, 2011 – Colich Chronicles: update March 2011 to May 2011 – rain, earthquakes, and more rain

# The Colich Chronicles

May 2011

Dear Friends and Family,

We've just returned from the village, three weeks earlier than planned. I (Kim) was in Malasiga for 3 weeks, and then returned to Ukarumpa for our SIL biannual conference. After the conference our plan was to return to Malasiga and spend a month there before needing to return to the highlands for the rainy season. Normally the rainy season doesn't begin until June and then settles in for about 3 months before letting up. But this year it came more than a month early. Thus, when I left Ukarumpa for the coast and then the 4 hour boat ride that same day from Lae to Malasiga, it was mostly in the rain. Then it continued to rain for the next 5 days, stopping briefly (thankfully) the day I got Annie at the Finschhafen airstrip (that was an answer to prayer!). Unfortunately it then continued to rain and/or be overcast for the next 2 weeks, except for one mostly sunny day. I was checking scripture morning and afternoon that first week--all while we had no sun. This meant our solar batteries were getting drained and weren't getting recharged. By Friday I was getting quite concerned and called a technician at Ukarumpa for his analysis of our situation. These are new batteries that I had to buy the preceding month as our 7 year old ones died.

The bottom line: our batteries were 75% discharged with little hope of the sun replenishing them. He said we needed to immediately STOP taking power out of them and do whatever possible to get some charge back into them. We spent the next 5 days not using the computer or radio (& thus no email) or our electric lights. We went back to using the kerosene lamps and spending more time with friends (like we did in the early language learning days).

We borrowed a generator that a young man had in the village and spent 3 days running it to try to recharge the batteries. But for our 400aHr system we had a 300aHr deficit and so after all that and the half sunny day we were back up to about 75-80% capacity. But, without any prospect of help from the sun, it was going to be a losing battle. So we had to return to Ukarumpa and will work here until the rainy season is over in Malasiga. We've got plenty to work on, but it was disappointing to get a new plan started and have to abandon it for several months.

We have begun a new phase where we are no longer drafting new material (we currently have about 2/3 of the New Testament in rough draft). Instead we will be working at getting through all the checking steps on Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts. The plan is to publish these 5 books as a single volume, hopefully by the end of next year. We had 4 teams of 3 (2 men and 1 woman) who were each coming twice a week for a half day of checking. We spent the first week covering a lot of material – it was great! Unfortunately, that was the only week we could get any work done.

Annie had just gotten her literacy classes going again with about 60 participants, three of whom were men this time. She was supposed to have her second class on the morning the plane came to get us.

Another reason we felt it was prudent to leave early was an unusual and unnerving number of earthquakes during the last week. We estimate that we experienced between 20-25 quakes, tremors and shakes! It was crazy! We had eight of them that first night. After the 4<sup>th</sup> one Annie got dressed and then slept in her clothes for the whole week. She also packed an emergency bag and parked it at the front door in case we needed to "head for the hills"! Eventually the situation became very stressful for us both.

Well on a brighter note, Rachel & Dann just celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! Larissa is expecting her second child this October and Megan finishes her OTA (Occupational Therapy Assistant) program the end of June—all good news.

We are excited about all these blessings the Lord has showered on our family and we give thanks.

Please give thanks with us and also pray for the following:

- That the 12 folks (a list is available upon request) who committed to the checking and started so well will still be committed and faithful after our sudden departure.
- Funds for the replacement batteries and the solar charge controller that also needs replaced.
- For safe delivery of our 4<sup>th</sup> grandchild in October.
- For a productive time while we are at Ukarumpa.
- For wisdom when we return to Malasiga as we try to involve more folks from the other Tami villages in the translation process (including checking). Efforts in that area have been rather unfruitful to date.

We are so thankful for your partnership with us and your persistence in prayer on our behalf. We couldn't do this without you.

Kim & Annie Colich

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If you'd like to partner with us, please send contributions to:

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Papua New Guinea