

## FALL UPDATE — September 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

God is the Master Planner. He says a lot about planning in His Word. He wants us to plan and He wants to help us do it right. He sees the beginning from the end and everything in between. In fact He says,

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.” \*

“This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: ‘I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.’ ” \*\*

We really want to know what is best for us. God has a plan, and it’s a good one. We want to know HIS plan, and follow it. The Lord says, “...pray, I will listen...look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.” That is our desire and we’re trusting that the Lord will continue to keep His promises. For we really want to know how we can best serve the Tami people, and so these last few months there’s been a whole lot of planning going on... and a fair bit of doing, as well!

Kim recently spent two weeks as a participant in a workshop called “Program Planning.” SIL requires that we have an approved current plan on file, complete with goals, inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, impact statement, etc.! Our 2010 plan was neither current NOR approved! Thus it was necessary for us to update our ‘program plan’ for the Tami language program. In August, Kim spent 3 weeks in a Paratext II workshop as a mentor for national translators as well as picking up some new skills to help in the translation process.



While in the Program Planning Workshop, a national translator from the Mekeo language group shared with the class about a workshop he and others on their team had just put on in their home village. Mekeo is a large group for PNG, with about 25,000 speakers. They have an old system of governing themselves, with seven chiefs overseeing the population. People were there for the workshop from many villages all over the language group area, including all seven chiefs. The workshop was called “Culture Meets Scripture.” One of the seven chiefs has been a sorcerer most of his adult life. But when he heard the Scriptures in Mekeo, God’s Spirit moved in a mighty way and he renounced all sorcery, saying, “I know now that God is not pleased with what I am doing and I must stop doing these things and follow God’s talk.” Praise the Lord! May His Word continue to bear such fruit around the world.

Besides printing the books that we have translated and taken through all the checking processes, one of the goals in our language plan for the next five years is to do audio recording of many of these books. In our last update we mentioned the "AudiBibles," the small solar powered recorders which are being used in many areas here in PNG and having a huge impact on this largely illiterate society. A co-worker shared with us how in his language area these AudiBibles are blessing the handicapped. The blind who cannot read and crippled who cannot attend local Churches now hold the Bible in their hands and listen to the Truths of God's Word. In a recent newsletter another one of our co-workers here in PNG shared this report from the people group where he works:

Hearing God's Word in Kandawo on the AudiBibles had a stimulating effect on many people. One woman tearfully begged Mack to understand how much her life has changed and how important this has been for her. She was experiencing burdens, rejection and insults, but she learned from listening to the Bible that if she humbles herself under God, he will lift her up and care for her. She has put her faith in this promise and it has given her peace.

We are excited about the potential for these little machines to affect many Tami people as they hear God's Word being read to them in their heart language by their own brother or father or aunty! Please be praying with us as we make plans to begin this new phase of our work among the Tami.



There is basically one road here in the Highlands of PNG that connects us to the rest of the country – at least the rest that you can get to via road. Last month our road access to this highway was cut off. The road that links our center to the larger highway crosses over a bridge that has been in terrible shape for years. A tanker truck loaded with fuel was headed across this bridge when it collapsed under the heavy weight. There was no one injured in this long anticipated calamity, but we were left without fuel or a way to secure more, as well as no easy way to get goods for the store here at Ukarumpa. Teams that normally drive to their village allocation had to wait for repairs to be made to the bridge, as we all waited for access again to needed goods and services. The good news is that a new bridge has been installed and travel, though somewhat limited, is again possible. Just yesterday we received a shipment of much needed fuel. Again we praise God for His goodness!

Annie finished the back translation of the Gospel of John this week! Kim finished rough drafting the last chapter of Galatians! We celebrated with a special ice cream treat while enjoying our porch swing together. Speaking of celebrating, our youngest daughter, Megan, will be having her first baby in late October – it's a boy! Annie will be heading to the States on Oct 1 and returning to PNG on Dec 10. I will stay here to get some repair jobs done on our Ukarumpa house (plumbing repairs and painting) and then heading to Malasiga to do the village checking of the Gospel of John, which I'll be doing out on the

Tami Islands. Lord willing, I'll get that done, as well as do a language check on Ephesians and Galatians while in Malasiga, before I return to Ukarumpa the first week of December.

This will be Annie's first time to fly internationally by herself & she's a little bit anxious about it. Please pray for health and safety and a calm heart. She will have a cell phone with her so feel free to give her a call – (859) 638-8168. Here is her itinerary:

October 1: Fly to Brisbane and overnight at the Wycliffe Guest House.  
October 2: Fly to Grand Rapids, MI to be with Rachel, Dann and their girls for 10 days  
October 12: Drive to Detroit to be with my sister, Ellaine, and her husband, Denis, for a few days  
October 15: Drive to Erlanger, KY to stay with Larissa and Charles and their boys until Megan delivers  
October ??: Stay with Megan & Ilir to help with their new little rascal and get some 'Grandma time'  
December 4 Fly to Houston to visit with Annie's sister, Karen, and her husband, Frank  
December 8-10 Fly to LA, Brisbane, Port Moresby, and back to Ukarumpa (she leaves the 8<sup>th</sup>, arrives the 10<sup>th</sup>)

Please pray:

- For health and safety and a calm heart for Annie throughout her journey.
- For Kim as he prepares the comprehension questions for the village checking of John.
- For open hearts for all who will be hearing the Gospel of John. May some come to faith in Christ.
- For wisdom as we try to map out our Program Plan for the next 5 years, and Lord willing, the subsequent 5 years.
- Colossians 1:9b-12a "We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honour and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father."

God is so good to provide partners like you who faithfully pray and give so that we can continue to be here helping to bring the Good News of Jesus to the Tami people of Papua New Guinea. Thank you for your friendship, faithfulness and love. We appreciate you so much.

Kim & Annie