

September 9, 2013

Dear Family and Friends,

THE ROMANS WORKSHOP

Our two Tami co-translators, Katepu and Tangalau, are now back with their families in Malasiga village after spending the month of August here with us at Ukarumpa. They, along with Kim, spent four weeks in a workshop with other men and women from six other language groups who are also working to translate the Scriptures into the languages of their own people. Mornings were devoted to classroom time together studying the book of Romans. This included lessons covering background information, Greek text studies, key words used in the book, Unfortunately, these lessons were taught in English, which Katepu and Tangalau understand very minimally. But discussions with other participants in the trade language, as well as instruction from Kim, helped to clarify important information.

A summary of the workshop in the men's own words translates something like this: "Romans is a very deep book. It breaks my head! But Father God helped us to understand and we were able to do some good work." Katepu also said that when he gets to Heaven he plans to have a little discussion with the apostle Paul on why he wrote things that were so hard to understand! He literally said he would beat Paul up! [Katepu jokes around a LOT]

Afternoons were spent translating key portions of Romans from the sections they had studied that morning. They averaged about 6 verses a day, but on some days only worked through as little as 2 verses, taking hours for the men to understand the meaning, wrestle with life implications, and find the right words to translate these powerful truths into the Tami language. One of the best times of discussions came when translating Romans chapter 12 verse 1:

v 1 "Yao neŋ akatan waŋ, Anôtô katemuc pa ŋgam paŋmoŋ, baitale yao awalôê ŋgam mai kasik tamim, kulimim, nimamim, kikumim, tukanonŋmoŋ kanderŋ Anôtô waen tawal, tawal alec matalôalai ma tabuŋ gên le. Ŋgam kasik tawal baitale, aiyôc Anôtô si kulôlamec pa." [Tami]

"My group of brothers, God is always being merciful toward you, therefore I urge you to give yourselves, your bodies, your hands, your legs, completely to God just like an offering/sacrifice, an offering/ sacrifice that has life and is holy. When you give this offering like that, then God is pleased with it." [back translation of the Tami]

We talked about all that Christ Jesus did for us to make God's mercy available to us – the pain he suffered to provide forgiveness for our sin. We concluded that the only appropriate response to such love was to give ourselves wholeheartedly to Him. And that means living for His purposes and for His glory – every day. It was a poignant time for me. With tears I realized that they **understood** what Jesus did for them and that God would accept their offering/sacrifice as they came to Him in faith, believing that what Christ did on the cross made a way for them to be accepted by God the Father.

What a privilege to be doing what we're doing! I read a verse in my quiet time this morning in Nehemiah, chapter 8 verse 12:

*"So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and **understood** them."* [NLT] (emphasis mine)

Please continue to pray with us the Lord would enable the Tami people to understand God's truths, leading to repentance, salvation, and holy living that brings much Glory to our God!

FALL PLANS

We have a busy schedule planned through the end of the year. Please be praying with us, and commit these plans to our Sovereign God for His blessing!

Mid-September, Kim will head to the coastal town of Lae, spend a few days gathering supplies, then travel by boat to Malasiga village. First priority will be to work on getting the airstrip reopened in Finschhafen so Annie can fly out to join him. We are hoping that can happen by the end of the month. Kim will begin working with 3 different groups of Tami men and women to do checking on the Gospel of John and Acts, and to continue translating Romans with Katepu and Tangalau. Annie will start up her ladies' literacy classes, as well as writing the second primer.



In mid-October two men who work at Ukarumpa will come out to the village for about a week and install our new solar power system.

In November a team of 6 arrive from Grace Fellowship Church in Kentucky, to do some major house repair projects. They will be with us in the village for 9 days. We are so very thankful that they are coming!

Early December we will fly back to Ukarumpa. Then we need to make a trip to Brisbane, Australia, for Annie to have a check-up with an oncologist. It will be a nice opportunity to do some Christmas shopping ☺. We will return to PNG to celebrate Christmas with friends at Ukarumpa.

Much to pray about. Thanks for your faithfulness to us and this work. May the Lord bless you richly as you continue to seek Him, growing in knowledge and understanding.

Kim & Annie

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