

## Our stay in Kalamo village

The four weeks (February 10 – March 9) we were in Kalamo village was full of different activities.

### Translation...

I (Darrell) worked with the Odoodee co-translators, and we were able to finish the first draft of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter and the first six chapters of 1 Corinthians. We also edited John's Gospel, so it is ready to be checked by the Odoodee people. Around the translation table, we also talked about some of the difficult things that were happening in the village and what the Bible has to say about those matters.

### Literacy...

Kerttu spent a lot of her time preparing for and conducting women's literacy activities. She held a basic literacy course on Mondays and fluency reading using Acts on Wednesdays. The women were eager to learn and helped each other. (We plan to continue the courses during our next stay in the village.) In the meantime, she worked on the Odoodee-English dictionary and read through the Bible texts we had translated.



### Airstrip woes...

After we left Kalamo village in December last year, the airstrip was closed since the grass was very tall. However, that problem seems to be solved for now. The lawnmower is working and the overgrown grass has been cut. So the airstrip is open again. The road which is crucial for transporting gasoline for the mower has also been fixed. A couple of bridges have been repaired, and we saw some trucks in the village. We hope that the mower will keep going and gasoline will continue to be available. (Update: we just received a message that they need a new belt for the mower. It needs to be special ordered from Australia.)

### The man with the skin disease—an update...

Telek, the man with the skin disease I mentioned in our January newsletter, was still in the village when we were there. He had received medicine for a month and got somewhat better, but obviously the medication was not enough. The flight which was supposed to take him to the hospital had been cancelled. Telek was not doing well. He couldn't walk anymore. The local health officer, who is responsible for the patient, was not present. We left a letter for him, expressing our concern about the patient, and asked why he couldn't be sent to the hospital, knowing that the money for the travel and hospital expenses had already been collected. Telek has been sick more than a year now. Since he has been so sick for such a long time, the people in the village are wondering if there is some sin he hasn't confessed. They think that it is not good to intervene if God is punishing him.

### Termites...

When treating our house posts with termite poison, I found out that two posts were in bad shape underground. One had been eaten by termites, and the other was rotten. After a better look, I saw that the termites had continued their way to our office floor and eaten at least one strip of black-palm, which is what the whole floor is made of. Imagine what a surprise it would be if one of our translators would fall off his chair as it fell through the floor! Our good neighbor Eyolu changed the post, and the floor was also repaired. However, the men said that there may be more termite-eaten parts in the floor. We had to leave the village the next day, so Eyolu and other men promised to check and repair the rest.

...read more about our village stay on the next page...

### Death in the village...

Just before we left the village, there was a heartbreaking accident. A mother, whose husband had died just a few years ago, was in the jungle gathering food and firewood. Her older boys were in school, but her 8-year-old son and two smaller children were with her. That boy was chopping down a tree, and it fell on his small sister—she died immediately. Her body was brought to the village, and the mother, aunt, and grandmother were grieving inside their house. It is common for the close relatives and friends to go inside the house and sit with the crying family, while the rest of the villagers stay outside. Some of the people who were outside were blaming the mother, saying that she had not taken care of her children properly since she had given an ax to the small boy. Kerttu went inside, prayed quietly for the mother, and sat there for a while. The girl's body was buried the next morning, and the adults in the family left the village to grieve. The boys stayed behind, and this 8-year-old came to our house since he was not able play with the other kids. We tried to express our love to him, and we gave him something to eat. We were wondering how this "big" brother felt. We left the village the next morning, so there was no one at our house who would pay attention to him. After this type of accident, people usually wonder if God is punishing the family for something, or if somebody put a curse on them. We pray that the Gospel of love and grace would lighten the hearts of the people.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### Translation...

We had to postpone the consultant check of Matthew until May (originally scheduled for March) due to various factors beyond our control. Before that takes place, we will be working in Ukarumpa with two of the Odoodee co-translators (Francis and Terence), continuing the first draft of 1 Corinthians. The flight taking them back to the village in mid May will bring three other men for the consultant check. So the next seven weeks will be busy ones!

#### Another trip around the world...

After those men return to their villages at the end of May, we will have a week to prepare for our trip to Finland and the USA (June 8—July 16). The purpose of the trip is to have needed medical checks, see family members, visit a couple of colleges with Niko, and get some rest. We are thankful to those who provided the funds for this trip (Kerttu's sending denomination in Finland and my family in the USA).

Niko, who is currently in his last few weeks of 10<sup>th</sup> grade, will turn 17 in May!

### **Praise & Prayer**

- Praise for a good stay in Kalamo village earlier this year.
- Pray for wisdom and enabling as we continue translating 1 Corinthians (April 16—May 11).
- Pray for good working relationships as we have Matthew checked by a consultant, and for wisdom to know what corrections need to be made (May 14—30).
- Pray for good health, especially for the Odoodee men while they are in Ukarumpa.
- Praise for an increase in our monthly support during the past couple of months. Pray that God will provide the extra \$600 per month that is still needed.

In God's hands,  
Darrell, Kerttu & Niko

Find us on Facebook at:  
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#### Contributions

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