

Anjam's Story from his own mouth ☺

May 29,2017

But first, my response to my talk with Anjam, from MY own mouth ☺

Oh Lord, I am sitting here with such a full heart! Overflowing with such joy, tears flowing.. saying miŋ kanonŋ, if this was the ONLY fruit I ever saw, the ONLY life in which you ever used me to draw someone near to You, then my 26 plus years in PNG among the Tami would have been worth it all! What could be more glorious than to sit and listen to a man thank God for you coming to his people, thank God for you obeying Him and teaching His Word. Anjam said, "Oh, Annie – thank you so much for coming! If you had not been teaching the women God's Word, and if I had not come inside and listened to what you said, oh..what might have happened to me??" Lord, is this the kind rejoicing that the angels in Heaven do when one lost soul understands the Gospel and says YES to Jesus? Surely, it can't be more wondrous than what I am now experiencing. This is without a doubt JOY in the Spirit! I want to weep! I am laughing as I cry! I want to dance! I can't contain it! Baitale tec, I too say, THANK YOU JESUS. You are Savior! You are Life. You are Truth. Your Word brings Life to the dead. You have done that in the life of this dear man. And you have allowed me to have a part in this miracle. I stand in Awe.

Ok, Anjam said this: In the past he was a bad man. He did not even want to give any specifics to me, just shook his head in shame. He said he fought, he got drunk, he beat his wife, he didn't talk to people. He would pretend he was interested in church things if the leaders came to talk to him, but inside he was angry and closed completely. And wanted nothing to do with worshipping God.

Aikiba came to a 3 part Bible study I did with the women in May 2016. After the first one she took the verse paper home and told him about it, but he shoved it aside and wasn't interested. After the second one she took the verse paper home and he read it. That was when he asked her if he could come to the 3rd study. When he listened to the study on the love of God, he sat with tears running down his face and he felt like God had freed him from the chains he could feel wrapped around the very small bit of life or light or hope, of some small piece of goodness that was trying to live but being strangled inside him. He said he had a vision later of evil wound tightly around his heart, and God breaking those chains and setting him free.

He went home and spent the next days just reading his pigin Baibel. He decided he wanted to share what had happened to him at another women's meeting! So he did that. One of the women who heard him went home and told her husband, who was a church elder, about what had happened. So he went and asked Anjam if he wanted to preach on Sunday morning. He said yes, although he had no idea how to go about it. The text that he was told to preach on was from Luke 8, about a demon possessed man who roamed the hills, naked, crazy, sleeping in the graveyard- held captive by Satan until Jesus Himself came and rescued him from evil. Anjam

said when he read that story he was deeply convicted. He felt like he was just like that man, held prisoner by the evil one and now set free by the Jesus, the Word of God. He sat for days just pondering it, almost crippled by this powerful story, unable to sleep but instead sitting on his porch into the wee hours of the night, praying. On Saturday night he still had no idea how he was going to preach about this, so he told God that if he wanted him to do it, He would need to tell him what to say. And if he didn't tell him, then he wasn't going to preach! He told his wife not to fix him any food Saturday night or Sunday morning. He did not want to eat. He got up early Sunday morning and went into the church. God gave him some thoughts, and he wrote them down. But when he got up to preach during church, he did not even look at his paper. He said he forgot all about himself and all about the paper and just spoke the words that came. He doesn't even know what they were. Then after he finished, he licked his lips and he tasted something sweet on his tongue, like honey... (Ah, the sweet Word of God. Sweeter than honey! More to be desired than gold!)

Now that he understands the power of God's Word to change lives, he wants other people who are living in bondage to sin to COME OUT like he did. He desires that other Tami men and women commit themselves to God, and also to this work of translating the Word into their own language where it will speak clearly and do its work. He is telling others his story, and pleading with them to follow his example and be made free. He just did that very thing on Kalal Island yesterday where he lived for many years. They KNOW what kind of man he used to be. They SEE the new man he has become. As he represents the translation project as the new chairman, people are responding to the new life in him and for the first time we feel the full support of the island congregations toward the translation. They want to be a part of what is happening!

I think we have only seen the tip of the iceberg as far as what God is going to do through the life of this one man, who read the Truth in his own language for the first time, and was changed forever. Praise be to God! I can't wait to see what happens next! 😊

From Dec. 2016 newsletter:



NEW LIFE “The words I have spoken to you are spirit, and they are Life.” We saw the power of God's Words bring new life to a Tami man this year. Angam was a man far away from God. Yet when his wife shared with him Scriptures in his own language from a Bible study Annie was doing with the women, he began to hear the Lord calling to him. He came to the next study, 'hiding' in the back corner of the church, and listened to the teaching about the love of God, and his life has not been the same since. His wife told me that she WATCHED his face physically change during the study as the Word of Life brought him alive! She jumped with joy, hands raised up to heaven as she said to me, “Thank you, Jesus! Look at him! He is a new man!”

NEW LEADERSHIP God's ways are beyond finding out.... Through some amazing circumstances, Angam was recently elected the new Translation Committee Chairman! His new life brought an immediate new desire to serve the Lord. He has jumped in with both feet and is already having a noticable impact on the work and the workers! He said, "We MUST make this translation a number one priority, helping Kim and Annie to finish this work! Then, they can leave us." ☺