



# Cameron and Ruthi Fruit serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators

November 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

I just checked some of the November temperatures some of you are having back in the northern U.S., and I suppose the average temperature of about 52° F seems balmy over there for mid-autumn, but as I look at our thermometer here with our typical year-round 83°, I remembered how different life really is in our adopted home in Saipan. So maybe, even though it's all just routine to us, you'd like to read a few details on what's going on in our everyday tropical lives.

## Sports, music and chess

The soccer fields are always green in Saipan, and Ruthi is the ultimate soccer mom, taking Colin, Mason, Joel and Anthony all to various practices on weekday afternoons, as well as to games on Saturdays. She is also on the board of the youth soccer league, collects game summaries from the referees and brings snacks (only healthy ones) to the games for half-time consumption by the players. Today was the "Festival of Football", the climax of the soccer season. Joel's team won first place in his division. Anthony's team won one game 5-0, and Anthony scored all five goals. (Forgive our boasting!)

We were all following the New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies in the World Series, and the kids enjoy playing baseball, too. Mason built a contraption out of PVC pipe that helps him practice his baseball swing. He also has a regular practice routine for his "devastating sinker" and other pitches.

In less active, but equally competitive pursuits, the boys play a lot of chess on the Internet. The kids have made friends out of other chess enthusiasts from Kazakhstan, Germany, India and elsewhere around the world. Joel likes playing against the "third-best junior player in Armenia". Colin became a Tournament Manager, or "T.M.", running chess tournaments for as many as ten players online.

Finally, maybe some of you still remember Ruthi directing church choirs back home. She enjoyed that a lot, but since leaving the U.S. in 1998 until now, she never found a group to lead. But finally this month, she's rehearsing a Christmas music program with a local group of singers. They're scheduled to perform several times in December.

Colin has entered the Young Artist Competition held by the Guam Symphony Society. He's planning to play the last movement of the Franck Violin Sonata and has been practicing hard every day.

Ruthi and I give thanks for good health in our family and for the many interesting things to do way out here in the distant reaches of the world. All that, and the chance to help translate the Bible—we could do much worse!

## Island Internet

The Internet is a window to the world from our tiny island. It's also expensive (about \$80 per month), but essential to our translation work. It allows me to follow what's happening on the Woleaian translation from five or six hundred miles away. We can order computer equipment, software and cheap ink for our printers, online, and it's the main way we keep in touch with our families.



*Joel's first place soccer team is called "Paire" which means "#1" in Chamorro.*



*Anthony (the only blond kid) with his soccer team*



*Mason practicing his swing with his new creation. Can you see the baseball falling out of the bottom end of the tube? Mason usually can!*

For the last two weeks, the telephone company had some kind of problem with our connection. We suffered from “e-withdrawal”, but re-discovered some activities like reading newspapers and writing snail mail. We weren’t completely offline, as we could make trips to Internet cafes and McDonald’s to get connected as long as our laptop batteries held out. But it made us realize once again how important modern technology has been to our project. How did the missionaries do it back in the 19th century?

### Update on the projects

Most of this letter has been about our personal lives, but here are some highlights of our various language projects:

- The Carolinians are getting ready to distribute 200 CDs produced of our recording of portions of the gospel of Luke.
- I just returned from Yap, where the Woleaian translators are nearly through with the second draft of the gospel of John. There are several steps left before it’s ready for publication, but this is a good milestone for the Woleaian New Testament.
- The Chamorros are really busy with their dictionary update, and as a result, I’ve also spent a lot of time helping them. Colin has also taken part, updating scientific names for various flora and fauna entries.

Many thanks for your kind support and prayers for all of us and for these projects.

Yours in Christ,

*Cameron, Ruthi, Colin, Mason, Joel, and Anthony*

P. S. Just yesterday, after I finished this newsletter all about our “normal” lives, something very abnormal and shocking occurred. An Asian contract worker who was upset about some business problems went to the Kannat Tabla Shooting Range about a quarter of a mile down our road and shot two men, a four-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl to death and wounded a four-year-old girl. Then he shot and wounded five Korean tourists, including two children, at the Last Command Post, a World War II historic site in the village of Marpi at the north end of Saipan. He drove his white van to Banzai Cliff, another World War II historical site, and killed himself.

Our family is all safe, but we ask for your prayers for the victims, some of whom are in critical condition, and for the families of those who were killed in the incident.



*Our family at the beach*

*Please thank the Lord with us:*

- for the CDs of the Carolinian recording of Luke
- for a productive and enjoyable time in Yap with the Woleaian translators
- for safety during the shootings in Saipan this week

*Please pray with us:*

- for the victims of the gunman in Saipan and their families
- for John and Johanna Malimai, Woleaian translators looking for new ministry opportunities in Yap
- for successful typesetting and publication of the Carolinian gospels

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