

Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021

Hello all,

Another month has nearly gone by, and while it has been full, it has been full of so many small pieces, that I'm not quite sure where it went!

The OBS (Oral Bible Storying) Awareness and Survey team are over half way through their two week trip to Gulf, and it has been a challenging but rewarding trip. In the communities they visit there is interest in OBS, as well as evidence of strong vernacular language use, and limited Bible knowledge. This is an encouraging sign that the translation work is needed and desired, and that an oral approach is appropriate. They have also encountered opposition in several forms; a dispute about the airstrip they landed at, significant illness in a team member (he's well again now), spiritual oppression and violence in villages. We should not be surprised at these things, as the work of OBS is the work of bringing the Word who is life and light to places where darkness and death have ruled for a long time, and the darkness is not pleased. Keep praying for the team, for their families in other places, and for the communities they visit. Pray for me as I work to help them with the various challenges from a distance. Pray for God to raise up more workers to be part of this project. The team is due back in Ukarumpa on Monday July 26.

Coming up quickly is the next round of EC (Executive Committee) meetings from Aug 4-10. July 1 saw a change in who is on EC, as some terms ended and new ones began. Pray for us as we meet as this new combination of people, that we will work well together, and that we will be able to deal well with all the matters that are on the agenda, and be able to listen to where God is guiding our work in PNG.

I continue to have a range of things I am working on before I plan to return to Gulf on Aug 31. I have been working on creating new literacy materials in Kope. I meet regularly with the other members of the Gulf Delta team to plan workshops, flights, details and funding applications. I am bringing together the pieces for a literacy workshop in September, a Scripture Use workshop in October, and Consultant checking in November. This morning I bought bulk vegetables to dehydrate for when I am in the village. Then there are all the normal things of life such as catching up with friends, being part of planning worship services here in Ukarumpa, and trying to keep up with emails. Pray for me to be able to prioritise and focus well.

Most of the Kope translation team are still in Kerema, the capital of Gulf Province, trying to open a bank account and get other business done. They've been there two months now, so pray that they could soon complete their business and return safely to their families.

To end with a praise point, last week I was able to refill myself with vitamin sea :) There was an opportunity to spend a week by the coast with friends from Ukarumpa, and we took it with much relief and delight. Getting to holiday by the beach twice in a year is a rare thing for me, but a week of resting, swimming, and enjoying the company of friends has helped recharge me for whatever is coming next.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support.

Blessings,

Hanna

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