

The Journey of Hanna Joy

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Hello All,

...and a blessed Holy Week to you. I have to admit that Lent has escaped me this year, and Easter is catching me by surprise. I guess that's what it did to the disciples on the first Easter! Since I last wrote a newsletter, I have enjoyed Christmas in Ukarumpa, holidays in Madang, time back in Gulf Province, and the wedding of a friend in Mt Hagen. It's been a good few months ☺

Over November and December, I had a number of my friends from Kapuna hospital visit me in the Highlands. It was lovely to share this part of my life with them, and to celebrate Christmas together. While plan A had been Christmas in Perth with that part of my family, sharing it with my international family here was special too.

After Christmas, I went to Madang for a seaside holiday with both Ukarumpa friends and Kapuna friends. Being back by the sea, being in a place where I could dine out, being able to swim laps in the pool, and to go snorkelling nearby, all made for a delightful time away and a refreshing start to the year.

In early February I returned to Gulf for a short trip. The goal in this time was to read through all of Luke in Kope, to get it ready for its final check by a consultant. It was a big goal, and I was surprised when we achieved it. The last few verses were completed on the morning that I was leaving, as we waited for the tide to come in and float my boat so that I could leave. Pray for us to be able to complete the consultant check in June.



Carols and candlelight on Christmas Eve (Photo: Donna Smith)



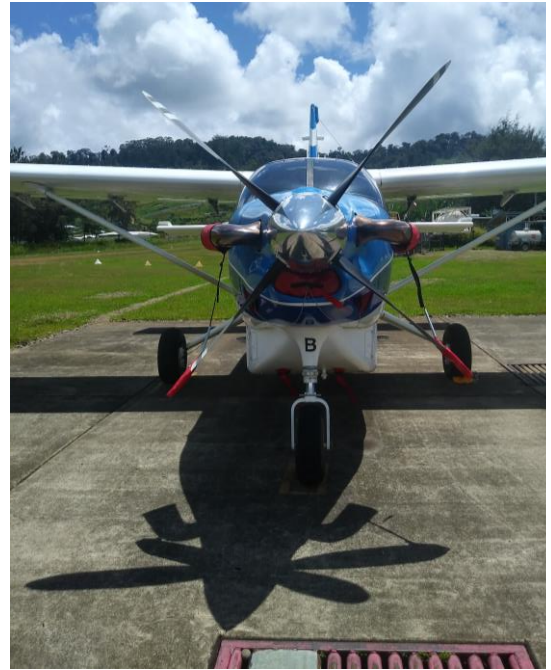
Completing the last few verses of the read through of Luke



Christmas with the McKean family and Valerie, my friends from Kapuna. (photo from Kelly McKean)



I am thankful for our Aviation department, who not only safely get me around PNG, but who have helped my friends with medevacs.



Kodiak, with whiskers and lipstick!

Completing the consultant check requires us to have a consultant, and to be allowed to travel. We had a consultant booked- my friend Phil who works in a related language- but in late January Phil had a catastrophic stroke, and was medevaced to Australia, before being repatriated to New Zealand. He has a long road of recovery ahead of him. Pray for Phil, and his wife Chris, as they go through this time. There are now some possibilities of a different consultant being available to help us, so pray for these details to be worked out.

As many of you would have seen in the Australian media, Covid cases in PNG are finally rising. At the moment this has not had a big effect on me, but if the restrictions on inter-provincial travel remain, I will start to feel it more. Already I am letting go of the plan to attend a friend's wedding near Wewak in early May, and to then attend training elsewhere in the Sepik afterwards. My hope and prayer is that by June we are able to travel again, as that is when my next Gulf trip is planned, and it is planned with many different things going on.



Enjoying coffee and cake by the seaside while holidaying in Madang... (Photo: Donna Smith)



...which is quite a contrast to my village lifestyle, where I do my laundry in a bucket. (Photo: Andrew Good)

Checking Checklist (Luke)

- ✓ First Draft
- ✓ Team Check
- ✓ Advisor Check preparations
- ✓ Advisor Check
- ✓ Community Check
- ✓ Back Translation
- ✓ Read Through
- Consultant Check (June '21?)
- Final Changes
- Record (July '21?)
- Typeset (Aug '21?)
- Print
- Dedicate



← Working together to read through Luke
(Photo: Hans Beukers)

→ Training new team members, and giving a refresher to established members, as we start drafting Genesis and Acts.



While in Gulf this time, I very much enjoyed the use of our new training centre building. Work is no longer squeezed onto the verandah of my home, but is across the road in a spacious and comfortable building. Separating home and work like this, as well as having open space to work, lots of power to run computers, and the delight of fans to keep me cool, has made a huge difference to my work day! The extra space also means more people have been joining the translation team. It is great to see the community showing such interest in, and commitment to, the work.

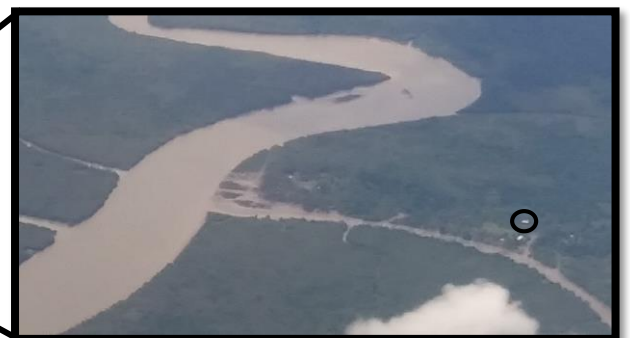
Another change in my work is that what we do is growing! With the growing team and reaching the end of this stage in Luke, the translation team has decided to start on two new books, Acts and Genesis. We've certainly not started with small books, but we have started with foundational books. At the same time as the Kope team growing, so is the expat team, and so is the work beyond the Kope.

We are growing towards a multi-language project that reaches out to neighbouring languages through an oral translation method called 'Oral Bible Storying' (OBS). Late last year Hans and his wife Gerline (NL) joined as project managers. Hans was able to visit Gulf briefly while I was there, and the whole family plan to come in June-July. Having people to work alongside as we plan, submit project proposals, and take next steps is a huge blessing to me, and it is exciting to see how things are starting to come together. Pray for more people to join our team, especially translators.

They are some of the main events of the last few months. Thank you for joining me on this journey, as your prayers, gifts and encouragement are all an important part of my life and ministry.

Blessings,

Hanna



Ubuo village, seen from the air. The circle is around the training centre. It is visible as its iron roof reflects the light.

Prayer Points

PNG: As PNG responds to rising Covid cases, pray for our leaders and health workers, that they will serve the country well, as well as for the country, that we may be spared too much grief.

Kope: Praise that we finished the read-through of Luke! Pray for the team as they draft Acts and Genesis, and that we will be able to do the consultant check in June.

OBS: Praise for Hans and Gerline joining the team! Pray for us to have wisdom and patience as we make plans for the future, and for more people to join the team.

Aviation department: I thank God for their services in getting me safely around PNG, and for the two times in recent months that they have been able to medevac a friend in their time of critical need.

Phil and Chris: for healing for Phil, and for grace for them both as they work through everything that has happened.

Health and safety: I am thankful that I have had these things (although headaches continue to be an issue), but I do not take them for granted.

Executive Committee: EC meets in April, please pray for us to make wise and God-honouring decisions. I have just been voted back onto EC for another term, so will be serving in this role until June 2024.



Dates

Apr 14-20: EC meetings

April 21 – May 19: Visiting the Sepik for a friend's wedding and OBS training (Pray for me to have patience with changing plans, and to find other OBS training opportunities)

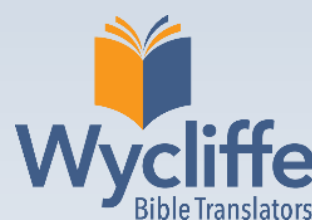
June 8: Return to Gulf Province

Tasks in the meantime:

- OBS planning
- Rewriting my MA thesis on Kope verbs for publication
- Creating Kope storybooks
- Catching up on Kope Dictionary work
- Keeping up with email

For the message of
the cross is
foolishness to those
who are perishing,
but to us who are
being saved it is the
power of God.

1 Cor 1:18



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