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The Journey of Hanna Joy

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Hello All,

In January and February I spent six weeks in Gulf Province, living in Ubuoo and working with the Kope people. It was a busy time, but an encouraging time. I am so blessed by the people I work with, and their enthusiasm and commitment to the work of translation in their language.

I am also blessed by each of you who prays, gives, and encourages me as I continue in this work. Thank you for being a part of the Kope translation programme.

I hope you enjoy these snippets of what has been going on.

Blessings,

Hanna



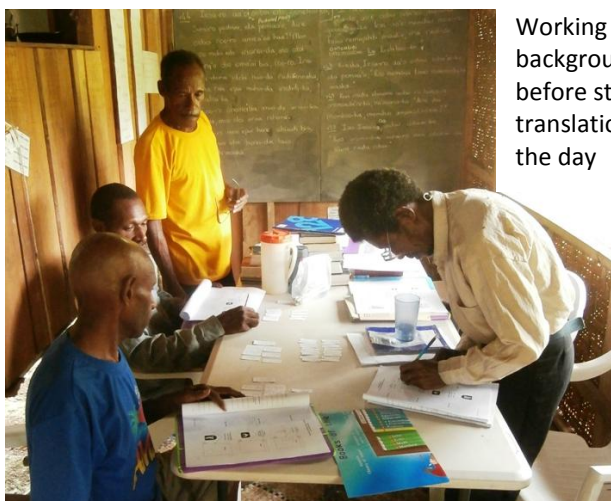
Even with my busy schedule, I am continuing to have two language classes a week.

Translation

On Jan 25 we marked one year since we started drafting the gospel of Luke into Kope. When I mentioned this to the translation team, they decided that we would have a 'small' celebration. 150-200 people brought food, there were speeches and a cake, and then we watched the Jesus Film together. As I'd not been expecting this, I did not have my projector with me in the village, so 150+ people watched the film on the tiny screen of my tablet. Although many could not see much, everyone could hear the story clearly, as the church has a good system. Since then, a friend has given me a small battery powered projector, so in the future I'll be ready to create a cinema at short notice.

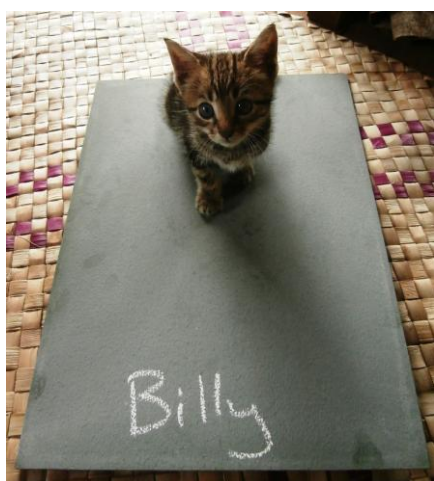


The women share out the food while in the background people watch the Kope Jesus Film on my tiny tablet screen.



Working on Bible background skills before starting translation for the day

While I was in Ubuoo we spent each Monday and Tuesday working on drafting Luke. We would start each session with a brief class on either study skills or Bible background. I was using materials from the Translator Training Courses which run in Ukarumpa, slowly building the skills of the translation team as they become increasingly independent in their work. After only one year working together, the team are already quite independent in their translation work, which is exciting. Please **pray** that they'll keep drafting while I am in Ukarumpa, so that when I am in the village we can focus on training and checking.



A picture is worth a thousand words... so sometimes rather than attempting to describe something for the dictionary, I have been taking labelled photos. Our kitten kept trying to get in on the photos, so at the end we let him have his own photo ☺

Dictionary

We have a Kope dictionary under construction, and on Thursdays we were meeting to work through some of the questions that need clarification.

The dictionary started with words that Robbie collected from stories that people wrote as part of a writers' workshops some years ago. I have added to this from my language learning notes and the translation work we are doing. John Clifton, who worked with the Kope in the 80s and is now back in the US, has been going over the data and asking helpful questions to clarify meanings.

Once a week we would sit and talk through these questions from John. As I made my notes on the answers I was given, I was confident that not only were we clarifying things, but we were also collecting many new words, and raising enough new questions that the work will not be completed any time soon. Still, it is good to have this project underway and to see the enthusiasm of the Kope community to have words, meanings and usage well recorded.

Song Book

The Kope translation team is also working on a book of worship songs in the Kope language. In part this is collecting a number of original compositions and translations that are already in use, but it also involves the translation of new songs. These are being translated from various languages; English, Motu, Tok Pisin and Kerewo. Kerewo is a related language that has had a hymn book for decades, and is used among Kope churches. I am encouraging the community to also create new songs in Kope, but that is taking some time.

Next time I am in the village I am hoping to record some of these Kope songs, so that we can distribute them on SD cards for people's phones. Please **pray** for me as I learn to use basic music production software, as this is something well outside my comfort zone.

Farewell meal

At the end of each village stay, we share a 'small farewell meal' to celebrate the work that has been done and to say goodbye until next time. It is small, in that only the people we have been working with most closely are invited, along with their families. This means the translators, computing students, and language teachers. Still, this adds up to forty people and a very crowded veranda.

It is wonderful to have so many from the community committed to and involved in the translation work. I am **thankful** for each of these people.



The veranda starts to fill as people arrive for the 'small' farewell meal.



Once the veranda was full, people overflowed onto the front step.

Anniversaries and Changes

March 31 marks five years since I arrived in Papua New Guinea to start work in Bible translation. Those years have been full of blessings, and have gone quickly. I am thankful for all I have learnt and all I have been blessed to be involved with.

March 31 also marks a major transition, as although I will be continuing my work in PNG, I will be continuing as a sole member of Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia

(WBTA) rather than as a dual member with Lutheran Bible Translators Australia (LBTA). Being a dual member has until now worked well, but major changes in Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) governance and administration structures mean that LBTA has been wound up and I am moving to sole membership of WBTA.

On a day to day basis, not much changes with this shift. I will continue working with the Kope people as their translation advisor. What will change is how my finances are managed. Until now I have officially been an employee of the LCA. All the gifts you have given to my work have come to me via the LCA who have repackaged it as a monthly salary and benefits. With WBTA, I am a supported volunteer and the money that you give each month is what I receive each month.

Over the last five years I have been blessed by your generosity. Over the years enough money has come in to support my work. Some months a lot came in, other months a little. The LCA has buffered this variation and I have received the same amount each month. Now this buffer will be gone and I join my other WBTA colleagues in the adventure of living by faith and seeing how much money I have received each month.

Please **pray** for me as I go through this change. I am very thankful for a number of people who via email have been helping me to ensure that all boxes are ticked and nothing that was previously managed by the LCA falls through the cracks as I move to sole WBTA membership. Please also consider giving to my work in a regular fashion. The more regularly that people give, the better able I am to have a functional budget.

For those of you who have been supporting my work through the LCA, please change your giving to WBTA. You can do this by visiting wycliffe.org.au/member/hanna and following the 'Support Hanna Schulz' link. As we understand that not everyone will be able to make this change quickly, the LCA will pass funds received for my work on to Wycliffe, but it would be best if people could begin to give directly to WBTA.

Thank you to each of you who have given to my work over these years. You have each been a huge blessing to me, regardless of if you gave regularly or just once, a large amount or a small amount. I am blessed to share my ministry with you in this way and look forward to continuing to do so.



Computer training

Hollie continued with training members of the translation team in computing skills during our recent trip. On a previous trip she had started with two students, and this time she gained two more. At the end of our time in the village, all of the computer students were doing well. They had made it through the typing program and were entering the draft translation, songs and stories into the computer. Please **pray** for them, that they will have the confidence to continue practising without us there to support them, and that the computer will perform as it should.



Conference guest speaker Dr Clive Bernard.



Hollie teaching computing skills.

Meetings!

Returning from the village I had a three week run of meetings which were worthwhile but tiring. This is a biennial collection of meetings where I gather with my colleagues from across PNG to share reports of both the good and the challenging things, as well as to receive spiritual challenge and encouragement.

PNG has more than 10% of the world's languages. As an organisation we have worked in PNG for 60 years, seeing huge changes in the nation in that time. Some of the things we used to do are still good ways of working, but many things have changed and it is good for us to come together to encourage and challenge each other in our work.

Please **pray** for wisdom for me, for my colleagues, and for the PNG church as we work together to see God's word in every language and in every life. May we have wisdom in how best to proceed, together.

Dissertation

Over the next few months, PNG will be busy with elections, and I will be busy focussing on Kope verbal morphology. To say that another way, while the team in the village are focussing on important decisions regarding national and regional leadership, I will be in Ukarumpa focussing on understanding how Kope verbs express when and how something happened- or if it happened at all- who was involved in the event and what they had to do with it.

Time spent analysing language data is an important part of language learning, and of working towards a high quality translation. My intention is also that it will all get written up into an 18,000 word dissertation for an MA in field linguistics. Please **pray** that I will have a clear mind for this technical work, the motivation to keep going, and wisdom to understand the various layers of meaning.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26



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