

Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 11:22 AM

Hello all,

I am writing this update from Kikori, where I have come from Ubuo village for a few days of rest and internet. Well, we'll see about the internet...it was on yesterday, and off again this morning. If you receive this email, you know it came back on again 😊

The first month in Gulf has gone well, but has had many challenges. Taking on a major building project, such as our training centre, in a small community and a remote location was bound to have challenges. Building a centre for translation training, where we plan to shine the light of God's word more clearly in dark places, is going to bring opposition, and we've already been seeing that. I usually write these updates as a narrative, but after the month I have had, that would require a small novel. Instead I will give you some prayer points to continually bring before God.

Relationships: Once again, we have had some significant discipling and discipline challenges within the translation team. Some of these challenges seem to come up every single trip, so pray for a spiritual breakthrough in hardened hearts. At the same time, there are some wonderful team members, who humbly give of their time and resources, and I praise God for them. One particularly important relationship has been the return of our translation coordinator to Ubuo. For various reasons we have not seen him a lot in the last few years, but having him there to help with the challenges, and to negotiate the politics and practicalities of building, is a huge blessing. Pray for me to have the grace and wisdom for each day, and to always see the image of God in people, not just the scarring of sin.

Health: Pray for God's protection over my health, the health of team members and their families, and for all in the community and involved in the building project. Currently, the Chairman of the translation team is here in Kikori, as his daughter is seriously ill and in hospital due to complications related to childbirth. Pray for her, and her family at this time. They are a family I am quite close to.

This is an example of things which take team members away from our work, and which weaken our team. Pray for protection for all of us. A death in the community would entirely stop the work, so pray for health and safety for all of us. In particular, pray for the safety of everyone doing work related to the building project.

Logistics: The logistics of building project are not my strength, so as well as praying for the actual logistics, pray for me to be at peace, and to remember all the important details at the right time. In the time I have been in Ubuo, much work has happened in the gathering of foundation posts, and commencing of building a cook-house and an outhouse. By the time I return to Ubuo on Monday, a wash-house, and a stage (for the opening) that doubles as a mess hall (for the workers) should be under construction. They may even have started to dig the holes for the foundation posts.

The SIL building team will fly to Ubuo on Oct 22, and they leave on Nov 17. A grand opening is planned for Nov 15. Pray for... just pray! There is so much to pray for, that I'll leave it to you how to pray!!

After the builders depart, I will return to Kapuna to store my boat and other supplies, as well as to debrief with friends. At the moment I do not have a flight booked to return to Ukarumpa, as there are none on the schedule at the right time. I am waiting on some other colleagues to finalise their plans, and hope to work in with them. Pray for this to come together smoothly and with the minimum of stress. I need to be back in Ukarumpa by the end of November, as EC (Executive

Committee) meetings start on Dec 2. This will be a long trip, so pray for stamina, that I can pace myself, and that I can set culturally acceptable boundaries.

Luke: Alongside all this, I am hoping to finish a significant stage in our work on Luke in Kope! So far we have achieved four days of translation work in four weeks. On other trips I have averaged four days of translation work in a week. I estimate that we have two more days of work until we have completed the advisor check of Luke. This is an exegetical check that I do with the team, after they have completed their first draft and their team check. This is a major milestone! Pray that the three translation work days we have scheduled between my return to Ubuo and the arrival of the builders actually happen, and that we can get through this important work.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support. While it can feel isolated in the village at times, I know that I am part of a community of faith that is carrying me. I have local brothers and sisters who work alongside me, regional friends working with one heart, translation colleagues across PNG and the world, and all of you wherever you are, who are sharing in this work with me. Thank you.

Blessings,
Hanna

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