

The Journey of Hanna Joy

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Hello All,

Thank you for continuing to journey with me. This year has been a very challenging one so far, and I am not really sure how to write this newsletter, so I will just go back to my November newsletter and update you from there. Many of you know much of this already, but some will have missed out.

In late November I flew to Australia for holidays, with the intention to return to PNG in mid to late January. I had a wonderful month of holidays with the Victorian part of my family, including camping at Wilsons Prom and on the Murray River, a high ropes course among the trees with a niece and nephew, beach horse-riding with another niece, Christmas in Warrnambool, and many other lovely times together. It was a good time of just being together, getting to know each other better and making memories together.

Clare Menck



Photo: Ken Maley

On New Years Day everything changed when my sister Clare was diagnosed with cancer, and I decided to stay longer in Australia so that I could visit her in Perth. Over the next few weeks her diagnosis worsened, with the result that my parents and I fought to enter WA while the hard border was still in place, and to be able to visit her in the hospital from the hotel where we were quarantining. We succeeded in having one precious hour with her, when she still knew who we were. She died the following day, on Jan 31, leaving behind her husband and children (12 and 9), and many broken hearts among the so very many people who knew and loved her.

Clare was one of the most important people in my life, and losing her has flattened me. Since childhood, she has been one of my most trusted, loved and formative people. She was one of the main people who taught me to know myself as a Beloved child of God, rather than to live by the doubts and dismissals of the world. The hole she leaves in my heart is enormous.

I remained in WA until Mar 10, appreciating being around a network of people who also knew and loved Clare, and were grieving with me. After time in Victoria to hug family there, I returned to PNG on Mar 21, travelling with friends, as travelling solo is just too hard at the moment. It has been good to be back here in this special community, and in my own home. My first few weeks were full of meetings. This was good, as it gave me a structure to each day, and a place to go and participate, without having to contribute too much. Still, it is hard to have no-one around me who knew Clare, although everyone has been very kind and gracious about giving me the space to grieve.

Grief is exhausting. It feels like I am living on half a brain and a fractured heart. Most mornings I achieve some things, but by lunch I am unable to focus and ready for a nap. Tears come easily, but sleep does not. There are many good things I want to be doing, but am not yet able to do. Thank you to everyone who has emailed me encouraging words, I do read them, but they are buried in an inbox that has overwhelmed me and seems impossible to catch up on.

Grief is the price we pay for love, and I have loved Clare for a long time and deeply, and was loved likewise by her. I am trying to look after myself through this hard season, a season of unknown length, and I am thankful for each of you who journeys with me through prayer, gifts, financial support, and words of encouragement. Thank you.

Blessings,

Hanna



Walking at low tide at Wilson's Prom



Brumbies preparing to cross the river at Barmah on the Murray

Some holiday pics...



A beach horse ride with my niece



A day at a waterpark with Clare's kids

Ten years!

In late March, it was ten years since I arrived in PNG to start serving in Bible translation. So much has happened in that time, and yet it also feels like I am only just getting started. Praise God for his faithfulness through this time.

Would you like to serve in God's work in PNG? There are so many needs! Within SIL PNG we have needs for everything from a Chief Financial Officer, to school teachers, mechanics, managers, youth workers, children's home managers, Scripture use workers, translation advisors and more. If you would be interested in giving a year, or a lifetime, to God's work in PNG, email me, or email hr-recruiting_png@sil.org and get the conversation started.

Communication

In transferring to a new computer, my mailing database has got a bit messed up. I try to send out **these colour newsletters** about three times a year. On other months (if I am not in the village), I send out a **text-only email prayer update**. The significant news of recent months has been communicated through these prayer updates, and in the process I realised that many of you may not be receiving them. If you would like to receive them, please email me.



I was able to work alongside my brother-in-law to hand build Clare's coffin. It was a hard but special time. For the full story, look for "The Joy of Wood" on Facebook or Instagram.



Jin Hwan recording Luke in Kope.

Photo: Crystal Davis

Kope

While I was in Australia, Jin Hwan Kim and Crystal Davis visited the Kope people and recorded Luke. This is now in the post-production stages so that we can dedicate the audio version along with the printed version of Luke in Kope, hopefully in about November. Praise God for this recording being complete! There is much paperwork I need to complete for the typesetting of Luke in Kope to proceed. Pray for me to have the focus, and to be able to prioritise things well.

The Kope translation team has continued drafting in Acts and Genesis, but community issues as well as the upcoming PNG elections have slowed their progress. Pray for them to be able to make blocks of time to continue this work. I intend to visit the Kope mid-May to mid-June. This will be a trip focussed on relationships and typesetting decisions. It will be election season, and while Gulf will be a safe place to be, I expect politics will win over work for most of the team.

Oral Bible Storying

Paperwork is slowly coming along for the OBS multi-language project that we are working towards starting in Gulf. It has been approved in principle by SIL PNG, as well as the Pacific Area of SIL, and by the Global Funding Partnership. Now we need to complete the next pile of paperwork, including detailed budgets. I am thankful to have Hans Beukers working on the Gulf Delta OBS team, as this kind of management is his strength, when it is not mine! Pray for us to complete things in a timely manner, and for God to be preparing the hearts of those who will attend the courses, and those who will hear the stories.

Dorm

Last week we had a positive meeting with the construction department about the plans to build a dorm for the Oro'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre in Ubuo village. Due to the challenges of remote building, needing to work around rainy season, and of their limited staffing, we are hoping to build in January 2023.

This will mean the first two OBS workshops will have to be accommodated by hosts in the community, which will be challenging. I have decided to not run a teacher training workshop this year, but to push that back until the dorm is completed, to not burden the community with the accommodation for that workshop.

We still need to do a LOT of fundraising for this building project. Our initial rough estimate looks like being a significant underestimate. Hans is currently working on getting together more realistic numbers. Please consider giving a gift to the dorm building project, to enable further training in translation, literacy and Scripture use to be offered in the delta area of the Gulf Province of PNG.

To give: [Ubuo Training Centre & Dorm, PNG - Wycliffe Australia](#)



An Ukarumpa Easter tradition is that at the dawn service we decorate a barren cross with flowers, to become a resurrection cross. My friend Kristy happened to capture the moment I was adding my flower to the cross. At the same time, my team mate Hans was adding his. May this be who we are as a team, people who bring the beauty of new life in the risen Jesus to barren places and people.

Prayer Points

Grief: Pray for me as I continue to grieve for Clare, and as I slowly find my way forwards. Pray for all of us who are missing her, and for her husband and children in particular.

Health: Praise God that I have continued to dodge covid, even though I've been around several waves of it. Headaches continue to be a problem (I doubt grief is helping) so **pray** for healing.

Kope Translation: Praise for the completed recording of Luke. **Pray** for the team as they work on Acts and Genesis, and me as I work on paperwork for typesetting Luke.

Kope Language: While my reading and writing of Kope is quite good, I still struggle to speak. Continue to pray for me to have boldness and persistence with this difficult task.

Oral Bible Storying: Pray for the planning and paperwork for this to proceed. There is a lot to be done!

Training Centre Dorm: Pray for all the planning and paperwork, as well for the funds to be raised in a timely manner.

PNG Elections: Over the coming months PNG will hold elections for the national parliament. Pray for the campaigning, voting, counting and declaration of a new government to be a peaceful and just process.

Etc... There are many things to pray for through this newsletter, so thank you for bringing them all to God in prayer.



Besides for time with family and friends, the best part of being back in Australia, was the beach!

Dates

Apr 20 - 26: Executive Committee meetings in Ukarumpa

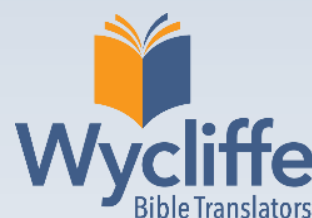
May 18 – June 15 (maybe): time in Gulf Province with the Kope people and with friends at Kapuna.

I am weary with my
crying; my throat is
parched. My eyes
grow dim with waiting
for my God...

Answer me, O LORD,
for your steadfast
love is good;
according to your
abundant mercy, turn
to me...

I will praise the name
of God with a song; I
will magnify him with
thanksgiving.

Ps 69: 3, 16, 30.



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