

Sent: Friday, 16 August 2019 8:21 AM

Hello all,

It is only a few days now until I return to Gulf Province and the Kope people for the first time in just over a year. I am looking forward to being back among the community, and back working on translation with the Kope team. I am also aware that many things can change in a year, and that I am not sure what I will arrive to find. Thank you for praying for me as I go, discover, work, and connect.

I fly to Gulf on Tues Aug 20, and will spend a few days at Kapuna Mission Hospital before continuing on to Ubuo (my village) on Sat Aug 24. I am thankful for my friends at Kapuna, and am looking forward to re-connecting with them and seeing their progress of rebuilding much of the hospital. I will spend my time there preparing my boat for travel, and buying supplies, as well as holding conversations about replacing of the rotting thatch on my village house with a tin roof (they've helped order the supplies), about replacing my composting toilet, and about future possible training/translation centre building plans (their local knowledge is invaluable, others will do the building). Many of these building conversations are foreign to me, but this time a member of the Ukarumpa CAM (Construction and Maintenance) Department will also be in Kapuna, consulting on solar power for the hospital, so will hopefully be able to help me with some of the things I need to discuss. Pray for these conversations, for the details that need organising, and for safe travel as I head from Ukarumpa to Kapuna to Ubuo in August, and back again in October.

Once in Ubuo, I am looking forward to re-connecting with my friends and colleagues there. I will resume learning Kope, and meet with the translation team to decide our work priorities for this trip. Most likely this will be checking the drafts of some chapters of Luke. Before furlough, we had 70% of Luke drafted, and I am hoping there has been some progress. I am hoping that we work on the dictionary, as I have spent significant time processing dictionary data recently. We may also work on literacy materials... but we'll see! Please pray for me to be ready for whatever translation and language work the team decides to prioritise, and for us all to have a good working relationship that is both productive and God-honouring. Pray also for my health, and for my language skills.

After six weeks in the village I will return to Kapuna on Oct 5, and then return to Ukarumpa on Oct 8. Recent weeks in Ukarumpa have been very busy. Aug 7-13 was my first meeting of the EC (Executive Committee) of SIL PNG. It was a steep learning curve for me, as I worked to understand our role and responsibilities, as well as getting to know the other members of the committee. It is a good team of people, and I am thankful for all the different people we have in leadership roles. Please pray for our leaders, as they have a lot of complex issues that they are dealing with, and need God's grace, wisdom and strength to keep doing a good job.

At the same time, my Ukarumpa house has had a number of repairs, with rotting house posts being replaced, security being upgraded, and a team starting to prepare the walls (inside and out) for painting. The paint's arrival from Lae has been delayed by a week, due to an issue with the truck, but hopefully paint will start going on next week. I am thankful for all the different workers and skills that are available for me to access, even though it has made home noisy, dusty and chaotic of late. Thank you to everyone who has given to my work, and in doing so enabled me maintain my home here.

In my last prayer email, I mentioned Robbie Petterson, my Kiwi colleague who works in literacy with about 12 languages in the Gulf delta area. In an email conversation with him, I asked what things he would see as most helpful to the literacy programme at this point. One of his comments was that we flood the area with vernacular books. This is something I hope we can achieve, but first we need to collect more stories to turn into books. Please pray that people will be excited to write and illustrate stories in their own language, so that we can get those into book form and out into schools. His other suggestion was to buy two 8hp outboards, for the use of the two local literacy coordinators. They could put these motors on their dugout canoes, and then be able to visit all the different literacy schools that they support and supervise. When I looked into the price it was K7,020 per motor, and we put the idea aside. As the motors are on sale for K4,390 until Sept 30, we are interested again! While we recognise that purchasing two such motors will surely come with a whole range of challenges, we think it is worth pursuing at this price. We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom, and that we will have the needed funds if this is a god plan.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your part in my work. Your prayers, gifts and encouragement are critical, I could not do this work without you. As I head back to Ubuo, and am largely out of contact for the next seven weeks, it is good to know that I am not alone. I'm not alone as Immanuel, God is with us. I am not alone, as my Kope friends welcome me into their community. I am not alone, as I go with the company of your thoughts and prayers.

Blessings
Hanna