

Longwe Liklik

Mission News from the Sprau Family

Welcome!

Here it is, our first newsletter, hopefully one of many. Our aim is to keep you, our team of supporters, friends and family, updated on our new adventure - medical mission work in Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea (PNG) with Wycliffe Bible Translators and SIL.

Who are we?

We, Anke and Patrick are originally from Germany, but moved to Australia ten years ago, which our little family now calls home. Both our children were born in Mildura, Victoria, where we lived for three years. Currently we live in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia. Patrick is a GP and most recently has been working in Whyalla on a fly-in fly-out basis in Indigenous healthcare. Anke is a physiotherapist and has been working close to home for the last three years, first in a private practice and most recently in a nursing home. Jeremy, 7, and Benjamin, 6, are students in a local Lutheran School in Mt Barker, whose adjacent church is also our sending church. When not working, Patrick likes to go for a run and tear around on his mountain bike. Anke loves to bake cakes and have a quiet read from time to time, while the boys are very active and enjoy soccer, BMX, breakdancing and building Lego.

Why mission work?

Back in 2005, we had the most amazing experience in Wewak, PNG, working in the Wewak Boram Hospital for five weeks on medical/physiotherapy electives. Ever since, we have strongly felt that medical mission work in PNG is our calling and God has surely prepared us for it in wonderful ways. Now that we have a timeline, are getting closer to being deployed and can start preparing in earnest for our mission, we are getting very excited about serving in PNG.



Ask someone in PNG how far it still is to your destination and chances are the reply in Tok Pisin will be *'Longwe liklik'* – 'a little long way'. It just takes as long as it takes! We feel like that sometimes about our mission goals: as much as we would love to see things happen quicker, they will happen in God's own timing.

What are we hoping to do in PNG?

We will be signing up for service in PNG for two years, however, we will consider staying on for four years if everything goes well. We will be based in Ukarumpa, in the Eastern Highlands of PNG. Ukarumpa is a centre of operations where many Bible translators come to check their work, liaise with others for mutual support, participate in professional development or to take a break from living in remote areas. For Bible translators to be able to do their work, other professionals and support workers are needed, such as teachers for missionary kids, IT personnel, pilots, but also medical personnel like us. Ukarumpa has a medical clinic where we will be able to work in our respective professions, treating expatriates as well as local people from the surrounding villages. Furthermore, we are hoping to go on health patrols to villages that otherwise would not receive medical care.

Our children will be attending Ukarumpa International School, which is based on the American schooling system and covers classes from reception to year 12.

Where are we at?

Earlier this year we spent nine weeks at Kangaroo Ground, just outside of Melbourne, for our SIL Launch course as well as for some Wycliffe preparation courses. Completely different to our usual professions, we learnt about phonetics, language awareness (grammar), language learning (we actually learnt some Indonesian) and anthropology. It was an intense course, but so very interesting and fulfilling. But not only did we learn exciting things about linguistics, we also met a great variety of courageous and truly inspiring people. We could not have asked for a better time, on a social and an academic, but more importantly on a spiritual level as well. Jeremy and Benjamin had a blast, too, testing the backyard for BMX compatibility and teaching the other kids (from two to 13 years old) how to jump over obstacles with their bikes no matter what! But for six weeks they also had a great time at Kangaroo Ground Primary School and we are very grateful for how accommodating everyone at the school was to us.

Also, in May we finally became Wycliffe members! We are very excited, as this means that we can finally get started with support raising/ partnership development and we are proud to be part of such a supportive organisation as Wycliffe. Soon we will start connecting with church communities and interested people and pray for a team of supporters that will join us on our upcoming journey.



“Trust the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight.” Proverbs 3:5,6

What happens next?

At the moment we are signing up for Bible college at Tabor College in Adelaide, to obtain a graduate certificate in International Health & Development. Bible college training is a requirement in case we would like to stay longer in PNG than two years. Therefore, we decided to start sooner rather than later and keep our options open. At the end of the year we are planning to visit family and friends in Europe. Currently we are planning to leave for PNG in March 2019, provided we can raise our financial support and get our visas and work permits in time.

What does it mean to support us and to join our team?

If you see value in our work in PNG, we would love to have you on board to partner with us. We are looking for people who are willing to support us through encouragement and prayer, as well as financially. We will be working as volunteers and are therefore dependent on a team of financial supporters to cover our cost of daily living whilst in PNG. Your contributions will be forwarded directly to us, so you can be certain that your donations will be used specifically for our mission work. We are grateful for anyone who partners with us and for any contribution, no matter how small the amount. Supporters will have the option of a once off or regular donations. It is very easy to set up via the Wycliffe website (please see the link at the bottom of this newsletter).

Praise for:

- All the amazing people we have met on our journey and the friendships we have built
- Our gracious God who keeps opening doors and providing new pathways
- All those fantastic opportunities to learn and grow academically and spiritually
- Our local church, where we now feel at home
- All our supporters, friends and families who keep encouraging us in what we are doing

Pray for:

- A strong support team to join us on our journey
- Patience as we keep preparing for our time overseas
- A smooth start at Bible College in July this year
- A supportive environment for us and our children as we prepare for our time overseas

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Cheques can be made out to Wycliffe Australia, with a note 'for the ministry of A & P Sprau' and sent to Wycliffe Australia, 70 Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097.

Support through website: www.wycliffe.org.au/member/patrick-anke/