

Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 8:34 AM

Hello all,

I had planned to do a full newsletter with pictures before I left for Gulf Province for six weeks, but time has got away on me. While pictures and formatting would be good, you can still be praying for me based on a text-only email, and I need your prayers!

In my last prayer update I was getting ready to travel to Bangkok for a conference. Travel and meetings went well. What I valued most from the meetings was the chance to meet with colleagues from across the Asia Pacific, and to hear the stories from their many and different contexts. We each face such varied challenges in our places, but God is at work in all the places, despite the hard things that we face. May you also know the truth of this in your context and whatever challenges you are currently experiencing.

Yesterday (Oct 9) I flew to Gulf Province for a six-week trip that has lots of good things scheduled. I will fly from Aiyura (the airstrip near Ukarumpa) to Purari, where friends from Gulf Christian Services (GCS) picked me up in my dinghy for the three-hour trip to Kapuna. GCS run Kapuna Hospital and are my main mission partners in Gulf Province. I am staying here for a few days to connect with friends, make sure my dinghy is ready to travel, do some shopping, have some conversations with local Christians involved in our literacy and translation work, and confirm that the Kapuna transport team and myself are on the same page for all the transport plans for upcoming workshops. Without their help getting participants and staff to and from Ubuo, we could not do these workshops. Pray for this Kapuna time, for all the conversations, and for all the details that need to be looked after.

On Thursday (Oct 12) I plan to travel the three hours in my dinghy from Kapuna Hospital to Ubuo. Pray for a quiet and incident-free trip. In Ubuo I will unpack my house and reconnect with the Kope people. It will be good to hear the stories of the three months that I have been away. Pray for good relationships on every front!

Back in May we hosted the SALT (Scripture Application and Leadership Training) course in Ubuo, with several young men coming to Jesus for the first time and others really growing in their faith. To encourage these men in their new and/or deepening faith, as well as in their excitement to share this faith with others, we have organised for the SALT team leader Abra to come and visit for a week. Abra arrives on Monday Oct 16, and leaves on Wednesday Oct 25. This is planned as a time of encouragement, prayer and small group teaching. It is not another workshop, but a time for him to connect with those who came to the May workshop. Pray that this is a fruitful time.

On the same Oct 16 flight as Abra there will be three Gulf literacy teachers who will by then have been in Ukarumpa for three weeks as trainers in training for the Vernacular Creative Phonics (VCP) course. They are currently at the training centre working alongside our Literacy department to teach VCP to literacy teachers from across PNG. Next year they will be part of the staff when we run VCP in Ubuo. Getting them here has had several challenges, so pray for us as we continue to work through some problems that arose.

On Oct 25 the staff and participants for the fourth Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS) workshop are due in Ubuo. Getting everyone there involves a lot of logistics as staff come from various parts of PNG, as well as Nate coming in from Canada. Participants come from villages all across the delta area of Gulf. Pray for all the planes, boats, guest houses and other connections that need to be made. Pray that the sun comes out and dries out Baimuru airstrip, that the grass is cut, and that staff can land there rather than at Kikori, saving us a lot of travel time and fuel. Pray that all eight language communities return for this workshop, as two did not attend last time.

During the OBS workshop, please be holding each of us and our work in prayer. We will be learning five stories from the Christmas narrative, preparing people for the Christmas season. Pray for good health and good relationships, and also that the stories we are learning will have a deep and lasting impact on the lives of staff, participants and their communities. Pray for all the course logistics to go well. At the end of OBS we are probably having a visit from representatives of our funding partners. It is exciting to have the opportunity for them to come to Gulf and see a course in action, but it is also one more round of travel to have organised.

Most OBS participants, staff and funders disperse on Friday Nov 10 (more travel to pray for!), but some staff are staying on to run a Story Based Trauma Healing (SBTH) workshop closer to Kapuna Hospital. I will travel to Kapuna with these trainers on either Friday Nov 10 or Saturday Nov 11, and they will continue on to Varia village on Sunday Nov 12. I am not participating in this workshop, but taking the time to build relationships with people at and near Kapuna, as well as hoping for a bit of rest. Pray for the SBTH workshop staff and participants, that the right people will attend, that they will come to truly understand healing and forgiveness through Christ. Pray that from the course participants we can find appropriate people to train to run the workshop in the future. SBTH staff should return to Kapuna on Saturday Nov 18, and we are all booked to fly out of Gulf on Monday Nov 20. Some of us travel to Ukarumpa, while others go to Port Moresby and then onwards to Milne Bay, the Sepik and Canada. I am among those headed to Ukarumpa, for a short three weeks before I start home assignment (furlough) on Dec 8.

This is a whirlwind description of a lot of good things that we have planned. Please be praying for God's word to touch hearts and lives through this work, as well as for the practical aspects of travel, health and relationships.

Thank you for your part in this work, as prayer is an essential aspect of what we do together.

Blessings,
Hanna

PNG mobile and WhatsApp: +675 7900 1475
Email: hanna_schulz@wycliffe.org.au

To give to my personal and ministry expenses: wycliffe.org.au/hanna
Wycliffe Australia: 70 Graham Rd, Kangaroo Ground, VIC, 3097
info@wycliffe.org.au
finance@wycliffe.org.au