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# The Journey of Hanna Joy

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## Hello All,

I joke that the only thing that remains the same in my life is transience. My life is a cycle of coming and going between the village where I work (Ubuo) and our main PNG centre (Ukarumpa). I then also come and go between PNG and Australia on a regular basis. Around me my friends and colleagues are doing the same thing, travelling between their various places of work and the various places we call home.

It has been good over the last four months to be mostly in Ukarumpa.

I have been able to reconnect with colleagues as I attended our biennial branch conference and other meetings. I was also in town long enough to be part of community events. It is nice to have a sense of belonging again, rather

than that I am just travelling through. On Friday (21 July) this period of being here ends, and I return to the village to resume that aspect of my work.



During Conference the Aussies, Brits and Kiwis got together for a BBQ and some backyard cricket ☺

My biggest challenge over these last months has been chronic headaches. As this is a new thing for me, I took a two weeks trip to Australia to see some specialists. Thankfully, I was cleared of anything sinister. Instead, it appears to be the result of doing too many things for too long, and a resulting build up of stress. My challenge has been to reduce my work load and work on building better self-care habits. This has been going well in Ukarumpa, but as I return to Ubuo, it is a whole new challenge. Village life and work is intense, so please **pray** for me to have wisdom in how to pace myself and care for myself.

I hope you enjoy this summary of some recent events, and some of the things we are preparing for while in the village. Thank you for your prayers, gifts and encouragement. You are each a blessing to me.

Blessings,

Hanna



Branch Conference was a time of worship, challenge, encouragement, reports and decisions.

## Books, books, books.

During our last trip to Ubuo, we collected and edited several new stories. These have now been formatted, approved, printed and bound. I am thankful for Hollie (intern) and all her work formatting these books. As we were book making during school holidays, we were able to recruit teachers and teens to help us. There is no way we could have made 1760 books in a day without their help! When we return to the village, there will be a two week literacy teacher training workshop happening, so we will distribute these books to the teachers then.

**Pray** for this workshop, that the teachers will learn new skills, and that the materials will be well used.



The afternoon shift with all the books made that day.



Friends helping us to compile hundreds of books.

## Feeling Appy

Some SIL-PNG colleagues have been working on creating a “Reading App Builder” that combines words and recordings to make an app that plays a recording while simultaneously highlighting the text being read. Although we are in a remote location, a number of people have smart phones, and putting things in app form, and then sharing them directly between phones, is a cost-effective way to distribute materials. Hollie and I are working on putting some of the Kope songs and stories into the App Builder, to show our community what is possible.



What the app should look like once it is released.

## Recording skills

The Kope translation committee has been working on translating and writing a number of new worship songs. To help with the distribution of these, we would like to record them and share them between phones, but that means we had to learn sound recording and editing skills. Hollie and I spent a day with one of our very patient recording technicians in Ukarumpa, and we head to the village with new knowledge, and a recording kit.

Please **pray** for us as we put our new skills to use, that there would be minimal technical issues, and that our recordings would be widely distributed.



Looking a little stunned during our sound recording class.



## Translation

In the four months since we were in Ubuo, the translation team has continued with drafting. This mostly happened in the first months, as then the national election took over. I am sure I will hear more stories of how campaigning and polling affected village life once I am back down in Gulf.

I am looking forward to working with the team once again, checking the work they completed, and encouraging them as they continue.

On each village trip I try to take with some training materials to further the skills of the translation team. This time I am taking some “Language Discovery” materials with me, to get the team thinking about the unique way that Kope works, and to then use that knowledge to make a more natural sounding translation.

Please **pray** for us as we meet and work together once more, that we would have good insights into the texts we are working on, and produce a quality translation.



Working with the translation team on study skills during our last stay in Ubuo.

## Solar

Since I was last in Ubuo, my solar power system stopped working. The radio was flown to Ukarumpa for checking, in case it caused the issues. The radio is okay, but I have bought a new battery and an extra panel for the system. My system was set up with one computer in mind, and is now supporting three computers, so the extra panel should enable it to handle the load.

## Verbs!

While in Ukarumpa I have been working on my MA dissertation. This gives me a structured way to look carefully at all my language notes, and build a better understanding of how Kope works. I am specifically writing about verbal morphology, which is how all the parts of a verb work together to tell you when, if, how, by whom, to whom and why something happened. As Kope can express many of those things by just adding one or two letters to the verb, there is a lot to understand, and a good reason that my ability in Kope is progressing *slowly*... it's hard work!

Please **pray** for me to have insight into how Kope works, and patience as I continue along the challenging road of learning to communicate in this language.

## Changes: LBTA

In my last newsletter I talked about the end of LBTA and my transition to sole membership of Wycliffe Australia. This transition has gone well. Thank you to everyone who has given so generously over the last few months, you have been a big encouragement to me, and helped to cover unplanned expenses such as new solar equipment.

On Sept 10 there will be a church service and meal to give thanks for the many years of ministry of Lutheran Bible Translators Australia. This will be at my home church, St Paul's Ferryden Park, and I will be there as part of the celebrations.



## Dates

After this time in Ubuo, I will be coming to Australia for five weeks of work and holidays. Although the dates are set for the following events, other details are still being established.

**Sept 4-7:** LCA Layworkers conference in Qld.

**Sun Sept 10:** Final LBTA thanksgiving service and meal at St Pauls, Ferryden Park, SA

**Sat Sept 16:** Sharing about my work in Bible translation over soup or supper at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Morley, WA.

**Sun 8 Oct:** Sharing at Mt Hawthorn Community Church, WA, about my work in PNG.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved.

Eph 2:4-5



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