

Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020, 10:57 AM

Hello all,

Where did August go? I forgot to send out a prayer update! In fact, where did the last six months go?!

Next Tuesday (Sept 8) I am booked to return to Gulf Province and the Kope people. This will be two days short of six months since I last returned from Gulf. It has been good to stop in one place for an extended period of time, and while I have been busy the whole time, I've still got jobs to do... but it looks like they'll have to wait for another time!

August was a full month, taken up by Executive Committee (EC) meetings, and preparations for returning to Gulf. EC went well, and while I found being acting Secretary quite stressful, the job got done. We had five of us meeting in person here in Ukarumpa, and several more joining us from the USA, Canada and Australia via zoom. We had good and important conversations. This is a large organisation that faces many challenges in an average year, and like everyone, has many more this year. Pray for wisdom for the leadership as they guide us through so many unknowns.

One of the challenges we are facing is that our Director has been unable to return to PNG from his time at home in the USA, and is operating remotely. He was one of those who joined the EC meetings via zoom. He is also one of many colleagues who have been trying to get back to PNG for some months now, and has had his flights cancelled four or five times. These cancellations are a result of the Australian cap on international arrivals, and limits on numbers of passengers on planes. As all travellers have to come to PNG via Brisbane, and with very few flights that connect directly on to PNG without an overnight in Australia, the Australian regulations have made it very hard for colleagues to reach PNG. Pray for them to have peace with all the changes and uncertainty, for them to get refunds for cancelled flights, and for them to make it back to fill a number of crucial roles. Plus, I want my friends back!

Preparing for my upcoming village trip has also had its share of uncertainties, and many details that I have needed to manage. As I have mentioned previously, we are planning on building a translation and literacy training centre in my village, Ubuo, this year. Visit <https://wycliffe.org.au/projects/ubuo-training-centre-png/> for more details, or to give to this project. Planning for this build has been stressful, and I am thankful for the qualified and willing people who have been helping me with planning and details. As we have been placing orders for materials, we have found many places where the price of items has gone up from when I wrote the initial budget. The closure of a local timber mill and the need to order my timber by barge from Port Moresby instead has also made a big difference. While it looks like a very generous gift should cover most of these costs, I still welcome your gifts to cover all the changes to expenses that keep adding up, seemingly with every email.

One uncertainty that I would appreciate prayer for, is when the generators will arrive. These are needed to run the power tools for the builders. They have been ordered from Australia and are soon to arrive in Port Moresby. They need to clear customs and get on a barge to Gulf Province so that we can use them. If they make the September barge, the builders will hopefully come down on Oct 8 and spend about three weeks building. They'll return to Ukarumpa on Nov 3, and I'm booked to return on Nov 10. If the generators miss the September barge, they'll come on a barge sometime in October, the builders will come sometime after that, and I will return to Ukarumpa... eventually! Planning for a trip that might be two months, or might be three, is a bit stressful.

Before the builders come, I plan on having a few weeks in the village to work on translation and preparation. We have two chapters of Luke left to check together, so pray that we can complete this significant stage of checking Luke. Pray that the team will work well together during this time. To prepare for the builders, we will need to install the foundation posts for the building, as well as construct a kitchen outbuilding and a toilet. These will be part of the training centre long term. Once the builders arrive, we will have three and a bit busy weeks of building, as well as feeding and caring for the builders.

Another thing I would appreciate prayer for is good health. I always appreciate prayers for my health when I am remote and off-grid, but in this pandemic year, it takes on an extra significance. I have had the hint of a cold the last few days, and if this become an actual cold, I will be prevented from travelling, and have to remake all my plans. Pray that I would stay well, and be able to fly on Tuesday! So far covid has had a surprisingly minimal impact on PNG. I praise God for this, and pray that it would continue to stay this way. Over the border in Indonesia, it has been a different story, so I know that the risk is real.

Thank you for joining me in my work through your gifts, prayers and encouragement. As I take on this big training centre project, I know it is only possible because I am part of a team. That team involves the practical people on the ground here, as well as all of you who support us from a distance, so thank you.

I *hope* to be away Sept 8 to Nov 10, and with limited email and no internet for most of that time, will be unlikely to send any updates during that time. I'll let you know in November how it all went, but until then, thank you for praying.

Blessings
Hanna

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