

# The Journey of Hanna Joy

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## Hello All,

On my office wall I have a piece of paper that outlines my plans for 2020... the first three months of the year follow what is written, and then life took an unplanned turn, for all of us!

I have been nearly **five months in Ukarumpa**, and this is possibly the longest I have stayed in one place since I lived at home during high school. Since then I have always been on the move to visit family and friends, attend church camps, or go sailing. In PNG, I'm always moving back and forth between our centre in Ukarumpa, and my village (Ubuo) in Gulf Province. Stopping has been good for me. I have appreciated the time to catch up on a backlog of jobs, as well as the time to connect with the Ukarumpa community in a different way.

One of my big jobs was spending seven weeks catching up on the **Kope dictionary** project. While the dictionary is far from finished, it is now in a state that we can move forwards with a plan. You can see the work so far at [www.webonary.org/kope](http://www.webonary.org/kope)

Another job has been to work on **literacy materials**. I am thankful for numerous Kope people who write and illustrate stories, that I then turn into small books for the schools and the community. There are many steps from hand written draft to finished book, but I am encouraged to always have new stories working their way through the stages.

As I have regular **radio communication** with the Kope translation team, I am able to keep up with what is happening in the village. The team has been working on **community checking** the draft of Luke, and with the help of the local mission hospitals, sending their work on to me. This work is an important step in making sure that our work is clear, accurate, natural and acceptable. I then use their work to prepare us for the final stage of checking, which is with a consultant.



A picture for one of our literacy books. Drawn by Nathan Tiramau. Friends in Ukarumpa have then helped me to scan and clean the image for publication.



Socialising while maintaining covid distancing protocols has meant outdoors events such as picnics and croquet. (Photo: Donna Smith)



"Juliette 7-2-8, this is Alpha 3-3-8. Do you read me? Over." At the radio for my weekly sked with the Kope translation team.

I have also had the opportunity to be part of some training courses, either in person or online. Having the time for such **professional development** is a real blessing. The work I do is complex, and there is always more to learn. My most recent course was an anthropology intensive, that has me thinking about how we can best communicate the truth of God's love within the PNG worldview, when I have learnt it with an Australian worldview, and the Bible was written over centuries of changing Jewish worldview. I am thankful that the Spirit helps us to communicate over all these boundaries, as on our own we would surely get it wrong.



Ah, zoom. Covid would not be the same without it! This screenshot is of all the people who attended the online anthropology course.

Looking forward, I am hoping to **return to Gulf in early September**. I will spend about four weeks in Ubuo, working with the team to finish the drafting and local checking of Luke, in preparation for the consultant checking I mentioned above.

In **October...** at which point I pause and take a deep breath, as there are so many 'maybes' between here and there... in October, I hope that we will be able to **build a translation and literacy training centre** in Ubuo. This building will provide a dedicated space for the team to continue their translation and literacy work, as well as a classroom in which we can offer training in translation, literacy and Scripture Use to other nearby language communities. I have sent the plans to the Kope, and they are excited. They have already put aside the land for the building, and are organising the 36 kwila posts that will be the foundation. My job is to raise the rest of the funds... and it is a lot of funds!



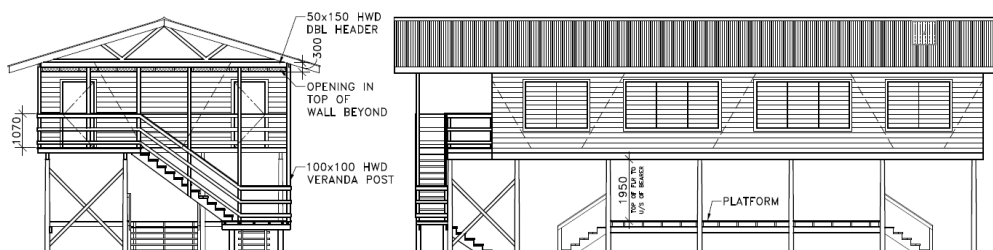
Village carpenters discussing the re-roofing of my house in January. A construction team from Ukarumpa will work alongside village workmen on the building of the training centre.

**Thank you** to those who have already given to this project. Your gifts have enabled me to place the order for all the solar and electrical equipment that is being shipped from Australia. The next order I need to place is for all the building supplies to come by barge from Port Moresby. At the moment I do not have this money, but need it soon so that I can place the order for the materials in the next few weeks. I realise this is a difficult financial time for many, so please pray about if you are able to support this project at this time.

**To give**, visit [www.wycliffe.org.au/projects/ubuo-training-centre-png](http://www.wycliffe.org.au/projects/ubuo-training-centre-png) or email [finance@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:finance@wycliffe.org.au) and **mark your gift for the Ubuo Training Centre**. This goes into a different account to my personal ministry account, so make sure you mark it for the training centre, rather than for me personally.

Other **upcoming training centre expenses** will be the flights, food and labour costs. Some of this will only be invoiced a few months from now, but the **materials need to be ordered soon**.

Please be praying for all the logistics and funds needed to make this training centre a reality! The good news is that I have a colleague (who is currently stuck in the Netherlands) who will be taking on much of the project management for me. This is a big blessing, as this kind of logistics is not my strength.



Details from the plans for our training centre in Ubuo



Another **prayer** point is for another area that is not my strength, but that I have to take on due to colleagues who are unable to return to PNG from their passport countries at this time. Please pray for me as I take on the role of **secretary of our Executive Committee** for the August meeting. Jonathan is our secretary, he returned to the US for his son's wedding, but will not be back in time for our meeting. I am not looking forward to being secretary in his place!

Getting back to PNG is proving difficult for both him and many others, especially as the only route into PNG is by transiting (not entering) Australia. Recent Australian government restrictions have meant the cancellation of even more of the few available flights, as well as rising prices and increased uncertainty on already expensive tickets. Pray for them and other colleagues who are attempting to return, that the way may be made clear, and that they may have the money they need for travel and quarantine.

Since covid changed world travel in March, we have **only said goodbyes** to friends and colleagues, and been unable to welcome anyone back. This is emotionally tiring and stressful, as there are fewer people to cover the workload. Many are doing jobs that are not their strengths. Our Director reached the end of his five-year term and made it back to his home country (on a journey that makes a soap opera look understated). Our new Director has been unable to return, so he does what he can remotely, and other things are covered by people here. This juggling of work is happening in every department. Please pray for those of us who are still here, that we can keep doing the work we are here for, while knowing what things to put aside for the time being.

This week in Ukarumpa, we held a Spiritual Emphasis Week. This was a chance to put aside a few hours each morning to gather as a community for worship, teaching, prayer and reflection. Our theme was Joseph, and how God was with him and using him through all the varied things that happened in his life. It was a much needed time, as these recent months have been stressful for everyone. I love that I work in an organisation where when leadership discerns the need for us to spend some focussed time with God as a community, they are willing to shut down all departments for a few hours a morning, at short notice, to make such time happen!

Whatever is happening in your life at the moment, I pray that you too will put aside time to dwell in God's presence, and to be reminded that no matter what is happening, you are loved and known by God.

**Blessings,**

*Hanna*



For some time, large indoor gatherings were banned, so church went online. This is us pre-recording the music for Good Friday in the empty Meeting House, where church is usually held. (Photo: Lydia van den Berg)



Leading the Good Friday Tenebrae service over our intranet-streamed radio station. People at home also had their candles and worship spaces, and it was an unusual but beautiful time of being together-but-apart. (Photo: Johann Alberts)



We are now allowed to gather as 100 people indoors, but have to maintain hygiene and distancing protocols. This is Donna and me dressed and ready to bleach the pews after one morning of Spiritual Emphasis Week. (Photo: Johann Alberts)



Farewell to friends! The price of love is grief, but it's worth it.

Stereotype: single woman turns 40, stops leaving the house, starts collecting cats.

Reality: I turned 40 in early March, the whole world stopped leaving the house, and my cats multiplied!

Tasman Cat has been good company in this time of self-isolation, and her kittens have brought me much joy in this season of farewells and uncertainty.

## Dates

**Early August:** order materials for Ubuo Training Centre

**August 12-18:** Executive Committee (EC) of SIL PNG meetings

**Early September:** return to Gulf Province

**October:** Build Ubuo Training Centre

**December:** Holidays in WA, so return to Aus in November for quarantine

**Jan- Feb 2021:** Teach at SILA Summer School (Launch) at Kangaroo Ground, Vic

## Prayer Points

**PNG:** so far we have had few recorded cases of covid-19. Praise God for this, and pray for ongoing protection.

**Kope translation team:** Praise for the work they have been able to do, and pray that the community will continue to support them in this work.

**Ubuo Training Centre:** Pray that we will have the funds needed for this project in good time for each step of the project. Pray for me to have wisdom in decisions that need to be made, and focus to keep all the details in line.

**Executive Committee:** Pray for us as we meet in August, for the technology to work for those joining us via the internet, and for me as I take on the challenge of being secretary for this session.

**Ukarumpa:** Pray for us as we carry the workload of missing colleagues, and grieve friends who are not here at this time.

**Returning Colleagues:** Pray for colleagues who are attempting to return, that they may have wisdom in knowing when to come, and the funds to do so.



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