

The Journey of Hanna Joy

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Hello All,

Whenever I start a new newsletter, I look back at the previous one, and it always helps me to recognise how much changes over the months, and how much I have to be thankful for. In two weeks I return to Gulf Province, for the first time since March. In the meantime, I have had two successful rounds of EC (Executive Committee) meetings, attended some OBS (Oral Bible Storying) training, submitted various linguistic and sociolinguistic papers, worked on translation and literacy materials, and developed plans for our growing work in the Gulf delta area. One part of this growth is that one OBS awareness trip has been completed, and another is coming soon. More exciting is that there are some new linguist/translators who have come to serve in PNG who are interested in joining this work. I am excited to see the work growing, and the number of workers growing too! Much of the last few months have been detailed in my monthly prayer update emails, so if you are not receiving those and would like to, please let me know.

I have also appreciated the stability of an extended time in Ukarumpa, enjoying deepening relationships with friends here, and having time for hobbies, as well as to catch up on paperwork and planning. In this newsletter I will give you some snapshots of work that is planned for my upcoming trip to Gulf. As always, thank you to each of you for your part in this journey of Bible translation. Your prayers, gifts and encouragement are a critical part of keeping the work happening.

Blessings

Hanna

Translation: Drafting and Checking



The Kope team working on drafting in February.

I plan to be in Gulf Province **Aug 31 – Nov 23**. Besides the workshops happening during this time, I will have a few weeks to work with the Kope team on drafting and checking Acts and Genesis, as well as a time preparing for Consultant Checking, and then completing Consultant Checking. John Bruner is booked in as our Consultant, and will be in Gulf **Nov 2 – 23**. **Pray** for the Kope translation team to work together well, and that they will truly understand the meaning of the text they are working on, so that they can translate it into both the right words for Kope, and into their hearts and lives as they are living translations in their communities. **Pray** for a good time of Consultant checking with John.



Illustration by Nathan Tiram for a literacy book we are making.

Literacy: Vernacular Creative Phonics (VCP)

Sept 21 – Oct 7 I will be hosting a workshop for elementary teachers and for volunteer literacy teachers to receive training in VCP. Samuel Saleng and Abu Daniel from the SIL Literacy department will be flying to Gulf to teach the course, demonstrating to the local teachers how to teach literacy to children in their own language, without the need for lots of materials, using a phonics approach. **Pray** for all the course participants and leaders, and for all the logistics surrounding the course. Also **pray** for these teachers as they return to their villages after the course, that the communities would support them in their roles, and that they would apply what they have learnt.

Translation Story: Do unto others...

In February I was completing the read-through of Luke in Kope to get it ready for consultant checking, and we reached Luke 6:31, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This is a common memory verse in English, even people who have never been to church probably know it, and it is embedded in our home cultures after years of Christian influence. It has been a difficult verse to translate at the drafting stage, so I asked the team what it meant, and what kind of actions it would look like.

I was a little taken aback by their responses, as it was all on the theme of "Do something for someone, so that they are obliged to do something for you later." Umm... not quite! We talked about it a little and continued. This is when I realised that Jesus was prepared for this exact understanding, as the next verses all counter it, to give the understanding that we love without expecting to get anything back, and that doing good so that others will do good to us is what 'even sinners' do. We are to be merciful, as our Father is merciful (v36).



Working together on checking Luke in February. Miri Cat likes to help!

It was an eye-opening moment of how easy it is for us each to read our cultural expectations into a text, and a delightful moment of realising that God saw it coming, and had the counter argument ready... as long as we read a text in context, and do not just memorise the bit we like. It also reminded me that Bible translation is a long, slow process, and while there are beautiful moments of radical change, deep and lasting change is often so slow that we do not see it happening. This 'golden rule' is

assumed and understood in my home place, after centuries of Christian teaching and influence, but how long will it take to see this change in these cultures? There were people in the checking team that day, who remember their grandmother telling them about eating human flesh (apparently it tastes sweet), and the change the gospel has brought since those times has been dramatic, but there is still a long way to go! For our home cultures too!!



My boat loaded and ready to travel the three hours from Kapuna Hospital to Ubuo village. Pray for safe travel on this upcoming trip.



I've enjoyed the extra time in Ukarumpa, including time spent with good friends.

Scripture Use: Christian Marriage and Family Life

Oct 11 – Oct 26 a team from the SIL Scripture Access department will be coming to Ubuo to teach a two-week workshop on 'Christian Marriage and Family Life'. We first planned this course for May 2020, then May 2021, and now Oct 2021! **Pray** that this course will happen at the right time, and for all the people who participate. May they be open to what God is teaching them, and be willing to teach the material to others when they return to their villages.



Proudly Kope, across the generations



Notching the posts for the platform bearers.

Oroi'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre (OMTC)

We are planning to put our new training centre to good use with the workshops that are happening, as well as through our regular translation work. Last year we were unable to complete the 'haus win' platform underneath the building. This is a space for social gatherings and meals. The timber for the platform has now arrived, and the community is responsible for completing the work. We also need to start thinking about plans to build a dormitory, as once we have regular workshops, we will need to be able to provide accommodation for participants rather than relying on village families to host them. **Pray** that it will be done in a timely manner, and with minimal trouble. Pray also for all the logistics required to run these workshops.

OBS awareness and survey

Sept 21 – Oct 11 will be the second awareness trip for Oral Bible Storying, as well as for doing language survey work regarding dialect boundaries and differences. They will be visiting a different village almost every day, which is an intense programme. **Pray** for them to have a good reception in the villages they visit, for people to become excited about OBS, and for safe travel, good health and good relationships among the team.



Crystal discussing language use with a community during the first OBS Awareness and Survey trip in July. (Photo: Hans Beukers)



September 16, 1975, Papua New Guinea became an independent nation. We will celebrate 46 years of Independence while I am in Ubuo.

Keep praying!

Travel, Health, Relationships, Language etc.

As always, **pray** for safe travel, good health and good relationships. My chronic headaches and some gut issues have been playing up lately, so **pray** for them to behave, or preferably, to go away entirely!

Relationships are at the core of discipleship, so **pray** for me to know God's love and grace in my own life, and to know how to express it well across cultures to the people around me.

We have lots happening this trip, so **pray** for protection, as well as wisdom and grace, in all the things that we are doing.

Pray for me to be persistent in practising speaking Kope. My language skills have plateaued at the moment, and I am struggling to push through the challenges of speaking in Kope; a difficult task in an already challenging context.

Covid continues to be an unknown factor in all our lives. Thankfully PNG has so far been spared from large numbers of deaths. **Pray** that it would continue this way. I am returning to Gulf fully vaccinated, and I **praise** God for that!

Pray for the new translation and linguistics workers who have arrived in PNG and discerning where they should serve. Gulf is one of many areas of need, and while I'd love to have new people join our team, knowing that they are where God wants them is more important than where I want them.



Receiving my first vaccination in June. My second one will happen later this week.

Dates

Aug 31: Fly to Purari and travel to Kapuna hospital, spend a few days getting organised

Sept 4 (or 6): drive my boat three hours from Kapuna to Ubuo, settle back into my house and work with the Kope team on translation drafting and checking

Sept 21-Oct 7: Vernacular Creative Phonics course in Ubuo

Sept 21-Oct 11: OBS awareness and survey trip in the Purari area east of the Kope

Oct 11-Oct 26: Christian Marriage and Family Life workshop in Ubuo

Nov 2-19(ish): John Bruner Consultant checking Luke in Kope, at Ubuo

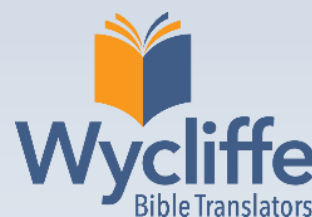
Nov 19(ish): return to Kapuna hospital to store my boat etc.

Nov 23: fly back to Ukarumpa

December-January: holidays with family in Australia... depending on what the border restriction and requirements are at the time!

Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.... But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return... Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:31-32, 35, 36



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