

The Journey of Hanna Joy

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Hello All,

Much has happened in the months since my last newsletter. Thank you for your prayers and support through this time. There are many good things to report, and I hope you enjoy reading about them below.

Blessings, *Hanna*

July to September: Ukarumpa (mostly)

In the first six months of this year, I only spent 6 weeks in Ukarumpa, so spending July, August and half of September here was a real blessing. I enjoyed reconnecting with my friends and colleagues, and caught up with various computer based tasks... although not as many as I hoped!

I did achieve my goal of a few nights holiday in Madang. Getting away to be by the seaside with the plan to do nothing was very good for me. I also got to Lae for a few nights, but that was for the less exciting task of getting my cat neutered. At nearly four years old she had had almost thirty kittens, but this was my first chance to get her to a vet in that very small window between her kittens being weaned and her being back in heat.

In mid-September I travelled to Bangkok for a work conference with colleagues from across Asia and the Pacific. It was good to hear their stories from so many places, and be reminded of just how varied our work and our contexts really are, as well as being encouraged that we are part of a much larger task having an impact in many places in many ways.



A sleepy Tasman after surgery. She crawled from her crate to my lap and slept for a long time.



Enjoying time with Ukarumpa friends.



* I found my way to the fabric market in Bangkok :-D * Holidays in Madang * When the Prime Minister came to visit our area, our Bible study became back-up cleaners for the guesthouse. In the end he didn't stay there, but we had it ready! *

VCP trainers-in-training

After the Literacy department taught Vernacular Creative Phonics (VCP) and Vernacular Path to English (VPE) in Ubuo, they marked some local literacy teachers to be trained as trainers. There were many complexities, but we were able to get three teachers to Ukarumpa to assist in teaching at the VCP course being held here. Next year, when we hold VCP in Ubuo, they will help to teach our local course. It is exciting to see local teachers being recognised for their work and being given these kinds of opportunities.

Pray for VCP in Ubuo in June-July 2024. We have far more interest in attending than we have room in the classroom, so pray that the selection of participants can be done without arguments from those who miss out.



VCP trainer-in-training Aukiri leading a session at VCP in Ukarumpa.

SALT top-up



Abra teaching at the SALT top-up time.

I returned to Gulf on Oct 9 and travelled to Ubuo village soon after. Our first event was a top-up time for those who attended the SALT (Scripture Application and Leadership Training) in May. Since then they had been consistently sharing the things they had learnt with nearby villages. Having two of the SALT team, Abra and Malon, return to Ubuo for a week of teaching and encouragement was a real blessing to all those who participated. It was a casual arrangement, with times of teaching based on areas that Abra and Malon discerned they needed strengthening in, as well as times of worship, prayer and testimony. Together they did a few local outreaches, again learning together how to do them better the next time.

OBS #4

Our fourth Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS) workshop was held from Oct 25 to Nov 10. We had 25 participants representing seven language communities. It was very encouraging to see how much the participants have grown after their first three workshops. In this workshop it was clear that they now really understood the process of learning and telling the stories, and were asking good questions to deepen their understanding of both the stories and their contexts. We learnt the Christmas stories, so pray for the participants as they share these stories in their own languages over the Christmas period.



Executive Committee (EC)

Since I returned to PNG in June 2019 I have been a member of our EC, including as Chair from July 2022 to August 2023. Thank you for your prayers for EC and my part in it across the years. It has been a steep learning curve, particularly as I took on the work of Chair. I have now handed the Chair to Denis, a colleague from Costa Rica, but continue to be on EC until June 2024. It is unlikely I will engage much with EC while on home-assignment, so this week will be my last meetings with them. Pray for us and our work of governance and oversight.

Story Based Trauma Healing (SBTH)

One exciting part about growing a team to work in the Gulf Delta area, is that I do not have to be part of everything that happens! I can go on home assignment in 2024 and workshops can still happen!! Following OBS a team of SBTH teachers came with me to Kapuna hospital for the weekend before they then went to Varia village to run their workshop for five days. I stayed on at Kapuna working on reports and handover notes. My regular visits to Kapuna Hospital are not because I am sick, but because they are regional partners who help us with accommodation and practical support. The workshop was well attended and went very well, as people learnt more deeply about forgiveness and reconciliation and what this means for their lives. In 2024 we plan to train some local people to lead these workshops.



The SBTH team leaving for their workshop.

Home Assignment

I leave for Australia on Dec 8 for a thirteen-month home assignment. This comes after a four-and-a-half-year field assignment, and I am very much ready for a break. A lot of good things have happened during this field term, but it has been a lot!



Meanwhile, this is how I spent my time at Kapuna: coffee, cat, journal and paperwork.

The initial plan is holidays and rest. I will see one or two friend in Brisbane after my arrival there, but then intend to buy a campervan to live in for my home-assignment year and drive to Melbourne in time for Christmas. A friend is helping me with the logistics, but pray for all the details of this purchase to go well! I plan to go slowly as I work my way south, getting used to being back in Australia and reflecting on all that this field term has held. January will also be mostly holidays, and from February I will start speaking in churches, women's fellowships etc about my work in PNG.

A very rough plan is southwest Victoria and southeast SA in the first half of February, Adelaide and vicinity from mid-February to mid-April, a trip back to Melbourne going the long way through the riverland and Mildura in late April, and heading north through NSW to Queensland from mid-May into June. While I have a few set dates in there, most of it is still open, and I will only get to actual organising in January.

As part of ongoing professional development and from the desire to do what I do in the best way possible, I am currently applying for the Doctorate in Global Leadership through Fuller Theological College in the USA. This is part of their Bible Translation Cohort, starting in about April next year. This study will be tied to my field work, as an approximately 25% load over four years. It will mean reading, research, writing, and attending a two-week intensive each year, somewhere in the world. I am excited about the possibility of digging deeper into the work I am already doing, as well as learning from my cohort and their work, research and reflections. Pray for me as I complete my application



Meeting in person and online with the Gulf Delta team before recent workshops. Nate Weaver (Canada), Jude Snelson (Aus, returning to PNG soon), Jennifer Belcher (in Alotau PNG for the meeting), David Kawatski, Debbie Asamaphan, Vicky Stanton, myself and Tasman, Hollie Butler, and John Knickerbocker (in my Ukarumpa house), and Robbie and Debbie Petterson (NZ). A number of PNGn colleagues did not have enough internet to join this meeting, and Hans Beukers (NL) was on leave at the time.



Staff for OBS#4: Hollie, John, Elly, Nate, Michael, Andrew, myself, Jennifer, Colin, Uko

Personal

I am tired! ...and very much looking forward to my time in Australia. Family, friends, Christmas, camping, sharing the story of what God has done in PNG during this field term, these are all good things. At the same time, I am unsure about being so long in Australia. Do I still know how to be Australian? Will #vanlife suit me or not? Thirteen months seems like a long time, but it already seems to be filling quickly. Will I really return rested?

As you can tell, home-assignment comes with a range of emotions, expectations and doubts. Thank you for continuing to pray for me, and continuing to support me with financial gifts while I am in Australia.

While in Australia I am planning to do some more research into my chronic headaches. Pray that I can find the right people to consult, and that they can help on a path to healing.



Dates

Nov 29 – Dec 1, 4-5: Executive Committee meetings.

December 8: Fly to Australia.

Decemember/January: holidays.

February (first half): visiting SW Victoria and SE South Australia

Mid-February to mid-April: visiting Adelaide area

Late April: Travel the Riverland back to Melbourne

Mid-April to June: travel north through NSW and Queensland

Prayer Points

Praise for all that God has done in the four years of this field term.

Pray for the OBS, SALT and SBTH participants as they live and share what they have learned.

Pray for the Kope Translation Team and the OMTC (Oroi'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre) Property Management Committee as they work together in Ubuo.

Pray for the Gulf Delta team, in their various roles and various places. I am so thankful that workshops can continue without me!

Praise that Tasman is finally neutered and has a good home for my year of home assignment.

Pray for me as I return to Australia, buy a van, and work out how to live in Australia again.

Do not be afraid,
for see—I am
bringing you good
news of great joy
for all the people:
to you is born this
day in the city of
David a Saviour,
who is the
Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

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