

The Journey of Hanna Joy

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Hello All,

Somehow I am already four months into my home assignment! While I have sent out a text-only prayer update in that time, this is my first newsletter since November last year. While I am home assignment my updates will be less frequent.

When I arrived in Australia I purchased a campervan to use as both transport and accommodation for this year. While I have been in Adelaide for nearly two months and house sitting for friends, it has been mostly transport. As I get ready to be on the road again, taking two weeks to get from Adelaide to Melbourne and then another two weeks from Melbourne to Brisbane, it will once again be my home on wheels. I am enjoying that it gives me the flexibility to explore Australia's national parks as I travel and to carry a few more things with me. I have taken to referring to it as the turtle, as it is my turtle shell home, to meander Australia in this year.

My two months in Adelaide have been good. It is now more than thirteen years since I lived in Adelaide, so it has been encouraging to find that many friendships still connect well, even though we have all changed over that time. I have enjoyed sharing at a number of churches and events about my part in what God has been doing in translation, Scripture use and vernacular literacy in the Gulf Province in PNG. I have also been to arts events, got back in the pool, gone for beach and bush walks, and enjoyed going slowly. One feature of my time in Adelaide has been appointments with a physio who has done specialised training in headache treatment. As a result, my chronic headaches are doing much better. They are not completely gone, but they are hugely improved, and I am very thankful for that.

News from PNG has mostly been encouraging. The fifth Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS) workshop went well, and while PNG has had challenges sourcing sufficient aviation fuel the sixth and final OBS workshop in June should still happen. What is unlikely to happen is the Vernacular Creative Phonics (VCP) course, as we do not have a staff member available to host the course. This is disappointing, as there is significant local interest in learning to teach literacy in their local languages, but it is looking like we will have to cancel the course.

It is good being back in Australia and largely having a break from the stresses of PNG, and it is good to have chances to share with people about what God has been doing in the delta area of Gulf Province in PNG.

Blessings,

Hanna



The turtle: 1998 hiace, manual, petrol



Receiving a copy of the Plain English Version (PEV) from Ps Leon Rosenberg. It has been good to have chances to worship with my home congregation of Ferryden Park, where a whiteskin majority is not assumed, and where indigenous languages are a regular part of worship. Photo: Marilyn Wall.



Speaking at Pasadena Lutheran Church, 17 March. Photo: Erin Kerber

Coming Up...

I am looking forward to exploring in my van as I take two weeks to travel to Melbourne and then to Brisbane. In Melbourne I am excited to see all my family in one place for a birthday party. From Brisbane, with the help of some friends, I am planning a round-the-world trip to see a number of my PNG colleagues and close friends who have returned to their home countries. Friends who used to live a short walk away in Ukarumpa or work nearby in Gulf Province now require a round the world trip to give them a hug. With all the farewells involved in my life, I am very much looking forward to this opportunity to spend time with people in their home places, as well as to share our PNG stories together.

Dates

20 April: Celebration of Translation Dinner, Naracoorte

28 April: Mildura Lutheran Church

29 April: Rainbow Lutheran Church

1 May: Mission Possible online event for Wycliffe Australia

7 or 8 May: Burrumbuttock Lutheran

9, 12 May: Temora Lutheran

...a few things need confirming in here!

26 May: Buderim Lutheran

28 May – 6 Aug (TBC): Go find my PNG family (friends who have become like family) in Europe, North America and New Zealand.

In PNG: 20-24 May: Story Based Trauma Healing workshop, Varia village

29 May - 14 June: Sixth and final Oral Bible Storytelling workshop, Ubuo village

17 June – 5 July: Vernacular Creative Phonics workshop, Ubuo... maybe.



Cumberland River, Victoria



Deep Creek National Park, SA

Prayer Points

Praise for a good time in Adelaide and for both old friendships and new connections.

Praise that the van plan is going well, and **pray** that travel will go smoothly and the van have no issues.

Praise for successful physio treatments and a major reduction in chronic headaches.

Pray for the work in PNG, and that someone can be found to host the literacy course and, if not, that we can contact people in good time to cancel the course.

Pray for each of my speaking engagements, that I will share clearly and be able to encourage the church with the good things that God is doing.

Then the angel said to the women,
“Don’t be frightened. I know that you are looking for Jesus, the man they killed on a cross. But he is not here. God made him alive again. Remember, Jesus told you that this was going to happen. Come over here and see the place where he was lying.”

Matt 28:5-6, PEV



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