

# The Journey of Hanna Joy

#4, Apr 2012

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## Hello All,

Welcome to my first newsletter from Papua New Guinea! I arrived safely and smoothly on Fri March 30. My first week was spent at Ukarumpa, the SIL centre in the highlands. Here I spent time meeting people, familiarising myself with the different departments, getting confused by acronyms and settling into PNG life. I was also blessed to spend Easter celebrating with Christians from around the world. On April 11 I flew to Alotau, Milne Bay, and a few days later headed off on a translation awareness trip (see below).

I am enjoying finally being here, after all these years of talk and study. So far I'm adjusting well to climate and culture and not missing home too much. Thank you for your prayers and support. It is good to know that I do not travel alone.

If you would like to keep in touch more often than a quarterly newsletter, I try to update my blog semi-regularly ([blessingsandbubbles.blogspot.com](http://blessingsandbubbles.blogspot.com)). If you would like to join me as a prayer partner and receive monthly prayer updates, please email me and let me know.

Blessings and Bubbles

*Hanna*



Easter Cross at Ukarumpa dawn service



Translation exercise in Diodio

## Translation Awareness Trip

After three weeks in PNG, I had already spent one week living in villages and conducting translation awareness workshops. It was an intense but rewarding introduction to life and work in the country.

I was part of a team of four who ran the workshops. Duncan is a PNG man who translated the New Testament into his language (Ubir, Oro Province) and now works with PNG Bible Translation Association (BTA). Rainer is a German who, with his wife, works as a translation advisor with the Sariba people (Milne Bay Province). Tanja is Duncan's daughter and came with us as my chaperone and village living teacher. She did a marvellous job of gently showing me how to be respectful and safe in the village.

We visited the Dimadima people on northern Cape Vogel Peninsula and the Diodio on western Goodenough Island, going between workshops on the SIL boat Kwadima II. Both of the language groups had invited us to come and share with them more of what is involved in Bible translation. In each place we spent three days teaching, sharing and practising translation. We also spent a lot of time sitting with the community, drinking tea, sharing meals and being a source of curiosity for the children. The hospitality we received was overwhelming at times.

The final session of the workshops is called 'What next?' and is a chance for the community to discuss if they want to proceed with a translation and how to go about it. Both language groups were excited to proceed and have started forming committees and identifying which people from the community would be the best to be part of a translation team. I pray that they will find the people and resources to continue.



Commissioning prayer

## Commissioning

Thank you to everyone who joined me or sent greetings for my commissioning on March 18. It was a very special day, although overwhelming at times. I felt blessed to be surrounded and sent off by family, friends and a congregation who support me in the work I now do.

## Alotau

For the next few months I'm based at the SIL Regional Centre in Alotau. This is an administrative centre for the region and includes a guest house for teams coming and going from their villages. The Translation Resource Facility has meeting rooms for translation teams, office space, a print room and a small library. The most exciting building is the newly dedicated training centre. With dormitories, catering kitchen, dining room and a large air conditioned class room, it enables more training of national translators to happen locally. Already it is booked for the next VITAL module (May), a mentor training course (July) and a Translator Training Course (Aug).

VITAL (Vernacular Initiative for Translation And Literacy) is a programme which works with a number of local languages to train and mentor them as they work on Bible translation and literacy materials in their own language. During the next training module I'll be working alongside the mentor to the Anuki team. I will later be working with this team on their Organised Phology Data (OPD). Another task is that I am helping to complete a grammar of Ghayavi in comparison to Gapapaiwa.

I'll be keeping busy!



Cargo and luggage being carried for us.



Kwadima II

## Finance

Finance is a topic many people avoid, but I have been encouraged to be more upfront about it, as the work I do is directly reliant on the generosity of others. Bible translation is not a profit making enterprise. It is an investment in the future of a community but needs to be supported by people outside that community, people like yourself. The only money Wycliffe and LBTA have to send on to me is money that they have received from supporters of Bible translation.

I am incredibly thankful for and humbled by those of you who already financially support the work I do. I encourage others of you to think and pray about if this is work which you are willing and able to give to. If everyone receiving this newsletter committed to giving \$10 a month, there would be an excess which could be invested in other translation projects. As we cannot all support every worthy project, I ask you each to reflect on your individual situation and what might work for you.

Learning to live with a direct connection with supporters like this is taking me some getting used to. It brings home our interdependence as people and our role as stewards of God's world and all that is in it. My independence is challenged in a good way and my sense of community is strengthened.

If you would like to financially support my work in Bible translation, please contact LBTA or Wycliffe at the addresses below;

Wycliffe Australia  
70 Graham Rd  
Kangaroo Ground, Vic, 3097  
03 9712 2777  
[www.wycliffe.org.au](http://www.wycliffe.org.au)



Lutheran Bible Translators Australia  
197 Archer St  
North Adelaide, SA, 5006  
08 8267 7334  
[bfm@lca.org.au](mailto:bfm@lca.org.au)



## Dimdim

Dimdim is the Milne Bay word for a white skinned person. It means a person from across the ocean, someone from somewhere else. Being a dimdim takes some getting used to. In town there are a few of us, so the staring is not too great.

In the village, the kids would giggle every time I walked by. I was not allowed to be out by myself after dark or beyond sight of the house. It meant being fed first when all the other women ate last and being given one of the few seats available. Cooking, cleaning and washing were all done for me. When we arrived or left, it meant others carrying my luggage for me.

Although some of these things made me feel awkward, they were being done to care for and honour their guest. I was grateful for their generous expression of hospitality.

## Prayer Points

**Praise:** My first month in PNG has been an amazing time and has gone smoothly.

**Health:** That I stay healthy.

**Cultural Adjustment:** Pray that I will continue to understand and respond well to local culture.

**Work:** The work I've been given is exciting, but will test my theoretical skills in a practical way.