Hello All,

On Wednesday I am booked and (mostly!) ready to fly to Gulf Province for a ten week stay, with many exciting things coming up. The three biggest things are Oral Bible Storying (OBS), the dedication of Luke in Kope, and the dorm building project. Also during this time I will be working with the Kope translation team on Acts and Genesis, and enjoying time with my New Zealand colleagues Robbie and Debbie Petterson, who are returning for a visit.

In other news, I enjoyed the chance for a holiday in Australia, but returned to Papua New Guinea (PNG) later than planned, as my sister and I both caught covid and had to complete our isolation requirements etc. before we could each return home. This meant that I missed the first few days of the EC (Executive Committee) meetings I was to chair, instead participating by zoom from isolation. Denis (vice-chair) did a great job in my place, and I resumed the role for the last two days of meetings once I was back in PNG.

Elections in PNG are mostly over, but some issues from election related violence in the area around Ukarumpa are still being resolved. The election has re-opened old wounds between tribes, so pray for the Holy Spirit to intervene in lives and bring deep and lasting forgiveness and reconciliation. Pray also for the newly formed PNG government, that they will lead the country with integrity and wisdom.

Thank you for praying, giving, encouraging and being part of this project. I could not do it on my own, but only by the power of the Holy Spirit working through all of us as the Body of Christ.

Blessings,

Oral Bible Storying

On Sept 7-21 we are booked to hold the first Oral Bible Storying (OBS) workshop for the Gulf Delta area! Praise God!! OBS is a form of translation that teaches people to internalise a Bible story so that they can retell it in a clear, natural, accurate and engaging way in their own language. It comes with built-in reflection questions to help people dig deeply into the meaning and the application of the story.

We are inviting eleven language communities to this workshop. They are the Kope, Anigibi, Gibaio, Fomomoto, Urama, Vaimaru, Kaimare, Varoi, Koriki, Iare and Maipu'a. For most of these language communities, this will be the first time Scripture has been translated into their language. Praise God! ...and pray; we are shining the Light in a place where darkness is at home, and we need you to be constantly covering us with prayer.

Pray for OBS:

- For all the planning and details that Hans and I need to manage before, during and after the workshop, particularly with regards to travel
- For all the trainers, advisors, participants and other staff who are part of the workshop, that they may grow in their understanding of God, learn OBS well, and share the stories confidently with their communities after the workshop
- For good relationships and health among this large group over the two-week course. Most of us will be new to each other.

Stories for this Course: Creation (Gen 1-2), The Fall (Gen 3), Cain and Abel (Gen 4:1-16), Abraham and the three visitors (Gen 18:1-15), and God tests Abraham (Gen 22:1-19)

Dedication of Luke in Kope: Oct 23

Last week I was able to visit the printshop in Ukarumpa to check on the printing of Luke in the Kope language. It was sitting in a pile, printed and bound, with the covers glued on but drying, waiting to then be trimmed and packaged. Wow! On Monday afternoon I will collect them and on Oct 23 we are planning a big celebration in Ubuo for the dedication on Luke.

Alongside the printed Gospel of Luke, we have other Luke products. Firstly, there is the audio recording, which will be on an SD card as sound files. These sound files are also being used to create two different Scripture apps. One is a Bible app, that synchronises the text and the audio, or can just be used as a Bible for reading. The second is a Bible picture book that combines a series of Bible illustrations with the text and the audio. When I received a trial of this the other day, and installed it in my phone, I was as excited as a kid with a pile of birthday presents! It looks and sounds amazing!! We are also using these pictures to make a series of Bible picture books, which will be printed in colour. I am excited to see Luke being used in so many forms, but most important is that it is used by many people, that it touches their hearts, and changes their lives.

To achieve these products has taken a huge team. First, we had to draft and check Luke over many years, a process lead by the Kope team and supported by me. John Bruner (USA, in PNG) was the consultant for the final checks last November. To publish the book we needed to get the orthography approved, which took the work of Robbie Petterson (NZ), John Clifton (USA) and myself working with the Survey, Linguistics, and Literacy departments in PNG, but who have people working in PNG, Scotland and the USA. For typesetting I was working with Carol (USA, in PNG) and Kari (USA). The recording was done in PNG by the Kope team working alongside JinHwan (Korea) and Crystal (USA). Scripture apps are being built by Tammy and Bill (both in the USA), and the picture books are being created by Jude (Aus) and Tammy (USA). Printing is happening at the Ukarumpa printshop (all PNG staff), and Nate (Canada) is working with Timmo (PNG) to make sure all the right files end up on the SD cards. It takes a team! Then there are each of you, who through your prayers, gifts and encouragement, make my work here possible, and have funded the translation, recording, printing and shipping of these materials. Thank you.



Kope Bible App

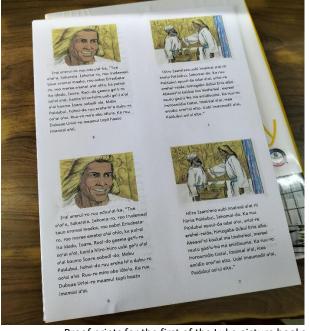


Trial version of Bible Picture

Book app



The pile of Kope Luke books at the Printshop



Proof prints for the first of the Luke picture books

Dorm Building

It is exciting that the OBS workshops are starting soon, and it is exciting that we will be using the Oroi'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre (OMTC) for this work, but we do not yet have a dorm where participants can sleep... instead we are reliant on the community to host people in their homes. While we will be doing all the catering, it is still a big request of subsistence farmers, that they open their homes to additional people for two weeks. This is why we need to build a dorm for the OMTC. Following is a description of the building stages we have coming up,



Building the OMTC kitchen in 2021. The toilets and wash-houses will be a similar village-style construction.

each with a cumulative percentage of the budget we need to have raised by this stage of the project. Please consider supporting this work with your financial gift. You can give at Ubuo Training Centre & Dorm, PNG - Wycliffe Australia, where you can also keep track of the percentage raised, and relate it to the needs below.

Before the OBS workshop starts, we will be working to build two new composting toilets, install two 9000L rainwater tanks, and build two wash-houses, each with three cubicles. Thank you to everyone who has given already, as we have most of the funds to proceed with this stage (need: 28% raised). It is possible that I will be the building supervisor for these projects... pray for me!

The next stage in the dorm project is to purchase in Port Moresby the building materials that need to be shipped to Gulf. We need to complete this by the end of October, to give time for shipping. This will be an expensive month (need: 51% raised)! We aim to have them in Gulf, and transferred to Ubuo around the end of November. Also by the end of November we need to place an order for all the locally milled timber that we are purchasing, so that it arrives in Ubuo in December (need: 80% raised). After a Christmas break, all the materials need to be in place for the builders to arrive around January 9. January expenses will include labour and catering (need: 95% raised). Our rough plan and big hope is that the building will be finished and ready for a dedication party around Feb 5. The end of February should bring in most of the final bills for materials, labour, catering and transport (need: 100% raised).

Oroi'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre - Dorm Building

To give, please visit this link: <u>Ubuo Training Centre & Dorm, PNG - Wycliffe Australia</u>

Or contact Wycliffe Australia on 03 9712 2777 or info@wycliffe.org.au



When I go the village, my cat Tasman goes to stay with another family. Her second family are about to return to Canada for furlough, but thankfully I have found her a new second home, with Hadassa, a colleague from Brazil.

Prayer Points

Kope Translation: **Pray** for us as we work together on Acts and Genesis, and **praise** that the dedication of Luke is being planned for Oct 23.

Kope Language: Pray for me to be persistent with the hard work of speaking in Kope.

Oral Bible Storying: Pray for everyone who will attend the first workshop, Sept 7-21, and all the planning that is involved.

Training Centre Dorm: Pray for the small building projects happening soon (toilet, wash-house, tanks). Pray for people to give generously for the building of the dorm, and that we will have funds in time to order materials in time for them to be transported to our remote location. Pray that the shipping company will resume using their big barge, as they are currently using a small barge, which may limit what we can ship.

Health: While I finally caught covid, praise God that it was a light dose and that I have recovered well. Pray for good health while in Gulf, particularly for headaches that continue to be a problem.

Travel: Pray for all the flights and boat travel that need to happen for myself, the OBS staff, and the OBS participants in the coming months.

Gulf Delta OBS Languages



A very rough and probably inaccurate sketch of the eleven languages that have been invited to participate in OBS. From the Kikori River in the west, to the Purari River in the east of this google maps screenshot, all travel is by rivers, without the need to go out to sea. Ubuo is under the orange dot.

Dates

Aug 24: Fly to Gulf Province

Aug 29 onwards: ablutions building work at OMTC

Sept 7 – 21: First OBS workshop

Oct 23: Dedication of Gospel of Luke in Kope

Oct 31: Return to Ukarumpa

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:1-5



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