

# The Journey of Hanna Joy

Hanna Schulz  
hanna\_schulz@wycliffe.org.au

+61 452 178 259

PO Box 1 (158), Ukarumpa, EHP, 444  
+675 7900 1475  
Papua New Guinea

Hello All,

Many good things have happened since my last newsletter in April, as well as some challenges. I had a full and productive eight weeks in Gulf Province, and am glad to now be back in Ukarumpa, where I can live and work at less intense pace. Having only spent six weeks in Ukarumpa in the first six months of this year, I am looking forward to an extended time here, and plan to next return to Gulf in October. Thank you for your ongoing prayers, gifts, support and encouragement as I could not be doing this ministry without your support. I hope this newsletter can be an encouragement to you.

Blessings,

*Hanna*

## Scripture Application

### and Leadership Training



A drama of the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.



A time of reflection and repentance at the cross.



SALT group photo.

The Scripture Application and Leadership Training (SALT) course was held in Ubuo May 10-26, led by four members of the SALT team (PNG), assisted by Nate Weaver (Canada) who is our Scripture Use worker for the Gulf Delta Cluster Project. 48 Kope people attended the course, including a number of young men who previously had little to do with church, but were spending their time and their money on smoking tobacco and chewing betel nut. God really touched the hearts of these men, and they now have their eyes fixed on God and are living for him. God also worked in the lives of those who have been Christians for some time, and they have been excited to take what they learnt on outreaches to other villages, where people are soaking up God's Word.

Our main goal with the Gulf Delta Cluster Project is to make disciples who make disciples. Mostly this is a long and slow goal, as people often grow in ways that you cannot see until you look back over the space of a few years, and deep change can take generations. To be able to so quickly see the SALT participants growing, changing and taking what they learnt to other people, has been an enormous encouragement to me. At the start of SALT I was feeling disappointed, as we invited five language communities to attend the course, but only the Kope came. This disappointment has since been overshadowed by the joy of seeing people growing as disciples, and going out and making disciples.



## Oral Bible Storytelling #3

Our third Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS) course was run at the training centre from May 31 – June 16. Six language communities attended this time, with a few new people joining the workshop. Two language communities did not return, and we do not know if this was due to transport issues, to landowner issues, or something else entirely. While we provide a certain amount of transport to and from the course, participants are responsible for meeting the boats at the right pick-up points. There have also been many landowner meetings happening due to potential development opportunities in the area, and while some participants sent apologies because of these, they may also explain some of those we did not receive an apology from.

OBS3 went well, with all the six communities learning all five stories. This time our stories were all from the life of Jesus, either miracle stories or parables. At our third workshop it feels like we were finally breaking through to natural storytelling. This has previously been a challenge, as with learning any new skill, it can take awhile for it to become natural. Pray for all the storytellers as they now share God's Word in their communities.



Pavol Srankota (Slovakia) came and helped us to build our second above-flood composting toilet.



Committee members Ikupu, Tomkins and Kaeai working on various tasks during a workshop.



Consultant Elly van Bodegraven (NL) encouraging the Kope team as part of a consultant check.



The classroom in use for OBS3.

## Oroi'io Madei Training Centre

The Oroí'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre (OMTC) continues to be a blessing by giving space for workshops to happen. Going over the accounts following the dedication of the OMTC dorm we have found we have enough money to pay all our bills, plus a bit extra to finish a few things we had put aside when fundraising was going slowly.

During this trip we established a Property Management Committee. Pray for them as they take responsibility for property maintenance and assist with course management. While some members of the team have demonstrated their commitment to the work, there are others who seem to be in it for personal gain. Their desire to gain benefits where none are available is a significant cause of stress for me. At the same time, I also get to work alongside amazing people who have a heart to serve God, their community and neighbouring language groups, and who shine God's light brightly. These people are a constant encouragement to me and are the backbone of the work we do together.

## Kope Translation

It feels like the Kope translation work has paused lately, but it depends what lens I look through. It is true that the drafting of Acts is going slowly and that Genesis has stalled. It is also true that last year we focussed on translating the posters for the SALT course, and that these are now being used weekly and bearing a harvest. This trip we were able to return to work in Acts, and while there were some tricky sections to work through, the team also produce quality drafts. They are planning to meet to continue drafting on Mondays and Tuesdays while I am in the Highlands. Pray for them to be consistent in meeting and working together, for them to have wisdom and insight in their work, and for God's word to touch them as they work.



Working on Acts with the Kope team.



Kope children and young adults enjoying reading one of the Kope Luke picture books.



## Coming up...

### Home Assignment

In December this year I plan to start a 13-month home assignment (previously known as furlough). After a four-and-a-half-year field term, it will be good to be back in Australia for a significant block of time. It will also be strange to be back, as I am not sure I know how to be Australian anymore.

The current plan is to fly to Queensland for a break and then travel to Victoria for Christmas and family holidays. This home assignment I plan to live out of a car, rather than out of a suitcase. I am looking to buy a decent campervan and use that as my base as I travel around to catch up with my scattered family, friends and supporters across Australia. I have been looking online at the style of van I want, and intend to buy one soon after returning to Australia. #vanlife here I come!

Around February I will start to be available to speak at churches, women's fellowships etc. In late August I plan to start putting together an actual travel plan, so please email me if you would like me to come and share in your congregation. Let me know if there is a specific event you would like me to be part of, or if it is a general invitation, as that will help as I plot my path across the country.

Pray for me to have wisdom in deciding where to go and when, and how to have good downtime on the way. I am hoping that a van-life will allow me to explore lots of National Parks as I travel. I need to decide about an invitation to teach at the SIL Australia summer school in Jan-Feb, and if I would like to take on further studies. I would also love to go and visit some of my friends who have returned from PNG to their home countries, but need to decide if I can afford a round-the-world ticket to go and see my family (friends who have become like family) in NZ, USA (Washington state), Canada (Ontario), UK, Netherlands and Germany.



## Personal

Last newsletter I mentioned my struggle with the annual departure of friends. While it is always hard to say goodbye, the tide has now turned and the annual return has begun. I am enjoying reconnecting with friends who have been away, and enjoying old friends being my new neighbours in a house that was empty for about two years.

Healthwise I continue to struggle with chronic headaches. They were mostly okay while in Gulf Province, but I have had a rough run the last week or two. I plan to follow up with a headache clinic while on home assignment next year, in the hope of finally finding answers and relief.

Having had an intense amount of village time this year, I am now quite tired. I am thankful for all the good things God has been doing in Gulf and that I can be part of them. I am also thankful to be here in Ukarumpa for the next few months, and to be planning three nights of Vitamin Sea in Madang soon. While in Ukarumpa I have plenty of paperwork, planning, communication and other things to keep me busy.

## Dates

**July-Sept:** Remain in Ukarumpa!

**August 2-4, 7-8:** Executive Committee meetings.

**October-November:** Back to Gulf Province.

**December:** Start a 13 month home assignment.



Changes in the Aviation schedule meant I came home to Ukarumpa from Gulf in the helicopter. PNG is such a beautiful country, and seeing it from a helicopter was amazing!

## Prayer Points

**Praise** God for those who came to **SALT**, and **pray** for them as they live and share what they learnt.

**Praise** God for those who came to **OBS3**, and **pray** for them as they tell the stories in their communities. Pray for those who did not come this time, that they will return.

**Praise** God for the work of the **Kope translation team** and the **OMTC Property Management Committee**. Pray for them to have willing hearts to serve God through these tasks.

**Praise** for **safe travels** while in Gulf Province, and that while Aviation changes needed to be made, they worked out well and I got to ride in a helicopter!

**Pray** for these coming months in Ukarumpa, that I would connect well with the community here, rest and be renewed, achieve the work goals that need completion, and be able to say no to all the other things that I could be doing.

**Pray** for wisdom as I start making plans for my time on home assignment.

Which of these three do you think turned out to be the neighbour of the man who was set upon by the brigands?

‘The one who showed mercy on him,’ came the reply.

‘Well,’ Jesus said to him, ‘you go and do the same.’

Luke 10:36-37



**Wycliffe Australia**  
70 Graham Rd  
Kangaroo Ground, Vic, 3097  
03 9712 2777  
[info@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:info@wycliffe.org.au)

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[wycliffe.org.au/hanna](http://wycliffe.org.au/hanna)  
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[finance@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:finance@wycliffe.org.au)

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