

Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023

Hello all,

The two months that I have been back in Ukarumpa have flown by, and I am overdue for sending a prayer update. Thank you for continuing to pray for me even when I have not recently sent news.

These two months have been a good time to slow down, spend time with friends, and catch up on various work tasks that have been overlooked due to busyness. I recently calculated how much time I have spent in various places, and in the two years from Sept 2021 to Aug 2023, I spent a total of less than eight months in Ukarumpa. It is no wonder I am behind on some things!

Recently I have been catching up on producing literacy materials. On Thursday I sent 21 books to the printshop. Ten of these are a continuation of the series of coloured picture books we are doing using Luke in Kope. Eleven of them are literacy books in nearby languages. Literacy teachers translated or wrote the books during the Vernacular Path to English (VPE) teacher training we held in March, but I have only now been able to finalise their formatting for printing. There are also numerous Kope literacy books waiting for me to do their formatting, as well as Kope stories in the early stages of turning them from a first draft to a book. I seem to have misplaced some pictures and some stories, so pray that they are rediscovered, and that I am able to complete these Kope literacy materials before I start home assignment in December.

Also on the literacy front, we have three vernacular literacy teachers coming from Gulf to Ukarumpa next week, to participate in the Vernacular Creative Phonics (VCP) course as trainers in training. These three were selected by the literacy department as people who performed well at VCP in Ubuo in 2021 and at VPE this year, and who they could see had the potential to train other teachers. They will be part of the staff for VCP in Ubuo in June next year. Pray for Mrs Kauri (Fomomoto language), Mr Alau (Kaimare) and Mr Paimuru (Koriki) as they come to the cold Highlands from humid Gulf Province for four weeks. Pray for their families in Gulf while they are away. They will be here Sept 20-Oct 16.

I will be away for both the beginning and the end of their Highlands time, as tomorrow (Monday Sept 18) I leave Ukarumpa to attend a Leadership Pillars training course in Bangkok. I am thankful that my colleague David will be able to host the literacy trainers in my absence. I am looking forward to meeting with other SIL people from across the Asia-Pacific area at this course. Pray for travel to go smoothly; it is a five and a half day course, but I will be away for 12 days due to the complexity of connecting the destinations. Pray for good health; this kind of people-intense event in a new place can easily make my chronic headaches a challenge. Pray that I will build good relationships with the other people at the course, as we are coming from a broad range of places and contexts, even though we are all part of one organisation. Pray that the things we are learning and discussing will be of ongoing benefit to my work in Gulf and in PNG.

I return to Ukarumpa on Fri Sept 29, then have little over a week before I return to Gulf Province on Monday Oct 9. Pray for the preparation that I need to do for that trip. I intend to send another prayer update in the first week of October, so that you know what to pray for while I am in Gulf for six weeks.

One Ukarumpa task that has lessened in recent weeks is that I finished my term as Chair of the Executive Committee. I was in this role from July 2022 to August 2023, and while I started the role reluctantly, I found it a challenge that I enjoyed, even if I did find the five days of meetings three times a year exhausting. Our most recent meetings were held in early August and went well. I am still on EC until June next year, but Denis is now Chair, as I am heading towards home assignment and cannot commit the time the role needs. Pray for Denis and for all of EC.

The last two months have been full of many and various things. A lot of it has been emails and administration, and even then I still feel like I am behind. I have done some basic planning for home assignment, but there is much left to be done. I did achieve a delightful four days on holidays by the coast in Madang. I also went with friends to Lae and finally managed to get my cat Tasman to the vet to get fixed, at nearly four years old and after almost 30 kittens. I have very much enjoyed the constant stream of kittens, but it is also good to know that we are finished with that season.

Thank you to each of you for your prayers, gifts, encouragement and support. I am blessed to share this ministry with you.

Blessings, Hanna