

# The Journey of Hanna Joy

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## Hello All,

Before writing each newsletter, I usually re-read the previous one, and each time I am struck by how much God has done in the intervening months. This time what stood out most was how far I have come in the journey of healing from grief. The loss of Clare still touches me every day, but I am no longer weighed down and exhausted like I was in April. The tears still come easily, but peace and joy also come far more easily now.

Last week the Gulf Delta team had a celebratory ice-cream party, to mark all the good things God has been doing. Firstly, we finally **submitted the paperwork for the Oral Bible Storying (OBS) multi-language project!** Months of budgets, details and back-n-forth have gone into this submission. Pray that it is approved swiftly, that we can get the correct accounts set up, and that everything is ready for the first workshop on Sept 7 – 21. We have the trainers and consultants booked, and participants have been invited... it is exciting to see lots of paperwork and talking turning into actual training.

We also celebrated the **submission of the paperwork for the building of the dorm and associated out buildings** for the Oro'i'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre in Ubuo. *Please consider giving to this need!* In faith we are planning to have the build happen in January, but we need to start ordering materials much sooner than that, which means we need funds. There is enough for the toilets, wash-houses and tanks we plan to install around the time of the first OBS workshop, but we need a lot more for the dorm itself. This dorm, along with the classroom, will enable us to reach out to the numerous languages of the delta area of Gulf with training in translation, literacy, and Scripture use.

Next, we celebrated the addition of **two new team members to the Gulf Delta team**. Hollie Butler has started work as a translation advisor with the Gibaio people. They are not far downstream from the Kope, have already been involved in translation and literacy, and are excited to have an advisor coming alongside them as they continue to develop their work. Nate Weaver has joined our team as a Scripture Access advisor. His role is to help coordinate Scripture use training, as well as other Scripture access activities, in the languages of the delta area.

Finally, we celebrated **achievements in my work with the Kope**. The typesetting of Luke is very close to complete (just some details in the front matter to fix), we are almost ready to submit the paperwork for an



Spotted cuscus and kitten  
Photo: K McKean

Approved Orthography, and the journal *Data Papers on Papua New Guinean Languages* is in the process of printing the volume on Kope! I have written the introduction and the section on Kope verbs, and Robbie Petterson completed a discourse and a tonal analysis of Kope. Each of these things is the fruit of many years of hard work. The dedication of the Gospel of Luke in Kope is being planned for October 23.

All these things have been achieved as part of a team, a team which each of you also belong to. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts are all a critical part of this work. I would have needed a much bigger tub of ice-cream, but if you had all been here I would have happily scooped some ice-cream for you as part of our team celebration. Thank you.

Blessings,

*Hanna*



Worshipping together in Mira Goiravi one Sunday.



The Kope translation team working together.



Sharing a farewell meal with the Kope translation team.

## Gulf Trip

May 15 to June 17 I returned to Gulf for the first time this year. It was a trip with flexible goals, as I did not know how the tiredness and brain-fog of grief would affect my ability to live and work in such a remote context. I am glad to say that the trip went well!

The first five nights were at Kapuna Hospital, connecting with people there, and preparing to head to Ubuo. I then had two and a bit weeks in Ubuo. It was a much more tiring time than usual, but it was also a good time. The Kope translation team came together regularly to work, and when they gathered they produced good work, and clearly enjoyed working together. We chose the illustrations to use in the printing of Luke, and they started work on translating the posters for an upcoming Scripture use course. I also looked over some of their team checked drafts of Acts, and was pleased with the quality of their work, although there are some corrections to be made.

I had thought election campaigning might interfere with our work, but while a few team members were missing due to campaigns, it was actually a peaceful and productive worktime. Voting starts across PNG this week, so pray for peace in all places through the whole process.

I returned to Kapuna for another ten nights, using my time there for relationship building, OBS planning, and work on *another* language. The gospel of Mark in I'ai was first translated by London Missionary Society in 1920, and then revised by staff at Kapuna in 1970. In 2020 they started another revision, as language changes in fifty years, let alone a hundred! While Kapuna is on Koriki ground, there continue to be a significant number of I'ai speaking staff that I can work with on the revision. This is largely a community



lead project, I just provide some training and checking on the way. Pray for the Iare\* people as they do this work in their language.

Probably the most important part of my time in Gulf was the sense of God re-affirming my call to work with the people of the Gulf delta, and with the Kope people in particular. After such a difficult year, when I have had good reasons to return to Australia, having lots of moments that affirmed that this place and this work, are the right place and work for me, was a real blessing.

\*Iare are the people, I'ai is their language.



Kapuna hospital seen from the air.

## Executive Committee

For three years now I have served on the Executive Committee (EC) of SIL PNG. This has been stretching but important work. From July 1, I have been appointed as the chair of EC, which is a big responsibility, an honour, and makes me slightly nervous due to the sharp learning curve I've just stepped into. The vice-chair Denis and I plan to take a team approach to the role. Pray for me, Denis and all of EC as we fill this governance role.



The beauty of flying in small planes in PNG!

## Holidays!

On July 15 I am off to Cairns for two weeks! The second of these weeks, my younger sister Leah will be coming across from Perth to holiday with me. I am very much looking forwards to this chance to slow down, step aside from my PNG responsibilities, and have sister time. I return to PNG on Aug 1, and EC meetings start on Aug 3.

Classroom of the OMTc. The dorm will go behind it >



## Oroi'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre – Dorm Build

To give, please visit this link: [Ubuo Training Centre & Dorm, PNG - Wycliffe Australia](#)

Or contact Wycliffe Australia on 03 9712 2777 or [info@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:info@wycliffe.org.au)

## Prayer Points

**Health: Praise** God that I had good health during this Gulf trip, but headaches continue to be a problem.

**Kope Translation: Praise** for the good time we had working together. **Pray** for them as they continue to work on Acts and Genesis. **Praise** that the dedication of Luke is being planned for Oct 23.

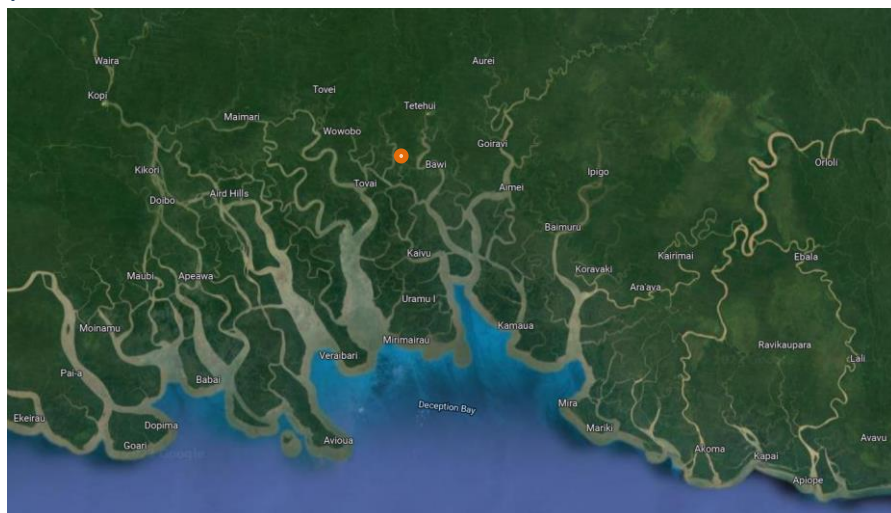
**Kope Language: Praise** that I had more confidence speaking Kope during my time in Gulf, but I still have a long way to go. **Praise** that the grammar paper is finally being published.

**Oral Bible Storying: Praise** that the paperwork is submitted. **Pray** for everyone who will attend the first workshop, Sept 7-21, and all the planning we need to do before then.

**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.

**PNG Elections:** Voting starts this week, **pray** that the voting, counting and declaration of a new government will be a peaceful and just process.

## Delta...



Why do I refer to the Gulf Delta team? Because the area we are reaching out to is a literal delta, in Gulf Province. 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

**July 15 – Aug 1:** Holidays in Cairns

**Aug 3 – 9:** Executive Committee meetings in Ukarumpa

**Aug 24:** Return to Gulf Province

**Sept 7 – 21:** First OBS workshop

**Oct 23:** Dedication of Gospel of Luke in Kope

I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God's wrath...

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Lam 3: 1, 21-24



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