

# The Journey of Hanna Joy

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## Hello All,

I am back in Ukarumpa after a full, challenging and productive ten weeks in Gulf Province, which I will now try to summarise into a four-page newsletter! Thank you to each of you for your prayers, words of encouragement, gifts and support. The work I am privileged to be part of could not happen without you also being part of the work.

Blessings,

*Hanna*

## OMTC Dorm

The 72 bed dormitory for the Oro'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre (OMTC) in Ubuo village is completed, dedicated, and has already been put to good use. Hans Beukers (Gulf Delta Project Manager) headed to Ubuo with the first of the building team on January 13. By the time I switched places with Hans on January 25 the building was fully framed and the roof complete. Over the next few weeks the rest of the building was completed, and we dedicated it to the work of God and the glory of God on February 14. The very next day, our first participants arrived for a workshop, and it was in near constant use for the next six weeks, quickly proving its worth.

I **thank God** for the provision of the funds for the building and for safety through the building process. We are still finalising accounts and it looks like we will be close to having the amount needed. In the end this was around half what we budgeted, part of which was deliberate cost cutting by us when we saw that funds were slow in coming, and part of which was the grace of God. It has been amazing to see how God has provided through many people in many places. Thank you for your part in giving and praying to enable this project to happen.



Hans Beukers, myself and Miranda van Wette at the dedication of the OMTC dorm. (Photo: Missy Smith)



Missy Smith, SIL PNG Director of Infrastructure Services, officially opens the OMTC Dorm, Ubuo Village, Feb 14, 2023.



The dorm under construction. Doors are in place, windows are framed and cladding is being cut.



## Oral Bible Storying Workshop #2

The second Oral Bible Storying (OBS) workshop took place at the OMTC February 15 to March 3. Of the 27 participants who attended the first workshop, 21 returned, plus 20 new participants came. This included three new language communities: Varoi, Kaimare and Fomomoto. The other three communities that we invited, Anigibi, Maipu'a and Vaimuru, have now missed too many workshops in this series, and will have to wait for us to start a new series of workshops to participate in OBS.

For new participants, there was a steep learning curve, but they quickly caught up and almost every team learnt all the five stories successfully by the end of the workshop. Our focus this time was stories from the Easter narrative, so **pray** that they have been telling these stories in their own languages over the Easter season. **Pray** also for the OBS trainers who travel from the Sepik to help us, as a few of them are facing significant family challenges at home.



A full classroom with eight language communities each working together to internalise and craft the new stories. The table at the front of the picture is the Kope team.



The slightly chaotic state of my office between workshops as I manage catering and other supplies, as well as do the needed administration for running workshops.



Trainer Michael working with the Varoi team on learning a story. Pray for two more Varoi to join this team at the next workshop.



Consultant Uko Kairi checking that the Kope team have not changed the story or missed anything in the way that they have told it.



Our other translation consultant, Kidu Magi, doing a check with the Kope team.



## Vernacular Path to English

The Vernacular Path to English (VPE) Course was held March 8 to 31. The 62 participants who had attended Vernacular Creative Phonics (VCP) training in September 2021 were invited to attend this second part of the training. 41 of them attended, representing nine language communities.

The team of five staff from the SIL PNG Literacy Department did a fantastic job of training these teachers how best to bridge from teaching vernacular literacy, to teaching children to understand and speak English, and then teaching them to read and write in English. Over the three and a bit weeks of the course, it was encouraging to see the teachers building their confidence in English and their capacity to teach it.

**Pray** for these teachers as they return to their communities. Most of them are volunteers, so **pray** that their communities will support them by building classrooms and in other ways.



Giving certificates and receiving gifts at the VPE graduation on Mar 30. The participants and their families were very thankful for the training they had received.

## Guests

In my ten weeks in Ubuo I had guests in my house every night except one. I was a bit concerned that it might be a too \much for me, as someone who likes her space and quiet, but it went really well. First guest was Miranda van Wette (NL), an intern who assisted with planning and management of the dorm building process. Next was Jennifer Belcher (USA) and Hollie Butler (USA), two SIL colleagues who mentored on the OBS course. Then Debbie Asamaphan (Aus), Abu Daniels (PNG), Wayamo Asena (PNG) and Annelies Baaijens (NL). Along with all the male staff who stayed at the training centre, it has been a blessing to have so many and various people contributing their time and skills to the work in the Gulf Delta area.



Debbie and Abu demonstrating how to read engagingly so that children become interested in reading.



Reading practice with my small group. It was great to see how their confidence improved over the three weeks.



Small groups practising language games together. This was a course with a lot of laughter!

## Coming up...

I only have four weeks in Ukarumpa before I return to Gulf Province, and that time is running fast. While in Ukarumpa I have four goals. One is to complete all the **reporting and paperwork** that funders require for recent buildings and workshops. Another is to successfully chair the upcoming **Executive Committee meetings** (April 19-21, 24-25), which includes taking the next steps in selecting the next Director of SIL PNG. Pray for wisdom as we make decisions. Catching up with **friends** is an important goal, as we refresh and encourage each other, and **getting ready** for the next village trip is my final goal. **Pray** for me to achieve these things, as well as to be rested and refreshed when it is time to return.

I am booked to **return to Gulf** on May 2, and plan a few days at Kapuna getting my boat and supplies organised. I'll then travel to Ubuo on May 5 or 6. The **SALT (Scripture Application and Leadership Training)** team arrive on May 10, to teach a two week workshop (May 10-26) of Bible basics and how we apply God's word to our lives each day. **Pray** for many participants to come, for them to grow in their faith, and for them to take what they learn back to teach in their communities.

SALT is followed by our **third OBS workshop** (May 31 – June 16). **Pray** for all the participants to return, and also that the communities who have been asked to send a few more to strengthen their teams will send the right people for the work. **Pray** for good health, safe travel and good relationships for all staff and participants for all the workshops.

I will then remain a few more weeks in Ubuo to work with the **Kope team** on checking their drafts of Acts and Genesis. **Pray** that they will work together well on drafting in the coming weeks, and that we would have a good work time together later in June. I plan to **return to Ukarumpa**, following a few days at Kapuna, on July 2.

In the nine weeks I am away, Ukarumpa will go through the annual season of departures. This means any **farewells to friends** who are leaving on furlough/home assignment or permanently need to be included in these next few weeks. Yet again, I find myself saying goodbye to people I love, and who I have loved working with. **Pray** for my heart to remain soft, even with all the changes. My biggest farewell this season is to the Beukers family, who are returning permanently to the Netherlands. While Hans will remain our project manager remotely, and project funders are willing to fly him back to PNG for one workshop a year, this is a big change for all of us. **Pray** for them as they go.

## Dates

**April 19-21, 24-25:** Executive Committee meetings

**May 2:** Travel to Kapuna, Gulf Province (plane + dinghy)

**May 5 or 6:** Travel to Ubuo village (dinghy)

**May 10-26:** SALT (Scripture Application and Leadership Training) workshop

**May 31 to June 16:** Third OBS workshop

**July 3:** Return to Ukarumpa

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

“But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20:17b-18



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