

Sent: Saturday, 30 November 2019 1:40 PM

Hello All,

Another month has flown by, and in the spirit of my US colleagues as they celebrate Thanksgiving, I am reminded of all the things I have to be thankful for.

I am thankful for time in Ukarumpa to be encouraged by colleagues, and to be an encouragement to them. Last week I participated on some panel discussions as part of the Getting Equipped Workshop. This workshop is for new translation teams, to equip them as they start their projects. The two panels I was part of discussed language learning challenges, and ways to maintain spiritual vitality when in the village. The different stories of each person showed that while these are indeed challenging things for all of us, there are many and creative ways to approach them, and no one should think themselves a failure because they find things hard at times. Please pray for me, and for my colleagues, that we will persist with language learning, that we will remain spiritually strong, and that we will trust God in all things.

I am thankful for the Bible translation work that has happened in PNG in the last twelve months. On Sunday Nov 19th we had our equivalent of harvest thanksgiving, as we celebrated Bible Sunday and all the Scripture that has been published in the last 12 months. This might be a single book of the Bible, a whole New Testament, audio recordings, or videos. This year we celebrated 30 products in 26 languages, including five New Testaments. Each of these represents many many years of love, prayer, work, tears, and joy, and thousands of people receiving God's word in their language. There have been many challenging things happen among our community in the last year, so having a Sunday to celebrate the fruit of how God is using us, was a much needed encouragement. Please pray that these Scripture portions will be used, understood, and bear a greater harvest. Pray for all the ongoing work in Bible translation, especially for the Kope team.

I am thankful for the Kope translation team, and for the Kope people. I have had some communication with them while I am in Ukarumpa, and it sounds like there have been some more reconciliation meetings, healing past hurts. Pray that this reconciliation is deep and lasting. They have received the tin for the new roof on my house, but have been having trouble getting the timber for the purlins. Pray that a way forward will be found, and that the new roof will be on before I return in January. They have been able to do some community checking of chapters of Luke, but communication issues have held up the work. Pray that they would be able to do more checking, or more drafting, while I am in Ukarumpa.

I am thankful for Ukarumpa departments who can help me through the challenges of making plans, working out costs etc for a training centre in Ubuo. I am thankful for Wycliffe Australia and their commitment to financial integrity, even when that means lots of paperwork to get a project fund set up for the building project. Plans are coming along gradually, and I have many pieces still to put into place, and a lot of paperwork before I can point you to the project fund where you can give to this project. Please pray for me as I work out all these details, as it is not my strength. I am willing to work on the details because I believe in the value of the final product: village level training in translation, Scripture use and literacy.

I am thankful for the team who make up our Executive Committee (EC). Next week (Dec 4-11) is our next EC meeting. Please pray for us as we discuss many and various aspects of the governance of the extensive and complex work we are doing in PNG. I am also thankful for our Directorate, and the leadership they give us. Please pray for them as they seek God's guidance, and give guidance to our work.

I am thankful for holidays. Last weekend I was able to spend four days by the sea in Madang. I miss being by the sea, and was refreshed by the sight, sound and smell of the sea, as well as the chance for some snorkelling and swimming. I also took the rest of the week as holidays, and have been enjoying time to go slow, be creative, and catch up on some projects around the house.

I am thankful for each of you. Thank you for your love, encouragement, gifts, and prayers. I cannot do this work without you.

Blessings
Hanna