

# The Journey of Hanna Joy

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With my POC friends Michelle, Inga and Drina

## Hello All,

Much has been going on in the four months since my last newsletter, mostly in the form of POC (Pacific Orientation Course). This was an intensive fourteen weeks of learning about PNG culture, language and people. There is not enough space in this newsletter for all my POC reflections, but please look at my blog,

[blessingsandbubbles.blogspot.com.au](http://blessingsandbubbles.blogspot.com.au), for an overview of what we did. My blog updates are sporadic, but will give you a better idea of my life and ministry in PNG.

The core of POC was our five week village stay. Here we were able to share daily life with a local family, build relationships, practise Tok Pisin and experience the trials and joys of village life. I was in Auron village, Amele area, near Madang with Inga and Michelle. Together we had a good time and built good relationships with our wasfamili (host family). There were of course difficult days, but the overall experience was positive. When we left our Tok Pisin had improved greatly and it was sad to say goodbye to the family we had become part of.

A part of POC I very much appreciate is quality friendships with people. Moving to a new place and into a new role means we have all left a lot behind, in terms of family, friends, lifestyle etc. Having people here in PNG that I am now close to is an important part of my transition and a good foundation for long term ministry. That said, I will certainly miss being with my Schulz family at Christmas.

I am now at Ukarumpa, the SIL PNG centre in the highlands and shall be based here for the coming months as I continue to work on the Ghayavi grammar paper and start to help another translator with her grammar paper. I am also working two days a week in the Projects Office as an interface between PNG projects and their donors. The lady who usually fills this seat is going on furlough and I am helping to fill in during her absence. It is a role which shall be a challenge for me, but which is essential to keep many of the projects in PNG running.

Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Blessings and Bubbles

Hanna



View across the Gogol Valley



Reading the New Testament in Amele



Our village house



With our wasfamili

## Reliance

A lesson we all (re)learnt during village living was our dependence on God and interdependence on each other. At home in Australia it is easy to think that I am in control. Here, it is clear that I am not.

One way in which I am learning to think as faith family, not as an individual is with finance. The money I live on comes to me through the generosity of others. Thank you for sharing God's blessings, so that I too can share them with others. Learning to think of it as 'God's money' rather than 'mine' is a slow lesson that goes against my home culture, but a lesson for life in Australia as well as in PNG.

Another field of learning to live by faith is in health and travel. Roads in PNG carry three main dangers; pigs, potholes and pedestrians. There are plenty of all of them and we try to avoid hitting any of them, although the potholes are inevitable. In terms of health, although the SIL Clinic at Ukarumpa provides high quality care, their resources are limited and I am often a long way from the clinic. Things which at home are small (a scratch) need to be given attention here, before they get infected and problematic. So far I have remained healthy, for which I am thankful, but I am aware that we need to continually pray for health and safety of all who live and minister here.

Another very practical form of reliance is that of a linguist/translator on the ministry of support workers. As a translator, I am among the minority as I work in Bible translation. Support workers make up the bulk of the organisation and are the people who make the linguistic side of things possible. Housing, computing, health, pastoral care, administration, finance, transport, construction, management, teachers, youth workers.... the list of ways to serve is endless.

Unfortunately, the list of vacancies is also long. If you are someone with an interest in missions and a willingness to make time, there are many ways for you to serve and join in the ministry of Bible translation. This could be for a few months or for a few years. Please pray for more support workers, but keep your heart open in case the answer is you! If so, contact Wycliffe Australia for more information (details below).

*Look! the virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom they will call*



## Immanuel

*a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.*

*Matthew 1:23*

*As we approach Christmas, I pray that you may all reflect on the wonder and blessing of life with God who is not a distant stranger, but God with us. God knows the trials and joys of earthly life and is with us in all things, all places and at all times. May this be a source of peace and joy for you, both at Christmas and every day.*

## Prayer Points

**Praise:** For new friendships with both my wasfamili and my SIL colleagues

**Health and Safety:** For me and all who live, travel and minister in PNG

**Workers:** For more support workers and translators to keep this work growing and going

**Focus and insight** as I work on the Ghayavi grammar paper

**Project Resource Office:** For ...everything... as I take on this unfamiliar role

**January POC:** For all those (staff and students) preparing to come to the next POC, as it is an intensive time of learning and growing.

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