

Sent: Tuesday, 29 June 2021 8:06 AM

Hello all,

I had planned to leave for Gulf Province at the start of June, and here I am in Ukarumpa, with June nearly gone. In my last prayer update I talked about the challenges of making the decision to postpone this trip, and then having all the rules change. With hindsight, I can now say it was the right decision, and I am glad to have this extra time here in Ukarumpa. I am enjoying being in one place for an extended period (it will be six months all up), and am making good progress on my backlog of paperwork.

One part of the plans that was cancelled is now back on the calendar: the Oral Bible Storying (OBS) awareness trip. This is a two week trip around my area of Gulf province, visiting villages, sharing an OBS story with them, and inviting them to be part of the OBS workshops once they start in 2022. It is exciting to see OBS plans becoming realities, with this trip being the first concrete piece of a big, new and exciting stage in our work. The trip will be July 12-26, and be lead by Hans, our project manager. Also on the trip will be Amos (an OBS trainer from the Sepik area of PNG), Crystal and Mary from our survey department (to help us better understand dialect boundaries etc), two YWAM friends who will soon be starting oral translation work in another part of PNG, plus the boat crew. Yes, that is correct... I am not part of this trip and I am happy for that! This kind of moving from village to village and being 'on' all the time is something I find very hard, and having a team who can do it without me is a huge blessing. Pray for all the details that still need to be worked out for this trip, for safe and healthy travel, for good times with communities, and for God to stir hearts to be interested in an oral approach to Bible translation.

Meanwhile, I continue with my computer based work in Ukarumpa. In the last week or two I moved a few big things off my (virtual) desk, which was a relief. First was the Kope grammar paper that I have been working on for a journal. It is now with the editor, so while not finished, it is also not my responsibility. Next was the Sociolinguistic and Literacy Survey paper for the Kope area. I similarly completed the first draft and sent it off for comment. Once I receive feedback, I'll be ready to collect any missing information when I return to Gulf in September. A report on the building project is submitted, and some other project paperwork is very nearly ready for submission. I have several literacy books close to ready for their final check with the Kope people. All in all, it is nice to make headway with what can seem like an endless list of tasks! Pray for me as I continue to chip away at the job list, that I may be able to prioritise well, and for focus when working on unenjoyable tasks (archiving!).

Many of the Kope translation team have been in Kerema, the provincial capital of Gulf Province, for some weeks now. They've been meeting with various leaders and government departments about having them come to run courses in the training centre, as well as raising awareness of the translation and literacy work we are doing. Another task was to open a bank account for the committee, but this is proving to be difficult. Pray for them to complete their business well and return safely to Ubuo village. I would like one of them to join the OBS awareness trip in two weeks, as a community liaison, but this can only happen if they are back in time.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. A number of you replied to my last update supporting my choice to postpone my village trip, and that was very encouraging. Thank you also to those of you who were able to join the online meeting hosted by the LCA. It was lovely to see so many faces, and to share stories. Hopefully we will have another such gathering before I next leave for Gulf, which is currently scheduled for Aug 31.

Finally, a few weeks ago I received a gift I did not expect, and was able to receive my first covid immunisation! I should be able to receive a second dose before I return to Gulf in late August, and am pleased to think I'll have extra protection when working in my remote area.

Blessings,
Hanna

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