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The Journey of Hanna Joy

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Hello All,

How quickly time flies! Since my last newsletter in July, I spent five weeks in Ubuo, where we hosted a Bible Overview workshop, I've handed in my MA dissertation, and been back in Australia for nearly seven weeks.

The **Bible Overview workshop** went well and was very much appreciated by the community. A team from the Scripture Use department in Ukarumpa flew to Gulf Province and spent two weeks teaching the 42 participants the big picture of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. They used a range of teaching styles, including drama, small groups study



A drama of the Israelites crossing the Jordan to enter the promised land as part of the Bible Overview workshop



The 9000L water tank, and catchment roof I was able to provide for community use.

and lectures. All the participants enjoyed the course, learnt a lot, and asked when the next course is happening. I would love to run a course encouraging people in their use and understanding of the Bible about every two years. This course, and any future courses, only happen because of the generosity of so many people in giving to this work, and in praying for us.

An exciting part of my six weeks in Ubuo in July-August was having **my own boat**, much simplifying my travel arrangements in the Gulf delta area. It was also wonderful to see the **rainwater tank** that I purchased for the community installed, being used, and even overflowing due to it being rainy season. Thank you to each of you for making this possible through your gifts, and a big thank you to

YWAM for helping me to transport both boat and tank from Port Moresby to the village. My community is very much enjoying easy access to clean water in the village.

My five weeks in the village were full, but good. We have now completed the advisor check (that's the check I do) through to the end of Luke 17, which makes **70% of Luke advisor checked**. The next step after advisor checking is back translation, where the Kope is translated into English, which is then used by a translation consultant for the next level of checking. I was able to do a training session on back translation, and get a new group of people involved in the translation process. It is great to have such broad community involvement and support for the translation work.



Driving my boat!



Working together on the advisor check of Luke

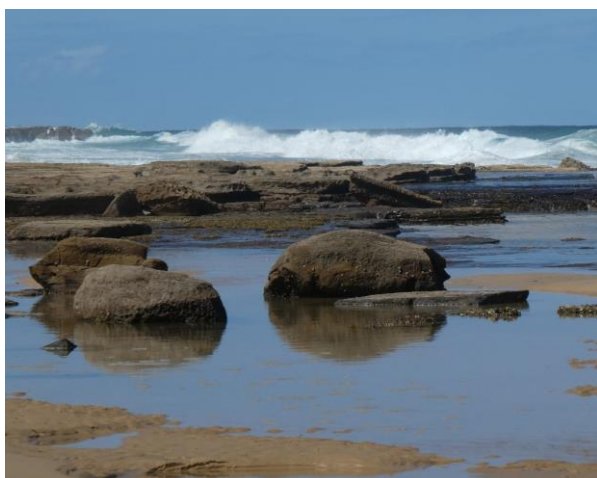
The Kope translation team have set the goal of meeting two days a week and finishing the first draft of Luke while I am on furlough. If they do meet two days a week, they will probably finish the first draft of Acts as well, but the team have many other commitments in the community, so consistently meeting two days a week will be a challenge. Please pray for them to be able to set aside the time to continue meeting and working together.

After my village stay I had three weeks in Ukarumpa in which to finalise and submit

my Masters dissertation, and prepare for furlough. It was a full schedule, but my dissertation was submitted, and I will **graduate** in late November **with an MA in Field Linguistics**.

Having handed my dissertation in one day, the next day I got on a plane to Australia to start nine months of furlough. **Furlough**, or home assignment, is different to holidays. It is a time to return to my home country, **reconnect** with family, friends and culture. It is also time to visit churches and individuals who support my work to give a **report** and say **"Thank you!"** As life on the field is full and busy, resting is also a component of furlough. While in Australia I am also **teaching** at Launch, a six-

week course designed to prepare new cross-cultural workers for learning a new language and a new culture once they are in the field. For more details, visit www.sila.org.au/courses/summer-school/



What do I miss about Australia? The beach!

Many of you have noticed that this furlough is much longer than previous such trips to Australia. The reason for this is that when I first moved to PNG, I went as a dual member of Lutheran Bible Translators Australia (LBTA) and Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia (WBTA), and as such was an employee of the LCA International Mission (LCAIM) department. On

Mar 31 last year, LBTA was wound up, I ceased being an LCAIM employee, and while still loosely under the banner of LCAIM, all my financial, leave etc management now comes solely under WBTA. One of the differences between these organisations is that with WBTA, I accrue three months of furlough for every year on the field, meaning after my two-year field term, I was eligible for six months of furlough. I requested, and was granted, a nine-month furlough, to make it easier to visit scattered supporters, teach at Launch, and still have time to slow down and relax.



Visiting friends on their farm meant I better understood the reality of the drought.

While on furlough, I continue to live from the gifts people give to my work, as furlough is very much part of the bigger picture of my work. Visiting people and sharing the story of what God is doing in PNG helps to inspire people in praying, giving and going. Spending time at the WBTA base at Kangaroo Ground, near Melbourne, enables me to reconnect with people in my sending organisation, so that they are faces and stories, not just email addresses. Teaching at Launch uses my field experience to equip new workers for their upcoming experiences.

Another outcome of the end of LBTA and my employment by LCAIM is that I was given a redundancy payout. This felt a bit odd, seeing as I was still in the same place, doing the same work, and

part of the same field organisation, although there had been a shuffle of sending organisation. I put some of this payout into savings, and put some aside to one day visit friends who had 'gone finish' from PNG and returned to their home countries. Well, a colleague and close friend from PNG, Gabi, is getting married in Germany in January, so I am off to her wedding. I'm putting my redundancy payout to good use



Gabi and I.



Exotic Other by Tony Albert. Seeing this artwork at the Queensland Art Gallery gave me reason to pause and consider how I relate to and talk about the community I work with.

Access to galleries, theatre and live music is one thing I'm enjoying on furlough, particularly when it is thoughtfully done.

by spending six weeks in Europe visiting other friends who have 'gone finish', spending Christmas with family who are currently in Europe, attending my friend's wedding, and trying not to freeze!

Thank you for your continued interest in my work, as well as your gifts and prayers which make what I do possible. I hope to see many of you over the next few months, so please send me an email or a text and we can start making a plan.

Blessings, *Hanna*

Blessings and Challenges

One of the blessings of the work I do, is that I have friends from all over the world. One of the challenges, is that we are always on the move, between our home countries and our work country, or between our village and our organisational base. We joke that the only thing that stays the same is change and transience, but always saying hello then goodbye can become tiring. When you have had a string of goodbyes and it feels like everyone is leaving, it can be hard to be welcoming to the new people. Yet, it is the global movements of the job that bring us together, and that allow me to live and work with an amazing group of fairly like-minded people. I get to build friendships with people I would otherwise have never met. I can travel the world, and almost anywhere have friends to be "at home" with, even while I am always away from other people that I love. I celebrate these friendships, yet also know that while I am on this furlough, some friends will 'go finish', and others will go on extended furloughs or study leaves, and that it will be years until we meet again, if we meet again. Still, while I am on furlough, I enjoy the chance I have to be with people here (and in Europe) that I would otherwise be far from.

Confused? If so, I have clearly communicated how I'm often feeling, confused about enjoying the people I am with, while simultaneously missing those I am not with.

Schedule

Note: things are still being added to this schedule, so please get in touch if it looks like I'll be in your area, and you'd like me to visit. I now have a car, so can reach country places.

Until Nov 3: Staying at WBTA base at **Kangaroo Ground**, Vic.

Nov 4: Sharing at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, **Mildura**, Vic.

Nov 4 – 13: Staying in **Warrnambool**, Vic.

Nov 11: Sharing at Trinity Lutheran Church, **Warrnambool**, Vic.

Nov 14 – 22: Visiting the **Perth** part of my family, WA.

Nov 23 – Jan 3: Visiting friends in **Europe**, attending a wedding ☺

Jan 4 – Feb 22: Teaching at Launch, **Kangaroo Ground**, Vic.

Late Feb/early March: **Southeast SA**

March – early June: Staying in **Adelaide**, SA.

Mar 17: Sharing at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, **Hampstead**, SA.



Sharing at the Lutheran Women of Australia national conference in Parramatta in October was an honour. It was a good chance to thank the many ladies' fellowship groups who support my work, reflect on what it means to be free in Christ, and to be astounded at the generosity and commitment of this group of women. So often they are quietly just getting on with whatever needs to be done, but in the meantime, changing the lives of people in their community, and around the world.

Photo: Erin Kerber

Prayer Points

Praise: For safe travel, good health, and good times with friends and family in the first seven weeks of furlough.

Praise: That I have been able to buy a car to make furlough travels easier.

Pray: For the Kope translation team, that they will be able to set aside the time to work on the drafting of Luke, and that they will learn and grow in their faith through the translation process.

Pray: For all the participants at the Bible Overview Workshop that was held in July, that they may continue to apply what they learnt and teach others who were not there.

Pray: For the remainder of my furlough time, that I will continue to have good connections and conversations, as well as times of rest.

Something which has existed since the beginning,
which we have heard,
which we have seen
with our own eyes,
which we have
watched and touched
with our own hands,
the Word of life—
this is our theme.

1 John 1:1



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