

# The Journey of Hanna Joy

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## Hello All,

Thank you for praying me through my recent eleven and a half weeks in Gulf Province. It has been good, challenging, complex, rewarding, tiring, productive, and worth it.

On Aug 31 I was **able to land at Baimuru airstrip** for the first time in several years. Our local MP had worked with the Rural Airstrip Authority (RAA) to get the strip up to standard, and I am very much appreciating having it available again, particularly as another airstrip that I use, Teredau, has closed in the meantime.



Arriving at Baimuru for the first time in a long time.

From Baimuru I headed to Kapuna for a few days of networking and supply shopping, then on Sept 4 drove across the rivers of the Gulf delta to Ubuo village. It was a slow trip as I was overloaded with supplies for workshops etc.

The first few weeks in Ubuo I worked with the team going over notes from the consultant, to be ready for when he came to check Luke in November. This work time was cut short by the death of one of our translators. Gideon was old by village standards, and had been unwell for some time. He is now where there is no more pain, and no more tears, but he leaves a hole behind him.

On Sept 21 the **Vernacular Creative Phonics (VCP)** trainers arrived from Ukarumpa. Samuel Saleng, Abu Daniel and Wayamo Asena are a great team, and I very much enjoyed hosting them for the two weeks they were teaching. We had \*62\* participants in the course, and had to turn others away, as the class was already over full, and they had arrived more than two days after classes began. Pray for these teachers as they prepare to teach literacy in their own languages in the new year.



I had a week break between courses, in which I returned to Kapuna for the **wedding of my friends Kaite and Vitor**. It was a beautiful celebration with my Kapuna family, glorifying our God who can bring a Canadian and a Brazilian together in the swamp in PNG!



Photo: Remie Stronks

On Oct 12 Ps Willie Toito and Nate Weaver arrived to teach the **Christian Marriage and Family Life course**. This had a much more modest attendance of 25, almost all local to Ubuo. Local was a good thing, as there was a Covid surge occurring around the country at the time. With no testing in the village, I cannot be certain it was there, but there was certainly a flu variant going around. A smaller local course meant we were not mixing people who hadn't already mixed, and could social distance a little in the classroom. Pray for all the course participants and their families, as they put the things they learnt into action, and teach them to others.

In the ten days between Nate and Ps Willie leaving, and the consultant John Bruner arriving (Nov 5) I was able to work with the Kope translation team on last checks before the consultant arrived, and on **advisor checking their drafts in Acts and Genesis**. It is nearly six years since I started training this team, and the quality of their drafts shows how much they have learnt in that time frame. There were things to straighten, but they are doing a good job. Pray that they will continue to meet together and keep working on these drafts.

**Consultant checking** Luke with John once again showed that the team and I have done good work together. There were things to correct, but John was happy with the quality of the work, and has given his approval to move forward towards printing. In Feb/Mar 2022 we will record Luke in Kope (and probably find a few more things to fix), then it can go for typesetting. The dedication of Luke (audio and print) will be in October or November next year, as we need to wait for drier season to return for that kind of celebration.



Nate and Ps Willie co-teaching.



Group discussions during the Christian Marriage and Family Life workshop.



Samuel discussing literacy with participants during VCP.



John Bruner consultant checking Luke.

It was wonderful to put the **Oroi'io Madei (Living Word) Training Centre (OMTC)** to good use over recent weeks. The platform under the building that was recently completed by the team was very well used as our gathering place for meals, graduations, and social times. There was a lot of learning to be done around how we manage such courses, which is why we built a kitchen for the OMTC. Another thing that became very obvious is that we **need to build our own dormitory**, rather than rely on local hosts. Planning is underway, but building in a remote location is an expensive endeavour, so if you would like to help, please give at [wycliffe.org.au/projects/ubuo-training-centre-png/](http://wycliffe.org.au/projects/ubuo-training-centre-png/)

As we work towards starting an Oral Bible Storying (OBS) multi-language project in the region in 2022, the need for this dorm will become more critical. An OBS awareness trip that was planned for recent months was cut short due to sudden changes in Covid related travel restrictions. The message about OBS still got to most villages through our local friend Ps Michael, but it was not the full programme that we had planned. Pray for **OBS planning and funding applications** that are currently being worked on. God is doing exciting things in Gulf!

**Thank you** to everyone who has given to my ministry in PNG. Your gifts are what enabled me to travel to Gulf, finance these training courses, build the OMTC kitchen, fly trainers and consultants to Gulf to aid in our work, feed lots of people during work days, and so much more. Your gifts are a very real blessing to me, and to the people of the Gulf delta.

What's next? **Holidays in Australia!!!** Border restrictions have changed enough to make coming home plausible, and a persistent friend who also wants to holiday with her family in Australia managed to find us tickets to fly from Port Moresby to Sydney on Sunday Nov 28. They are three times the normal price... but we do not have to pay for hotel quarantine. This will be my first time home to Australia since June 2019, and is a time for holidays with family. I am blessed that many of you would like me to visit and share about PNG, but this time is set aside for rest and family. I will probably return to PNG Jan 16 or 27. The dates are uncertain as I'm holding out to see if visiting my WA sisters in late January becomes possible.

My ministry has been described as incarnational, going to live among people, share life, becoming family, and sharing the good news. That is what Christmas is about. Immanuel has come to live among us, and to live, die and rise again, that we might become eternal family, which is good news indeed.



The catering team serving lunch on the platform under the OMTC.



Starting work on the new OMTC kitchen.



John and Iro officially opening the new kitchen.



Nate helping with measuring the land so that we can plan for building a dormitory.

*Happy Christmas!* 

## Keep praying!

### Travel, Health, Relationships, Language etc.

#### Thank you for praying!

**Travel: Praise** God that things worked out well during this recent trip, even though there were numerous challenges around changing covid regulations, airstrips opening and closing, and SIL being short on pilots at the moment.

**Pray** for upcoming travel to and within Australia, that all things go smoothly, and that my nose survives the numerous travel related Covid tests in the coming weeks... and that all results would be negative!

**Health: Praise** God that while there is a suspicious flu in my area of Gulf at the moment, everyone so far has recovered. While I had one round of a nasty stomach bug while in Ubuo, I was mostly healthy. Headaches became a bit of a problem towards the end, so **pray** that rest settles them back down.

**Relationships:** There were some **challenging issues** to work through while in Gulf, with one team member being given a suspension due to his behaviour. Pray for him and his family, that he may grow in faith and maturity through this hard time. I **thank God** for the many good people I get to work with, and in particular for our project coordinator Tompkin, and translation chairman Ikupu. Pray for all the team and their families.

**Language:** While my reading and writing of Kope is quite good, I still struggle to speak. I made some progress this trip, but pray for me to have boldness and persistence with this difficult task.

**Etc...** There are many things to pray for through this newsletter, so thank you for bringing them all to God in prayer.

Irai Arerui-ro aa'o-ka,  
 "Toe a'aimo'a, moo-ro  
 ri'o meai-re, kamia hiiro-  
 hiiro uubi-ro ge'ii hi'a,  
 ma a'aimo made  
 rimomo'u. Do'o hi'au  
 ri'o oroi'ioi eito imodai  
 a'ai mereei, Damida  
 go'otoi-da tauo oobodi  
 maaka, Iehoma-ro Iapui  
 Paidubui, ruu Pai-  
 ka. Ka ri'o-ro umoo ma  
 ii'imo-ri emee'ai a'ai  
 kaumo, ruu hipurai-da  
 omoomatidio,  
 boromokau dui  
 iihodioumo ipuai-da  
 oidio."

Luke 2:10-12



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## Dates

**Nov 26:** Fly to Port Moresby

**Nov 28:** Fly to Sydney (take a few days alone to get used to being back in Australia)

Dec 1-7: Executive Committee meetings (for the first time, I am missing them. I had expected to be in quarantine and attend via zoom, but with no quarantine... no meetings!)

**Dec 3:** Fly to Melbourne, spend Christmas and summer holidays with family, and maybe some friends too.

**Jan 16 or Jan 27:** Return to PNG

**Feb 10:** Fly to Gulf Province

**Feb 24:** JinHwan Kim flies to Gulf to record Luke in Kope

**Mar 8:** Hanna and JinHwan return to Ukarumpa

**Mar 23 – 30:** SIL PNG Branch Conference (as part of EC, I am responsible for helping to plan this)