

**Sent:** Friday, 26 July 2019

Hello all,

I've been back in PNG over a month now, and while the "to-do" lists have got shorter, the schedule of meetings to talk with people about various aspects of my work here, and the pile of things to pack and take to the village, have certainly grown. It has been good having time in Ukarumpa, our base in the Highlands, to catch up with colleagues, organise myself for seven weeks in the village, and catch up on some tasks that I have been avoiding for awhile.

One of these tasks is the Kope dictionary. I have some Kope people who are enthusiastic about the dictionary, and have brainstormed word lists for me. In recent weeks, I was able to go over these lists, compare them to the dictionary database, add around 800 new entries (bringing the total to 3145 entries), and add well over a thousand questions about words requiring more information and clarification. While the dictionary project still has a long way to go, working my way through these notes is a significant milestone. I plan on taking some reference books to the village this time, to help further clarify the many words that are currently defined as "species of fish" or "species of plant". There are also 13 species of banana, and a species of mushroom that is "small and gives out a green light"!

I plan to be in Gulf Province Aug 20 – Oct 8. My flights are booked, and other pieces are coming together. While I have had a small amount of contact with the village since I returned, I do not really know what I will find when I get there. Please keep praying for the Kope people, their translation and literacy work, and that we will be able to continue to work together well.

Before I leave for Gulf, I have my first meeting as a member of our Executive Committee (EC) for SIL PNG (the organisation I work with in PNG). I have never been on this kind of committee before, so it will be a steep learning curve as I discover what policy-based governance is, and what it means to work with that. Please pray for EC as meet Aug 7-13, that we may be able to listen to each other well, and reach responsible, appropriate, God-honouring decisions that support the work of Bible translation in PNG.

There are a few big things that I am working on organising at the moment. One of these is a new roof for my village house, as the thatch is rotting and has started to leak. I am planning towards a tin roof, as this is much longer lasting. Materials have been ordered, and a congregation has kindly donated the funds (Thank you!! You know who you are!). The practical question of when and how it will be installed, is still up in the air. I appreciate your prayers for my patience and wisdom as I work through these practical questions, and for the people to be available at the right time for the installation to proceed.

In PNG I split my time between two places: in the village of Ubuo and among the Kope people in Gulf Province, and at our base, Ukarumpa, in the Eastern Highlands Province. Each of these places is an important part of my work here, but each one has a house requiring maintenance. So while I am organising a new roof for my village house, I'm also organising to re-paint my Ukarumpa house. Once again, I appreciate your prayers for my patience, wisdom and the timing of this job. Neither roofing nor painting are my strong suits, so these tasks are quite challenging for me, and I am thankful for friends and colleagues who help me work out the details.

The final big thing on my heart, is the future of our work in the delta area of Gulf Province. I am blessed to work with the Kope people and hope to continue to do so for many more years, but am well aware of the people groups surrounding us who have little or no access to God's word in their language. While my colleague Robbie has been supporting literacy work in many of these languages in recent years, he is heading towards retirement, and leaving an enormous pair of gumboots to fill. Please join me in praying for a way forward to support these languages in their literacy work, as well as in translation and access to Scripture. This task is so much bigger than me, so please pray for God's will to be shown, for other people to join the team, and for the next steps on a way forwards to become clear.

Thank you for joining me in prayer.

Blessings  
Hanna