The Journey

of Hanna Joy

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Hello All,

I have had a full five months since my last newsletter. If you'd like to hear from me monthly, send me an email and I can add you to my prayer update list. Also, please read my blog as that is where I put longer reflections on my life and work in PNG. (blessingsandbubbles.blogspot.com.au)

The main event over the last few months has been my first extended trip to Ubuo to start learning Kope. I was in Gulf Province for two months, spending six weeks in the village and some time at both Kapuna and Kikori hospitals. Each of these two mission hospitals is about 3 hours by dinghy from Ubuo and are good places to take a break with friends before jumping back into the deep end of language learning by immersion.

Language learning is going well, but slowly. For my first time learning Kope, I am pleased with how I am doing. I am slowly building my vocabulary of words and phrases and starting to see the patterns in the grammar. At the same time, I am often frustrated by how little I know and how hard it is to communicate. Thankfully I am only a complete beginner like this once. It will get easier with time and effort.

Relationships in the village are going well, and I have been hugely encouraged by the completion of my house by the local community. Part of the reason I decided to work with the Kope people was that they already showed their commitment to translation through the Jesus Film drafting and recording process. I knew there was momentum, but a completed house is amazing.

The Jesus Film is complete and ready for dedication and distribution. The community is planning the main dedication on Oct 23, but to then go to three other villages the next three nights to show the film. The Jesus Film is a dramatisation of most of the Gospel of Luke with the script recorded in Kope.

My preparations for the Jesus Film dedication include turning the film script into a booklet for distribution so that people can refer back to the book or follow along with the movie. I am making some small cards with Bible verses and the Lord's Prayer on them, as reminders of the message they'll hear in the film. I also hope to prepare some Bible study material.

When I left the village in June, I went to Port Moresby for the annual Linguistics Society of Papua New Guinea (LSPNG) conference. It was good to meet with other people who are also passionate about the indigenous languages of PNG and how they're being used and recorded.

My time in Ukarumpa has been a mix of administrative tasks, continuing my language learning using my recordings and notes, analysing my language



Helping to make the thatch for my house



Travelling back to Ubuo after time in Kikori



My completed village house.



On the verandah inside my house, looking into the main house

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data and dealing with health challenges. Language learning continues to take time and effort, and maintaining my focus on this while in Ukarumpa has been challenging.

On top of these tasks, I have not been feeling 100%. In Ukarumpa I'm blessed with the professional and caring services of our Clinic. After a few trips to the clinic to seek answers, it was decided I should see some specialists in Australia. These are the sort of appointments regular people take a few days off work for, but which I have to change countries for. I had a lovely two weeks in Cairns that was a mix of appointments and relaxation. The outcome was that nothing serious is going on, but that my body needs time to heal and respond to medication. I need to go easy on myself, but am healthy enough to return to PNG and my work here.

My side trip to Cairns meant my August trip to the village got cancelled. In the next few months, I will be taking holidays in Sept-Oct. For Perth friends, I'll be speaking at St Luke's Lutheran Church Parkwood on Oct 4 and at Mt Hawthorn Community Church on Oct 11. Contact me if you want more details. I return to Gulf Province for the Jesus Film dedication and to continue my language learning in October and November.

Thank you all for your interest, prayers, financial support and personal support as I continue to live, learn and minister in PNG. It is a privilege to do this work, and to share in it with you.

Blessings,



Waving farewell to the YWAM medical team who visited Ubuo. You can't really see it, but there is one white arm in the crowd, me. As the YWAM boat went out of sight, someone in the crowd said 'Sister is staying!' referring to me. It was a moment of belonging, as when the other visitors left I remained as part of the community. Photo: Ella May

Prayer Points

- Praise that my language learning has been going well and pray that I continue to hear, speak and comprehend Kope more clearly.
- Praise that my village house is completed.
- Prayers for the Kope people. May their hearts be open to God's grace and may they respond with changed lives. Pray for the dedication of the Jesus Film.
- **Praise** for the **healthcare** I've had access to and prayers for my continued strength and healing.
- Pray for the people of PNG as they struggle with the effects of El Nino. Pray
 for rain where there is drought and sufficient food for those who have lost
 their gardens due to frost and drought.

Aiai Jehomai gii'epu hi'aa pa'ai ara hepu geemai uubi eito, aa'o rauri potiodoai ru himia hi'aa mereehioi. Ka ruu i'aha boi'oro meidaidumo, aratoai a'ai bia, ii rii oropoi'o tiato oroi'ioi emee'ai a'aikaumo. Aiai Iehoma-ro ru mereei otiodoai bia, ara hepui uubii oroihida edee'ai, iirai oroi'ioi da ma idee'ai.

Toare 3.16

(John 3:16 in Kope, taken from Jesus Film introduction)



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