

Sent: Friday, 28 January 2022 8:19 AM

Hello all,

This week I had planned to return to PNG, after a long lovely break with family in Victoria, but plans have changed.

At the start of this year, my sister Clare received a terminal cancer diagnosis. This has been heartbreaking news. A friend who has walked the cancer road with her loved ones before put it well when she said, "The pain and the fear and desperate helplessness is acute and overwhelming." I am still struggling to put words to things, although there have been many tears, and some precious friends that I can reach out to. Many of you know Clare, and have your shared stories with her, so this email will start the shock waves in your life. Please reach out to the people near to you as you process and as you grieve, but please respect Clare and her family's privacy at this time. For those of you who do not know her, she is the middle child of the five of us (I'm fourth), and while I have precious relationships with all my siblings, I have always been closest to Clare, counting her among my closest friends. Facing losing her means I am facing my biggest loss ever.

So, plans have changed. I am staying on in Australia, and working towards time with Clare and her family in Perth, Western Australia. For those of you not familiar with Australian pandemic politics, WA has had a hard border since the start of the pandemic. It was to be lifted on Feb 5, and my ticket is for Feb 6, but last week they declared that the hard border would remain, but with an increased number of compassionate exemptions for people to enter, plus 14 days self-organised quarantine for those allowed in. The details on who is eligible for those exemptions, how you prove your eligibility and any other criteria are still unclear. I have an application in, but expect that next week I will be required to provide more evidence before a decision can be made. Pray for me to be allowed to visit Clare in Perth!

Wycliffe Australia and the LCA (my sending organisations) and SIL PNG (the field organisation I am seconded to) have all been very compassionate, and support me staying on in Australia as long as I need to. I am now mixing work with holidays, catching up on emails as well as a number of computer based tasks such as funding applications and reports. This is complicated by the fact I came to Australia without my work computer, as I planned on buying a new computer while here. I also came without many files, as I planned on setting up my new computer on my return. Friends in PNG are helping retrieve files from my old computer, and uploading them as needed. Due to my often off-grid life, I do not keep a lot on the cloud. Doing some work each day stops me getting further behind, and gives me something to focus on that reminds me of the many good things going on in PNG.

PNG... the plan had been a village trip from Feb 10 – Mar 10, including the recording of the Gospel of Luke in Kope. While I will not be doing this trip, it looks like the recording will still go ahead. My friend Crystal is going in my place to host the recording process, and Jin Hwan will be the recording technician. The dates have moved to Feb 9-23, as that suited them better. I am very thankful that the recording can still proceed. Pray for Crystal and Jin Hwan as they manage the recording, and for all the Kope people involved in reading, cooking etc, and for all the details that need to be organised. Pray for a smooth recording process.

One of my current work tasks is completing the funding application for the Oral Bible Storying (OBS) cluster that we are hoping to start with eleven languages this year. Pray for me to be able to find the right words to describe a complex situation, variety of needs, and a multi-workshop plan. The funding coordinator I'm working with is very helpful as I navigate this new world of paperwork. Pray for local communities to get excited about OBS, and for a good team of trainers and mentors to develop.

Another task is that I need to start working on is a separate round of fundraising for a dorm for our training centre in Ubuo. In 2020 we completed the Oro'i'o Madei (Living Word) Training Centre (OMTC), and in 2021 we were able to host our first literacy and Scripture Use courses there, as well as build a kitchen for catering for courses. What quickly became clear is that we cannot continue to rely on the community to host course participants, but we need to build our own dorm. Plans have been discussed with the community, as well as with the SIL Construction and Maintenance (CAM) department. CAM is currently understaffed in some areas, so there have been delays in final designs and costings, but we know that it will cost a lot! Building in a remote area is not cheap, so our current rough budget is based on ¾ of the OMTC build, as it will not have big solar expenses. If you are interested in supporting this building project, please follow this link: [Ubuo Training Centre & Dorm, PNG - Wycliffe Australia](#) In my last newsletter it was accidentally linked as the Raining Centre, which made me smile, as with approximately 5 metres annual rainfall, it really is a raining centre, but I apologise for my typo when it should have been training centre.

Finally, thank you. Thank you to everyone who has already given to the dorm project, as well as to the OMTC. Thank you to everyone who has given to my personal and ministry expenses. Your generosity made it possible for me to return to Australia after two and a half years, even though flights were three times their normal cost. Thank you to everyone who has sent me words of encouragement. Ministry in PNG is a mix of joys and challenges, and the encouragement is needed. It will also be needed for the coming weeks and months, as our family walks this cancer path. Thank you to everyone who prays for me, my family, the Kope people, and for all that is happening in PNG through Bible translation, Literacy and Scripture Use. You are a blessing to me and to many others, so thank you.

Blessings,
Hanna

Mobile: +61 452 178 259

WhatsApp: +675 7900 1475

Email: hanna_schulz@wycliffe.org.au

To give to my personal and ministry expenses: wycliffe.org.au/member/hanna

To give to the dorm project: [Ubuo Training Centre & Dorm, PNG - Wycliffe Australia](#)

Wycliffe Australia: 70 Graham Rd, Kangaroo Ground, VIC, 3097

03 9712 2777

info@wycliffe.org.au

finance@wycliffe.org.au