

Campbell Ramblings

Keith & Elspeth Campbell

Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea

Now that we are in PNG, our newsletters are taking a more Melanesian flavour – starting with the relaxed attitude to time! Also, keep an eye out for the occasional *Tok Pisin* word. (*in italics*)

Our September issue may be getting to you a bit late in the month, though we hope you may understand why, as we detail some of our activities during training at the SIL Pacific Orientation Course (POC).

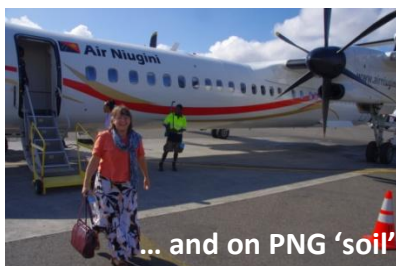


But first, the journey...

We were definitely excited to be under way, but a 4:30am taxi ride to Cairns airport was just the beginning of a very long day.



First sight of PNG...



Though we had time to rest at Mapang Missionary Home in Port Moresby, we really could not settle until we were in our room in Madang early evening.

The Lutheran Guest House is basic lodging, but a short walk into the town centre, so we had opportunities to shop, explore, and begin adapting to the PNG culture. On our second day, we

were blessed to meet an American couple here for POC and aiming to work on translation projects in PNG.

As they joined us walking around Madang, it seemed just that little more comfortable, as we were not the only ones 'standing out in the crowd'.

We managed to find a massive used clothing warehouse, and picked up a few bargains to supplement our meagre ration of *klos* (clothes) suitable for what lay



POC vital statistics...

Duration: 12 weeks (till Nov 11th)

Students: 30 adults + 17 children

From: America - 23 + 13

Korea - 4 + 4

Germany - 1

and Australia – 2 [*that's us!*]

Prayer points

There are several prayer prompts throughout the letter. Here are a few more...

Ministry

- Thanks for the positive relationships within the POC student group
- Safety during the physically challenging activities – both hiking and swimming
- Thanks that our language learning occurs in the context of relationships with PNG nationals – we enjoy working with people more than languages!

Family

- Hannah – thanks that she has found two Christian friends to share a house
- Opportunities to serve and be involved in her church in Brisbane
- Elisabeth & Shawn – thanks for a new full-time job for E.
- For them to keep God at the centre of their marriage

Some tough training...

A two to three hour hike through the *bus* (bush), along narrow muddy trails, descending, then climbing several hundred feet.

Sound like fun?



We still manage a few laughs along the way, and get to take in some awesome views.

It is humbling to struggle over a spirit-crushing rise, only to find a well tended garden. The locals walk these trails daily from their houses to their land, growing crops on the 60 degree slopes at times, carrying back a load of vegetables or fruit.

On Wednesday, we have a change from the hiking – heading to the *nambis* (beach) for a 'leisurely' one-mile swim! Well, that is the target

anyhow. The real goal is to improve our fitness during the course. **Believe us... it's working!**

To the glory of God...

Elsbeth

Growing up I learnt the Shorter Catechism. Question 1 is 'What is the chief end of man?' or what purpose does man have here on earth? The answer is, 'Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.'

I like to organise things. I've been told that I'm a good organiser. When Keith and I began our journey towards mission service, someone said, "Oh, you'd be a natural," while someone else said "you're good at doing that."

After awhile, I had to remind myself that this wasn't just another job or activity that I would apply my skills to. The ultimate aim of our mission journey is for others to receive the Scriptures in their own heart language, to equip the church as it holds out the message of salvation.

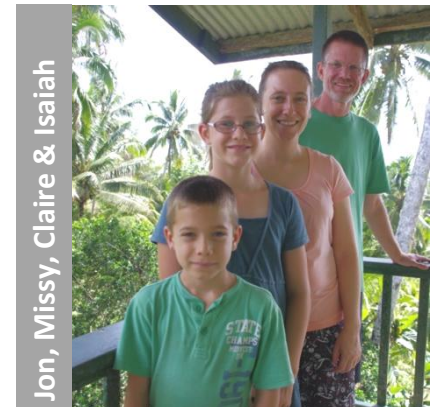
People will believe in the name of Jesus and be saved. They will join the saints in heaven. Their focus will not be on me, nor the translation team, nor the hundreds of people who gave and who prayed, but on the risen Jesus.

As I serve, my focus must remain on glorifying God.

'He must increase, but I must decrease.' John 3:30



While at POC, we've been well fed by the kitchen team led by Jon and Missy Damon – but they are not cooks!



Jon works in aircraft maintenance serving eight years in PNG since 2003, after a one-year internship in 1999 as Wycliffe 'guest helpers' confirmed their calling.

As they prepare to head home to the US and a training role with JAARS, we asked them...

Why PNG? The great need for bible translation, and we got to know and respect the system and the people involved.

What will you miss? The support of a community from all over the world, working towards the same goal. We prayed for each other through every situation that arose.

Pray for the Damon family, as they move, and continue to serve.

POC is seeking permanent catering staff to manage the kitchen.

Pray for this vital role to be filled for 2015 and beyond.