

Campbell Ramblings

Keith & Elspeth Campbell

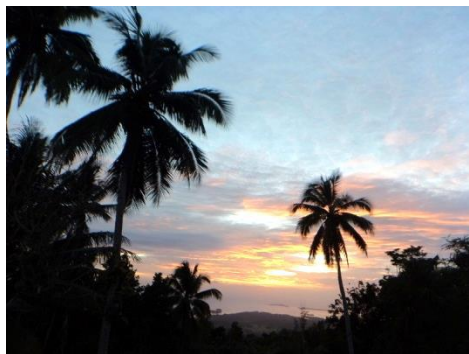
Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea



Wycliffe Australia
70 Graham Road
Kangaroo Ground 3097

The first step towards serving in PNG was almost two years ago now, and we have spent over 18 months actively preparing for this moment. Early this month, we will get our first look at Lae, as hands-on training commences before assuming the management role in January 2015.

We are so thankful that God has sustained us at all times, and for the valuable experiences along the way.



Farewell Nobnob...

This present stage began with a few goodbyes to POC staff, our local PNG national family and language helpers, and one student family, the Guthries, headed to serve in Australia [featured on page 2]. We will miss the glorious sunrise which greeted us each morning, and the camaraderie amongst the students.

Every student also farewelled some unwanted weight during POC – over 200 kilo's in total!

The three 'biggest losers' [Keith shed 17.5kg] posed for a photograph [right] holding one of the students, as Marina represented their combined weight loss. **Don't they look pleased !**

All the pain and anguish of hikes along mountain trails and mile-long swims was surprisingly forgotten.

G'day Ukarumpa...

Between orientation tasks, we meet plenty of folk who take time to chat and encourage us in our future role – many rely on services provided by the Lae Regional Centre.

Being only a few hours' drive away, Lae provides logistic support to Ukarumpa-based staff and is popular as a source of supplies, or for a much needed holiday break.

We were able to have a *bung* (gathering) with some of the other Australians based here – in good Aussie style, there was plenty of laughter and way too much food.

We have compatriots in aviation, education, admin, and a number of translation teams.

There's still room for more!



Prayer points

As we approach our time of service in Lae, we are even more aware of the critical nature of prayer support.

God continues to remind us that He is in control, and prayer is a great way for us all to affirm our trust in His good purposes.

Ministry

- Thanks for experience gained during POC – particularly the Tok Pisin language skills needed to build relationships.
- Ability to focus during our orientation, and recall the info when in real-life situations.
- Effectiveness in forming relationships here in Ukarumpa which will be helpful in our future role.
- Discernment in dealing with well-known situations – but in the context of PNG culture.
- Patience with the steady pace of PNG life, and the frequent absence of timetables!

... [continued page 2]



Far away in Australia...

It was great to get to know the Guthrie family [from USA] during POC, and pass on some of our cultural insights on life in Australia.

Chris is providing IT support for AuSIL [Aust. Society for Indigenous Languages] and is currently based in Humpty Doo, NT.

He and Megan have three children [the older two were running around being boys as this photo was taken]. The Guthries showed much patience and grace, not always having a clear idea of what God was doing in and through them as they trained, learning Tok Pisin and adapting to PNG culture. As for all of us, they could see God's purposes gradually unfolding in their experiences of POC, village life, and simply functioning as a family in the midst of transition.

We were blessed by their friendship and, in an unexpected way, sharing about our home country helped to ease the 'culture shock' of being the only Aussies at POC.

Prayer Point

- that the community will welcome the Guthries, and it will be a place they continue to grow spiritually.

To any IT people out there... plenty of opportunities exist to serve mission organisations, both at home and overseas.

Just another day in the office...

Even after years of hearing mission talks from pilots serving in PNG, it is still a thrilling experience to fly into the Aiyura Valley from the coast, even though it is barely the beginning of the Highlands.

For the pilots though, the big thrill is seeing a new batch of people coming to support translation work.



Prayer points

Family

- Hannah – that she will maintain good health and spiritual wellbeing during the busy school holiday season
- Opportunities to serve and be involved in her church in Brisbane
- Elisabeth & Shawn – for secure permanent employment for both
- For them to keep God at the centre of their marriage

Personal

- Positive results from the 'physically challenging' aspects of POC – Keith losing 17.5kg!
- We are thankful for good friendships formed over the past three months. Pray that we are able to maintain contact as we all go in separate directions.
- It sounds cliché, but please pray for our health continually. Keith had small cuts on his lower legs.... which became infected and took ages to heal. We can not forget we are in the tropics!
- That we continue to trust God in all things – especially those areas of life / work where we are tempted to rely on our own strength and ability.



For a special edition of 'In the spotlight', we spoke with three teams involved in translation projects in the Morobe Province. [Lae is the main city of Morobe]
The PNG nationals were in Ukarumpa for further training in translation skills and computer-based tools [Paratext]. The Midkiffs were with us in POC, and are preparing for assessment of the language needs in a new assignment.



Language: Middle Watut

Population: 1,700

(plus 1,600 related language speakers in North and South Watut)

Literacy: to be assessed

Situated: Mumeng District

We spoke with: David and Shelly Midkiff [from USA] – Cadi [9 months] declined to comment.

The task: Assess current needs and community support for future translation project.

The Midkiffs trained in linguistics and literacy in Canada, and are keen to continue building on their experience working with the Markham Multi-Language Project. The MMLP works with nationals from 13 language groups.

Prayer Points

- existing project staff to be encouraged by the Midkiffs' arrival
- productive meeting with Watut church leaders in January 2015
- discernment for the team as they assess translation needs & methods



Language: Somba-Siawari

Population: 12,000

Literacy: 80%

Situated: Finschhafen District

Translation: NT completed 1996 used widely in churches and by the community in Bible studies.

We spoke with: Taitus and Mila, who worked on the NT translation in the 1980s, and Fesi and Rumu, who have joined them in training towards completing the Old Testament.

Prayer Points

- that Audible, solar-rechargeable audio players, effectively reach the people unable to read Somba-Siawari
- continued community support for the Old Testament translation efforts



Language: Kunimaipa

Population: 11,000

Literacy: 15% - 25%

Situated: Wau District
Limited roads and mountainous terrain.

Translation: NT completed 1989 used in churches but limited community use.

We spoke with: Balai, working with Bible translation since 1981. Committed to translating OT, and to "see my people saved."

Prayer Points

- literacy training and resources are required to encourage the people to read their heart language, then go on to read and accept the gospel message.
- that godly men and women from within the Kunimaipa speaking community will join with Balai to complete the Old Testament for the glory of God.

