

Campbell Ramblings

Keith & Elspeth Campbell

Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea

Wycliffe
Bible Translators



Wycliffe Australia
70 Graham Road
Kangaroo Ground 3097

We seem to be settling in more and more as each month passes. It feels right for us to be here, and we are certainly aware of God working in the events of each day... working in us "both to will and to work for His good pleasure." [Philippians 2:13]



Having a house full of 18 to 25s felt just like home.... and the YWAM team enjoyed some Aussie style pudding and custard!

The extended family...

It has been a great encouragement to have a number of local ministry groups using our Lae Regional Centre since March. We have hosted lecturing staff for a Bible college intensive program, translation project workshops, mission health care groups, Christian school staff, travelling Pastors, and a YWAM (Youth With a Mission) team on a two-day break from their ministry training.



And we welcomed our first birth! Well... the actual event took place at a local hospital, but we had the patient couple and grandmother-to-be staying with us until little Julia decided to make an appearance. For those into stats.. 53cm and 8 1/2 pounds. The Kecks are with a Baptist mission group several hours to the south of Lae, and are regulars at our Centre when they come in to town for supplies.

Prayer points

Prayer is the natural resource for those relying on God at every moment. He is our strength, He is our salvation.

Ministry

- Praise God for opportunities to be a part of what He is doing in PNG – through many different ministry groups.
- That we maintain a consistent witness to everyone we deal with in our work
- For good relationships with local churches – that they may grasp the potential of Bible translation and literacy training
- Thanks for the encouragement of emails from home – and a package containing sermons on a USB, and some yummy stuff :)
- For discernment in preparing the Centre's budget for the next 12 months, and to trust God for continued blessing.

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All in a day's work...

Working in PNG has brought changes into our lives in several ways.

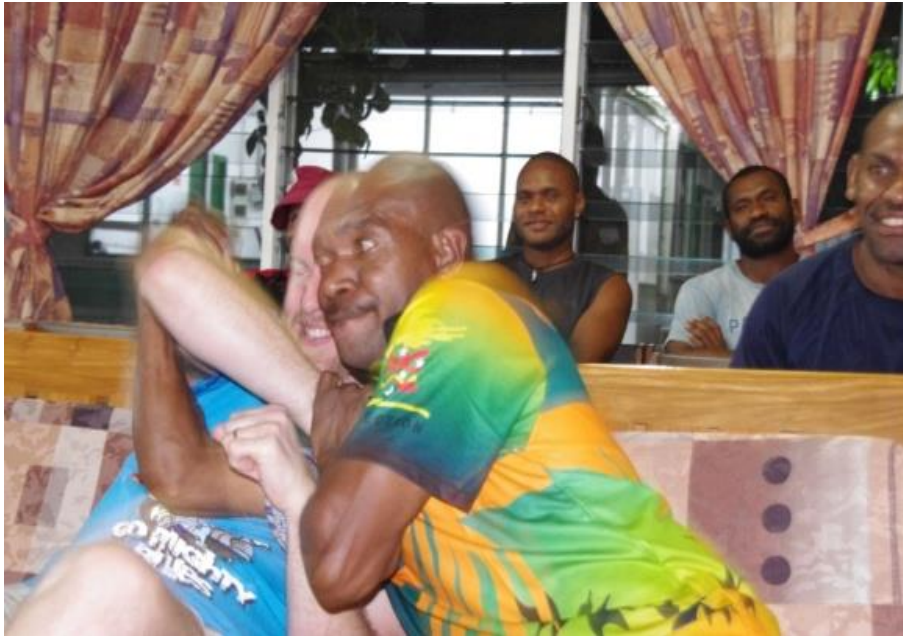
Some are evidence of God shaping us to serve; others..... *well, ya just gotta laugh!*

- People are far more relational. A good welcoming handshake can last quite a few minutes as conversation continues. It is common to see men holding hands walking together along the roads or as they stop to talk.
- Driving can be an adventure. Around town, people are everywhere... behind your reversing vehicle, or crossing at the now worn away pedestrian crossings – *they* know where the crossings are, and drivers soon learn where to stop and give way! On the 3½ hour trip up the mountains to Ukarumpa, good sealed highway can be transformed without notice, and a 100km/h limit becomes a first gear crawl through 30cm deep potholes.
- Although... if you hate negotiating shopping centre car parks, then Lae is the place for you! Helpful attendants / security men often guide you to a spot on arrival, then they hold the other vehicles and assist with your reversing manoeuvres as you leave.



- This goes for doors too.... walk up to a building and an unseen security guard opens it from the inside. This takes a bit of getting used to – we expect we've given them cause to smile at our surprised expressions.
- At supermarkets, staff will help take our groceries to the car if it is a trolley load... or even if they think it is too much for you to carry.
- Patience is a necessary virtue. Renewing a vehicle registration recently involved waiting for an official to approve the paperwork as complete, then queuing up to pay the Cashier before returning to the first officer for the required windscreen label – 2 hours in all! Oh for the ease of online renewals using bPay.
- The positive side is that people are rarely in a rush. They are often happy to chat while they wait, and are interested in where we are from and what we are doing in Lae.
- There are plenty of internationals in Lae – Aussies, Filipino and Chinese especially – but we still draw attention whilst out shopping. We often hear, "They are SIL" as people acknowledge our role here in supporting this ministry. At times we think, 'How do they know?' – yes, the vehicle sports an SIL logo and bumper sticker, and we sometimes use SIL purchase orders, but it really comes down to the people being very observant and highly intuitive. It is great that the work is recognised, but we are aware of constantly being a positive witness for the organisation and for Christ.

Note: As a reminder, SIL is the Summer Institute of Linguistics, who partner with Wycliffe in bible translation in PNG.



Mate against mate...

It isn't all work, work, work. We got to relax and have some fun with some of the guys from the Ukarumpa Store who came down for the first State of Origin league match. There is little to no television reception up in the mountains, so they were delighted that we had the footy on the big screen, and put on a BBQ to feed the small crowd.

Support was mainly behind the Queenslanders, with a handful of NSW fans and a few who weren't bothered either way. The spectators were a fairly laid back bunch, with the off-field 'biffo' restricted to this pair – I believe the store manager (from USA) backs NSW just to antagonise his passionate PNG assistant manager.

Elspeth's egg-cellent adventure...

Keith was covering on-call duty last weekend so I ventured out shopping by myself as I only had a few items on my list. I came home very pleased that I had found a real bargain, but I didn't let it go to my head. Eggs for 10 kina (AU\$5)! They are usually K11, but I only bought one carton as I thought I would go back for more during the next week.

I shared my success story with Keith, who gently suggested I count the number of eggs in the carton. Ten! Only 10! Same size carton... just spread out more.

As my children would tell you, I am not often left speechless but this was one of the few times. My only thought was of the saying "A fool and her money are soon parted."

So ... what have I learnt from this? Eggs come in ½ dozen, 1 dozen and now in a 10 pack. Or, perhaps, is this the new metric? Ten eggs to the dozen?



Prayer points

Family

- Hannah – that she seeks first God's kingdom, that the love and grace of God would be evident in her life.
- That she have positive friendships to remind her to look to Jesus as her Saviour and Lord.
- Elisabeth & Shawn – praise for positive developments in work for both, that they manage the odd hours associated with shiftwork.
- For the opportunities to serve and be served in Northside Presbyterian, with youth work and Bible study.
- For Elspeth's parents, who have moved into a nursing home. Dad is being treated for shingles on the optic nerve.
- Keith's brother-in-law (Phil) and Elspeth's brother-in-law (Ross) are being treated for cancer. Continue to pray for both families.

Personal

- Praise for the developing relationship with the local YWAM Director and his wife, who we met over dinner with a mutual translator friend. Pray that we both are able to make time to fellowship together in the midst of busy schedules.



The Audible revolution...

In 2010, these solar-rechargeable devices were developed by South African engineers for oral language people groups living in remote locations without electricity. Current models are capable of approximately 300 hours of quality audio – with an entire Bible taking around 80 to 100 hours. At full charge, they provide the listener with nine hours of play.

In some areas of PNG, the Audibibles are generating interest in the word of God as people hear the Gospel in their native language for the first time. In areas where literacy rates are low, the Audible overcomes the barriers to the acceptance of a written translation.

*"Our eyes are so bad, we are no longer able to read books.
But now, we can listen to what God has to say to us!"*

People can access God's word as they work, travel, or gather in their homes at night

A Wycliffe translator passed through our Lae Centre in April on his way to the island villages where he and his wife dedicated a written New Testament in 2011. He took 200 Audibibles on the 14 hour boat trip, and then sold out in just two days on the island! Those who missed out asked when he would be back with more.



Language group: Tuam and Oov [sister languages]
Location: Umboi and Siassi Islands, 150km NE of Lae
Population: 3,500 and increasing
Translation: NT, Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Psalms and Jonah (dedicated 2011)
Literacy rate: 25% and increasing – positive attitude to developing usage of native language

An Audible can cost a villager almost one week's income. Many translators arrange subsidy of the sales within their language group as village living provides little opportunity to earn money. Yet the real challenge remains the time and energy required to produce the recordings. The same translator had worked with the Mbula language, where literacy rates are higher, yet the people still are seeking to have the Audible resource.



"What about us? Will we ever have an Audible?"

Language group: Mbula
Location: East Umboi and Sakar Islands, 190km NE of Lae
Population: 4,500 and increasing
Translation: NT, Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Psalms, Proverbs and Jonah (1997)
Literacy rate: 50% and increasing – positive attitude to native language

Prayer Points...

- that those with Audibibles will continue to be blessed by their use
- sustained eagerness for those who must wait for more supply
- wisdom for the teams working out how best to use the resources for recording scripture in other native languages