

Campbell Ramblings

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Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea

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Bible Translators



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“♫ I still call Australia home ♫” ... well, sort of. As we left PNG it felt as though we were *leaving* home to *go* home. Our plans to return made the parting easier, yet there is much ahead of us over our six-month furlough before we take up the Lae Managers role again in April 2017.



My how they've grown! ...

Understandably, our schedule of visiting supporters began with our sending church, Willows Presbyterian in Townsville. We renewed old friendships, but also met many new people – a new batch of university students, families that have relocated for work, and, most pleasing, others that have started coming to church from the local community. Several friends have taken early retirement; others have moved to Brisbane; there have been weddings and births.... lots of births. It brought home the fact that life moves on while we are off 'doing mission work'.



Pastor Jason Smart interviewing us at a Willows service

Thankfully, the important things haven't changed – the church is very much gospel centred, and remain enthusiastic supporters of our commitment to bible translation in PNG. We spoke at all three services and chatted with the afternoon youth group – it is so encouraging to have young believers praying for mission work in PNG. A Sunday lunch event was well attended, and they all heard Alan Canavan, a Willows based Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia (WBTA) member, say some very nice things about us and our work in Lae... all of it true of course!



Prayer points

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. *Philippians 4:6*

Prayer brings us a true sense of peace as we entrust all to God.

Ministry

- Praise God for the great reception from the churches visited so far.
- That we be physically and mentally sustained while visiting supporters over the next two months.

"On the road again..."



Sunday morning in Babinda



Burdekin PC lunch

Like Willie Nelson, we just can't wait! Well, in fact, we've already started. We thoroughly enjoyed visiting churches and forming new friendships during our partnership development in 2013/2014.

The return visits are even more of a blessing as we are connecting with people who have been keeping up with our blogs and newsletters, and understand some of the challenges and highlights of our work. It is great to spend time with folk over a cuppa and talk about their lives and ministry too – it provides a little bit of 'normality' within an environment that can seem to revolve constantly around what we are up to.

We have met with churches in the Burdekin (south of Townsville), at Atherton and Gordonvale (north) and are heading south to Brisbane; Maclean NSW for Christmas with Keith's parents and the folk from the church; then back to Queensland to visit Bell, Chinchilla, Kingaroy, Caloundra, Callide Valley, Yeppoon, and Mackay.

March should see us back in Townsville making the final preparations to return to PNG. This assumes, of course, that all of our pledged financial support is in order in line with the budget set for us by WBTA.

Our finances...

The support budget has been increased with our shift from short-term to full membership, involving a commitment of four years for our next term of service in PNG, plus a furlough year including a period of home based service to WBTA in some capacity. We are currently over 75% of our pledged support, requiring an additional \$730 per month to reach the required amount.

It is challenging to have to think of our financial needs over a five-year period, but we are thankful for the wisdom and discerning pastoral care of WBTA in holding us to that. We understand, as they do, that it all comes down to God providing for us to serve in this way.

Prayer points

Finances

- Pray for the financial support to be in place for us to return to our work in PNG next April.

Family

- Hannah – that Christmas Day proves to be a needed break from a busy work period.
- Elisabeth & Shawn – thanks that they can have time off work to join us for a week-long holiday with Keith's parents.
- Elspeth's mum is in good health. Pray that this continues as we visit before and after Christmas.
- Elspeth's brother, Stephen, has had a bowel cancer identified at very early stages. Pray that the positive prognosis proves correct and that surgery is a success.

Personal

- Pray that returning to Australia doesn't see us slipping in our full dependence on God – it is so tempting to be self-reliant when everything can be planned in detail and scheduled to the minute. May we be ready to follow God's redirections and the blessings they always involve.



All work and no play...

An invitation to join Shawn and Elisabeth for a Cairns fishing charter provided the opportunity for a needed break. Strong wind and a rolling sea put an end to the idea of heading out on the open water.... so they hurriedly arranged a white-water rafting trip instead. We can now tick that one off the “*One day I’ll do that....*” list!

We spent the active half-day trip with a young Chinese couple and our French-Canadian raft guide – not that we had much time for relationship building, as we alternated between paddling hard and hanging on grimly. It was terrific fun and we can recommend it to anyone holidaying in North Queensland. The weeks in Townsville with Shawn and Elisabeth as a couple have been a real blessing. Elisabeth commented that after their wedding in April, it seemed no time at all before we left for PNG. We have been able to take opportunities just to simply spend time together – over meals, playing golf, or seeing a movie.

Christmas break...

Staying in Brisbane before and after Christmas will ideally give us some time with our elder daughter, Hannah, and her partner Corey. We will all be together as a family for Christmas Day in Yamba, NSW, with Keith’s parents joining us for lunch, though Hannah only has the one day leave from her business responsibilities and will be driving down Christmas Eve and returning for the Boxing Day trade. Pray that we are able to use the time well, and that all will be kept safe while travelling.

Family and friends...

For a while there, we wondered if we would get to spend any quality time with Elspeth's mum during our furlough. Earlier in the year, she was hospitalised after a fall, and subsequently diagnosed with a slight heart irregularity. It was such an answer to prayer that mum was up to an outing to a Toowoomba café with Elspeth's sister, Margaret.



Being in Brisbane the following week gave us the opportunity to catch up with several former friends, including folk from Townsville who have relocated south.

And the work continues ...

Completing a Bible translation can be a long and windy road and the following is one step.

After almost 20 years, the Doromu-Koki New Testament is expected to be dedicated and distributed in 2018 amongst the 1800 language speakers who live in the Rigo District of Central Province, with about half of the speakers living in Port Moresby. Rob Bradshaw, translator, organised a work group which included Tanya, an Australian Wycliffe member based in Ukarumpa who blogged about her involvement.



On Monday 21 Nov, I had the privilege to help a friend and check a translation's formatting before it is sent off for its final printing to be dedicated and given to the people. We call this a checking party. It is a gathering of about 10 people (or more) who spend the morning with the translator and printing personnel to check the formatting, spacing and presentation of the NT Book. It is one of the final steps to a NT translation project.

A checking party involves closely looking at each page of each book to check to see if it is all correct for printing. Each person is given one role to focus on. Each book of the NT was put onto tables and we moved around the room to each book to check our thing. Checking roles included section headings and spacing, page numbers were in order and correct, footnotes and cross-references, illustrations and their descriptions etc. Often each role required to look at font, italics, brackets, types of dashes, punctuation and spacing, just to name a few.