

# Campbell Ramblings

**Keith & Elspeth Campbell**

**Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea**

**Wycliffe**  
Bible Translators



Wycliffe Australia  
70 Graham Road  
Kangaroo Ground 3097

Each new year tends to build up slowly, as the ministry work regains momentum following the Christmas break. This year so far has carried an air of anticipation of things to come, receiving several shipments of Scriptures bound for dedications, preparing for major maintenance projects .... and a significant change of direction for the Campbell's.



## Staff happenings ...

We started 2019 with a change in personnel, as we parted company with our Maintenance Supervisor. As January unfolded, our merry band seemed quite small at times as Peter, our Groundsman, was delayed in returning from a trip to his childhood village, and then Larua, our Office Manager, took extended leave to mourn her youngest brother passing. It was a very sad time for all, as 'Junior' was a regular part of their family life on site here in Lae, and close to his nieces.



Perhaps the hardest part of our work is finding new staff, particularly for a role that requires responsibility and impacts on other staff and their workload. Please be praying for us to finalise the Maintenance Supervisor position, and for harmony within our team.

## How good is this? ...

We celebrated Australia Day with a Friday Jan 25 lunch. Our newest staff member, Simon, was so overwhelmed with having time off *and* lunch provided, he was taking photos before the other staff arrived poolside. :D



## Prayer points

*Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.*

*Psalm 9:10*

### Ministry

- That we be patient with God as He provides replacement staff, and that, as managers, we are *wanbel* (in full agreement) as to the final decision. Pray for our staff as they adjust to changes in the team and cope with the instability this brings.
- Pray for Larua and her family as the grieving process unfolds, that God would meet each of them at their point of need.
- Praise God for the reminders of why we are here – seeing the newly printed Scriptures bound for village dedications.  
[ see story next page ]
- Give thanks for opportunities to minister to people outside of our daily 'nine-to-five'.

## An end and a beginning ...

In recent months we have had five newly printed translations pass through our office on their journey to village dedications later in the year.

One of these, in the *Kandas* language, is the product of a team led by Robyn Davies (pictured), as part of NITI (New Ireland Translation Institute) a multi-language cluster project. The dedication on April 28 is the culmination of over 12 years work. Though the process of drafting, checking, and reworking has been going on in the village all these years, many folk will see these Scriptures for the first time as they receive them that day. Their journey with God starts afresh.

It will be a time of joyful celebration, and we rejoice with those who rejoice.... even if our lowly contribution is simply processing the shipping!

### Dedications planned for the remainder of 2019....

[ language, Province, date ]

- Kandas NT, New Ireland, 28 April
- Mussau-Emira NT, New Ireland, 29 May (Village), 5 June (Kavieng)
- Migabac NT, Morobe, 26 July
- Mato NT, Morobe, 14 August
- Vitu NT, West New Britain, tentative August
- Gumawana NT, Milne Bay, 6 November



## Prayer points

- That the dedication would be glorifying to God, and for safe travel for all attending
- That the wider Kandas community within PNG would be excited at having God's word in their language
- For God's word to take root in their lives and transform individual lives and their communities



## Autim tok ...

On two Thursday evenings so far, Keith has had the opportunity to *autim tok* (speak publicly) to a group of 'boys' out at Lae City Mission (LCM) for their weekly Bible talks. The Mission provides training and a general redirection for young men who may otherwise end up 'on the wrong side of the tracks' so to speak.

The Australian LCM manager has invited some locals to lead the group through a broad biblical survey, as he discovered that virtually all of the boys had limited concepts of how the Old Testament related to the gospel and to believers today.

It was moving to hear over 100 male voices singing a local worship song with the following lyrics...

*Mi no man-nating tasol,  
mi gat namba na strong insait long yu Jisas,  
Yu standet bilong mi.*



Society would label them as *man-nating* – of no importance - yet in Jesus they have a Lord to follow from whom they draw strength and worth.

[ *tasol* – only; *namba* – identity; *standet* – banner or flag ]



## Answering the call...

An email received February 1 started us on a process that has taken several weeks to unfold. Keith was asked to consider a management role within the PNG Branch Finance Office, to commence mid-June. Though not surprising, it did catch us off guard as there was so much happening at our Lae Centre, and we had so many plans for the coming year.

The obvious response was to pray, consult some trusted friends, pray some more.... then continue to pray!

We appreciate greatly the prayers of supporters who we were able to share this need with, and can now confirm that we will be leaving our beloved Lae Centre and the staff team in September 2019 in order that Keith can take up this role in Ukarumpa, the main base for SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics) here in PNG.



Ukarumpa is a community of around 600 people, both ex-patriate missionaries and PNG staff. It sits at the edge of the PNG highlands at an elevation of 1,500 metres. [ *For a bird's eye view of the community and the road down the mountain range* [click here](#) ]

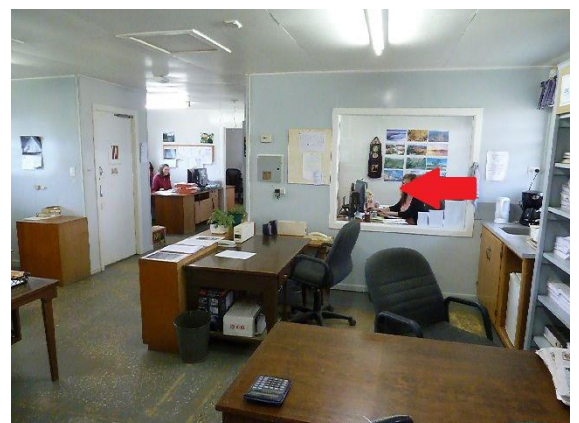
We will be adjusting to life in a mission community as opposed to a major city; to chilly nights rather than sticky tropical evenings [ *Praise God for open fireplaces! – Keith* ]; and to a change in diet from tropical fruit to starchy vegetables. Thankfully we have many friends there already, but we will be leaving behind solid friendships in Lae, and local churches that we have built relationships with. The toughest part will be farewelling the Lae staff, but we are fully aware that it is God's work, not ours, and He will continue to work in their lives, just as He has a purpose in moving us on to another area of Kingdom service.

In the meantime, we will be focussing on finishing well in Lae, finalising some key projects, leaving as little as possible in the 'to do' pile, and equipping the staff to transition to a new management structure.

## The road ahead...

At this stage, Elspeth has not committed to a set role in Ukarumpa, though there are, not surprisingly, plenty of vacant positions and other opportunities for her to apply her skills and experience.

Keith's Finance Office role will be one that utilises his management and accounting experience, and provides opportunities for training staff and developing standards. It can be a challenging role, as it deals with the finances of missionaries serving in PNG, and sustaining the operations of the branch in line with international requirements. Money is often a source of tension, and missionaries and mission organisations are not immune to that. Filling this role effectively will be of practical support to every individual serving with SIL in PNG. Of particular interest is the aspect of training and developing PNG staff, something that has been a focus for us here in Lae these past four years.



Keith's intended space in Finance Office... with the added intention of having the other desks filled with contented staff!

## Please pray...

- That we trust God in all the uncertainties related to our move from Lae



Rear: Keith, Jerry (SMRC), Thomas (Madang)  
Front: Larua, Eva (Wewak), Jude (Relief Manager), Elspeth, Heather (Alotau)



## Not a team... a community

March saw us head *antap* (up the mountain) to Ukarumpa for meetings with our regional translation, literacy and scripture use teams, followed by a full day with the available managers (*below left*) from several other Regional Centres throughout PNG.

The meeting with Jerry Walker, the Senior Manager for Regional Centres, provided an opportunity for some of us to meet for the first time, and to discuss issues that we all face and to benefit from the experiences of others.

A six-day Conference followed for the PNG Branch, which, on day two, heard from Dr. Michel Kenmogne, the SIL International Executive Director who hails from Cameroon. He is a gifted speaker, and challenged us to be not just a team, but a permanent community gathered around Christ.

Sadly, during Conference we received news from home...

---

## Hope amidst grief...

On March 25, Elspeth's Mum was called home and freed from all pain and frustration. The minister shared at the funeral that Mum was, "tired of being tired all the time", and was ready for the ultimate expression of a life lived to glorify God.

The service saw all six siblings together for the first time in many years. [ *lack of space precludes also showing the in-laws and multiple grand-children!* ]



## Prayer points

- Praise God for the positive discussions at our various meetings, and the encouragement from Conference 2019.
- Thanks for provision in all our travels, and time with family
- Thanks for the message at Mum's funeral service that gave all glory to God. Pray that the service, and Mum's life, will continue to impact the extended family.