

Campbell Ramblings

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Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea



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It may seem to you only last month that our previous quarterly newsletter arrived.... and you'd be correct. It was two months late, because we have been so busy! Things are finally settling down with us together in Ukarumpa, but there is still plenty to keep us occupied.



NEWS FLASH!

The remnant...

While in the process of finalising our newsletter, the world has become a very confusing place with the impact of Coronavirus, or COVID-19 as we are now calling it [much to the relief of the makers of Corona beer and anyone still looking to offload a 1972 Toyota Corona – one careful owner].



Things **were** “settling down” for us just a few weeks ago, but now we are adapting to changes in our priorities and schedules on an almost daily basis.

Some of our mission colleagues have left to return to their passport countries – predominately those of senior age, or with pre-existing health issues, but others simply because they were due for a period of furlough leave and chose to bring this forward rather than face travel restrictions in the coming weeks and months.

We are amongst those who have chosen to stay, and continue to provide essential services here in Ukarumpa and to our Regional staff. It is unlikely that everything will be ‘business as usual’ but there remains a ministry work to be done.

As in many countries, there are limitations on travel and large open gatherings, but we are creatively finding ways to continue to encourage one another and build each other up (1 Thess 5:11) within our little community and further afield.

Please pray for those who have had to leave, particularly those for whom it meant an interruption to scheduled work in translation and literacy programmes.

Prayer points

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thess 5:16-18

Ministry

- Pray for Elspeth as she takes on a new admin role in the medical Clinic, assisting the manager.
- Pray for our community here in Ukarumpa, as those remaining take up the workload of some of those who had to leave. Pray that we be wise in prioritising tasks, and understanding of each other’s limited capacities.
- Pray for our PNG staff, who may have the added stress of concern for family members across PNG.

In the word...



Reading 2 Corinthians recently posed a challenge in 10:5 about taking our thoughts captive to Jesus. This goes hand-in-hand with Philippians 4:8-9 telling us to be thinking about what is true and admirable, etc., ... and God’s peace will be with us.

Home sweet home...

Turning to some more light-hearted news, we have become home owners in Ukarumpa! We only effectively purchased the right to live in one small part of the Centre's ninety-nine year leasehold, but it gives us somewhere to put down roots for a while.

We are very thankful for the specific personal gifting which has made this possible, as it means we do not have to relocate between rented properties every 6-12 months.

It is a small 2 bedrooms plus study, but it will do us nicely. We certainly intend to maintain our practice of showing hospitality, and expect to have plenty of signatures in our guest book, with many accompanying memories of good times.

There is a room for visitors if anyone wants to come on over!



A working holiday...

They may have intended to come for a restful holiday, but Keith's Dad and a family friend, John, arrived just after we took possession of our new house.... and found themselves as a mini work party!

Not that they were complaining. John is a retired builder who is no stranger to utilising his skills in supporting mission work over many years, and Ross (Keith's Dad) proved to be a more than capable apprentice. They were very gracious, and threw themselves into the task of moving a few walls and repositioning a doorway so that we could maximise the space for our kitchen and add a pantry / storage room.

We will post some photos of the finished project in coming weeks. At least then you will know it is safe to visit without being handed a tool belt!



Prayer points

Personal

- Praise God for the stability that comes with having a place to call ours.
- Pray that our home will be yet another means for us to serve the Kingdom through hospitality. There never seems to be a shortage of people needing a good chat over a cuppa.



Keith occasionally took a break from supervising the carpenters to refit the entire water supply system.



2020 happenings ...

Elsbeth managed the Lae Regional Centre from before Christmas through to the first week of February.

While together in Lae, we celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary on January 13, with a cake supplied by a translator friend shared with our Sunday afternoon Bible study group.

Keith returned to Ukarumpa the day after our anniversary, and discovered a bountiful harvest after almost four weeks away....

14 sweet and juicy pineapples!

Too much for a 'bachelor' to consume, so the Finance Office staff all benefited.

Keith travelled back down to Lae to collect Elspeth at the end of this 'tour of duty', though a follow up may be required once the replacement managers are ready to take up the role permanently in April / May.



Living and working in Ukarumpa means we don't see each other every minute throughout the day as we did in Lae, so we now can meet for lunch at a park to catch up. The views from the higher ground in Ukarumpa are awe-inspiring.

