

Campbell Ramblings

Keith & Elspeth Campbell

Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea

Wycliffe
Bible Translators



Wycliffe Australia
70 Graham Road
Kangaroo Ground 3097

Missed it by THAT much....meaning a September newsletter that is. It is a time of year which gets quite hectic by PNG standards. The mission organisation follows the US financial system, so our end of the fiscal year is September 30, and from early September to almost Christmas is peak season for Keith's workload in the Finance Office.



Like a hole in the head...

Throughout this peak time so far, Keith has had to cope with illness limiting his effectiveness. From aching joints in his arms – elbows, wrists and fingers – which appears to be rheumatoid arthritis, to a sudden attack of diverticulitis, it has been a tough month.

We are thankful that the main prayer has been answered, that of initially avoiding an emergency medical evacuation to Cairns. To do so under the current COVID quarantine conditions may potentially have seen Keith in a hospital / quarantine place in Cairns, with Elspeth taking a later commercial flight and being quarantined separately.

Health is an ongoing matter for prayer, after three full days in the office last week – his first since Sept 4 – a recurrence of the diverticulitis has laid Keith out for another extended period.

Keith – it is one of those times that finds me saying, “Why now, Lord?” The outcome has been a setback in the finance work, delaying several critical processes. From an earthly perspective, it is something I could well do without, and is hard to take.

Habakkuk posed several far less self-absorbed questions to God, centred around God allowing wickedness to apparently prevail over those more righteous. God's response, first puts Habakkuk in his place, then moves him to a confidence in God whatever the circumstances.

*The Lord is in his holy temple;
let all the earth be silent before him. Hab 2:20*

*yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour. Hab 3:18*

It can be a trap to expect from God a clear reason why certain things come our way in life. It feels like the worst is past for now, and we are now in a stage of managing the symptoms. In that light it is perhaps easier to look back and be accepting of the situation.

Although, if you want to know in detail just how grumpy I was in the midst of the worst pain, send Elspeth an email, and she can give you the inside scoop. :(

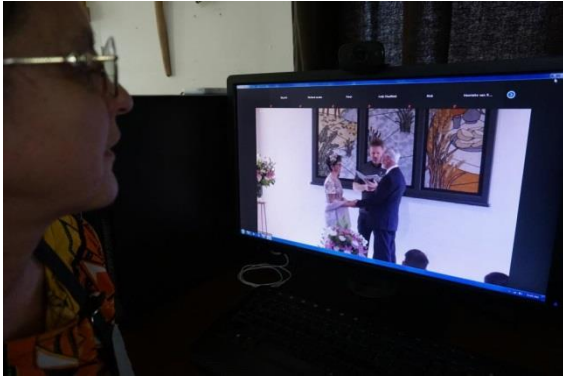
Prayer points

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalm 115 : 1

Ministry

- Praise God that some of our international staff are returning after COVID exile. They have, so far, been permitted to quarantine in their own Ukarumpa homes rather than in a Port Moresby motel, which is a great blessing.
- And keep praying for the doors to remain open to international travel for folk looking to return, and others here who have delayed much needed leave.
- Praise God that PNG village areas have largely been spared the COVID impact, and that a number of translation teams have been able to return to work.
- Pray for the often stressful end of financial year processes. There are stocktakes, cash counts, audits, and reconciliations... all of which complicates the day-to-day.



Like many other people around the world, Elspeth watched her sister, Margaret, have a COVID-safe wedding in Toowoomba.

We hosted a French themed party on Bastille Day where we were the only non-French speakers. What a lovely way for Elspeth to spend a birthday.



Green Banana Curry - With several banana trees in our yard, Elspeth had to find lots of different ways to eat bananas. One of our favourites now.



Elspeth joined her Ukarumpa Health Clinic colleagues at a staff training day. Note the masks but not the social distancing!



Elspeth attended a baby shower for Penny, one of the Ukarumpa Health Centre nurses (middle of photo). Three weeks later Penny safely delivered a daughter.



Keith had help from a work colleague to carry our second-hand fireplace into the house. No more cold nights or mornings for us!

Elsbeth hosted another themed party.... this time the birthday celebration for a German friend, Isolde.



September 16

Independence Day is a day for bright and colourful clothing. National pride is very strong here in Papua New Guinea.



Some of the four legged lawn mowers moving along to the next paddock.



We are thankful for God's provision of our home.



These four couples were the first returning missionaries to Ukarumpa for six months. With much rejoicing we are looking forward to more missionaries returning before the end of the year.



When Keith is not busy in the finance office, he can be found renovating our home.

The task of Bible translation ...

"The primary objective for every translation project SIL facilitates is to assist the local language community to produce a meaningful, idiomatic, clear and accurate translation of Scripture and other related materials." This is the opening sentence in the translator's handbook which defines and directs the translation work here in Papua New Guinea.

One of the first steps in the work of translation is the formation of a translation team from within the language group. These men and women will be set apart and supported by their community to carry out the work of Bible translation. Lord willing, the end result will be God's Word in a language that speaks to both their hearts and their minds.

God's Word in every language in every life.

Ura New Testament dedicated
September 2020



Menya New Testament dedicated in
February 2018

Prayer points

Personal

- Keith's health issues are ongoing. Pray that we'll be able to effectively manage the situation along with the mission medical staff here.
- Pray for an easing of travel limitations and the quarantine requirements ahead of our return to Australia. We still have a March 2021 date in mind; although medical needs may see us bring that forward if travel is possible.
- Before any return, there are so many areas in which we would want to 'finish well' as is the common phrase here – both goals at work yet to be achieved and several home projects under way. Pray that we can truly leave these things in God's hands and be

Malê: The team was surprised to learn that the Israelites and Canaanites worshipped other gods before they learned about the true God, just like their own Malê ancestors.



(The Malê team working with their advisor during a recent OT workshop) [New Testament dedicated 2010]