

# Campbell Ramblings

Keith & Elspeth Campbell

Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea

**Wycliffe**  
Bible Translators



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We have enjoyed settling back into Townsville and our home church. Although some experiences have been a bit *unsettling* – particularly helping our daughter Elisabeth, two cats, and a dog, pack up and fly to Perth, and dealing with a house crying out for some loving care and attention after eight years of being largely ignored by its owner!



## Did we mention becoming grandparents?...

No more pretensions of subtlety in regard to celebrating our granddaughter. Liliana scores the front page this edition. The first five months certainly see some changes. We are enjoying Hannah's messages and the many faces of Lily!

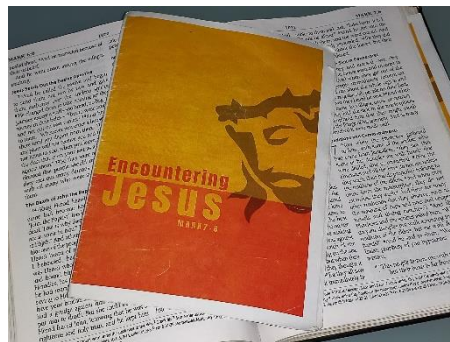


## The new 'normal'...

It can be a challenging re-entry process for missionaries returning to their home church. Praise God, Willows Presbyterian Church has been blessed with a number of new people coming to worship.... meaning there are so many new faces to add to the mix of children who seem to have mysteriously grown a couple of feet taller, singles who are now couples, and couples who have become parents.

We enjoy weekly Bible studies, meeting up with four of the new faces at the home of old friends. Serving during worship and helping out with roster duties also helps in the reconnecting process.

We accept that this is all a very temporary return to 'normality', underlined by the repeated question from friends.... "How much longer before you head back?" We are not bothered by the question. It simply acknowledges how others see clearly that PNG is the place God has marked out for us at this point in our life of service of Him.



## Prayer points

*For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.*

Psalm 107:9 (ESV)

### Family

- Elisabeth and Shawn are settling into life in Perth. Pray that they find a church family that will walk with them in service of Christ.
- Parenting is such an adventure! Pray for Hannah and Corey as they experience the marvellous process of Lily's development.
- Pray that we make the most of our few months at church, that we follow Jesus' example in investing deeply in people.

## A plan.... of sorts...

We returned to Townsville after Christmas with our sights set determinedly on a future course, albeit a windy path through valleys and over hills rather than a straight, flat highway.

The initial focus was on supporting Elisabeth in her efforts to get to Perth and join Shawn, as they had been apart since he flew over on 15 December. Moving interstate proved to be an involved process, made more complex by COVID-19 restrictions and the flooding which shut down road and rail connections with the west. Elisabeth eventually made it to Perth on 11 Feb, with one cat arriving on the 15<sup>th</sup> while the other two pets will remain in Brisbane until sometime in March. Their vehicle finally made it on 25 Feb after a three-week delay stuck in Adelaide. They are not into any normal routine as yet, but are looking forward to settling in and enjoying the opportunities in Perth.

We – the fur-baby's grandparents, that is – had to maneuver the pets into airline appropriate carriers as, firstly, their departure was delayed, and then Elisabeth's flight rescheduled to the day before. It may be a good thing we are now on opposite sides of the country, as the death stares from the cats looked pretty serious! After we recovered from the stress, and Keith bandaged a scratch or two, our attention turned to house repairs and renovations. Keith was now free to spread construction mess across the house, scatter wood shavings and cement dust willy-nilly, and convert a bedroom into a temporary tool shed come lumber yard.

We were greatly blessed with the gift of a complete second-hand kitchen, allowing Keith to replace rather than simply touch up our old one. Together with a remodeled bathroom, and built-in cupboards, our home should soon be taking on a fresh new look.

Outside involved cementing and gravel to overcome difficult lawn areas that had fully succumbed to weeds over the years. We really should have done this bit when we were here in May.... boy was it hot working outside in a Townsville summer! Our neighbour provided an electric cement mixer, but lots of elbow grease (*and back grease, and knee grease – Keith*) was still required.

All of this strategizing and striving was a known element of our furlough plans before we left PNG, but the details have been revised and the timetable reset so often that it feels like we are in free-fall most of the time. It could all be a bit overwhelming were it not for our confidence in God and His good purposes. We believe that He will take us back to PNG to continue serving there, and trust His navigation through the detours and byroads on that journey.

***...the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8***

## Prayer points

### Furlough

- Pray for Keith's various medical processes – tests to assess the situation after his diverticulitis issues in 2019, and seeing a rheumatologist in early May about the joint pain in both hands and elbows.
- Give thanks that our new GP turned out to be one of the Christian students from our uni ministry days. **God is good!**
- Praise God for the provision of materials, and energy, for some owner-driven renovations.
- Join us in praying for wisdom in dealing with our vacant house. We either need good tenants, or a ready and willing buyer.



## Changing tack...

If you aren't up with sailing terminology, a boat will *change tack* to move in a different direction relative to the wind, though still in the same prevailing direction towards a specific goal... generally a marker buoy somewhere off in the distance. Think of the chaotic scenes out on the harbour in the lead up to a Sydney to Hobart yacht race start and you will get the general idea.

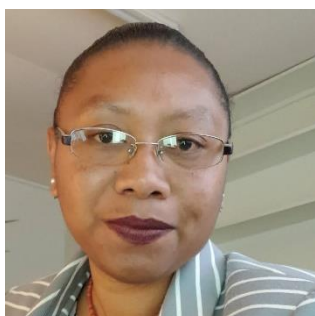
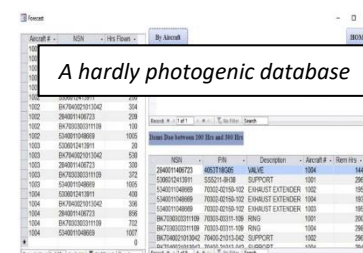


An unexpected email came from PNG, requesting that Keith consider a temporary role with the Aviation department. With a senior staff member delayed in returning from leave, there is a hole in the finance side of their operations. In addition, a new inventory control and parts ordering system is being implemented, and management are keen to have someone with a finance eye on board, with experience in training PNG staff.

It certainly sounds in line with Keith's skill set, and appeals to his emphasis on equipping PNG employees to function to the best of their abilities. We have learnt from past instances of standing at crossroads to simply go with what appears to be appropriate, and to trust God to use the opportunity to further the kingdom..... or to teach us a valuable lesson from the experience.... or perhaps both!

Pray that Keith can adapt quickly to some new terminology and methods, and build relationships that enhance the training process.

Stand by for photos and stories with an emphasis on shiny aircraft, (hopefully) satisfied trainees, and the occasional complex database (*in the latter case, probably just stories. Databases aren't known for their photogenic appeal – Keith*)



Elsbeth also will enter a new role assisting the Chief Learning and Development Officer, Theresa Goweli (left). Elspeth will be involved in scheduled orientation programs for new expat and national staff, and in-house training events throughout the year. The role is particularly exciting, as Theresa is a talented PNG national staffer who came into a junior position in 2019, and continues to invest her energies into furthering Bible translation. Please pray that they work together well, and grow as they share different cultural insights into the learning process.

## Jars of clay...

Keith has had several medical issues since late 2019, so addressing these have been a priority. This week, a specialist determined that he did indeed suffer a diverticulitis attack in October 2020, but has indicated that there are no worrying signs at present. We need to keep on top of the relevant dietary issues, something which is certainly doable in our PNG lifestyle, and prepare for a follow up examination in five years. At the same time, a *sliding hiatus hernia* was identified as the cause of Keith having frequent indigestion and reflux. It is a relief to have something definable to deal with. Pray that an effective response can be worked out with our GP.

The joint pain Keith is experiencing in his hands and elbows is now a daily concern. Unfortunately, the earliest opportunity to see a specialist is currently May 9. We had hoped to be back in PNG before then, so please commit the situation to prayer. We have an appointment booked, so either the Lord will rearrange the specialist's timetable, or our preferred schedule. Either way, He is in charge.

On a side note, we had a surprise blessing on meeting our new GP last month. She greeted us warmly with, "You are the missionaries to PNG." It turns out Linsey was one of the Christian uni students we served when catering for camps and helping out with campus ministry events. **God is good!**

## Nuts and bolts...

We are thankful to those of our supporters who got in touch to talk about the changes to our financial structure in future service with Wycliffe. This feedback helps us to communicate effectively with our partners, and plan appropriately for the future. The issue will likely see us returning to Australia in the first half of 2023, in order to expand our circle of church contacts and raise our pledged support level to that required by Wycliffe Australia.

Being honest, we would rather be serving in PNG than touring churches to raise support. That said, we have had some wonderful experiences of growing in Christ through the many people we have engaged with, and hopefully we have been a blessing to others in the places we have visited. The Lord always achieves His purposes, even through times that appear to be a setback to our plans.

In response to some of the questions from supporters, we will provide a little more of the 'nuts and bolts' in regard to the finance changes.

Previously, our budget had been set using an estimated cost of living during field service – that is, four years in PNG – with additions such as travel, medicals, and an allowance for a furlough year back in Australia. It was essentially a “how little can you survive on?” budget process.

The revised approach is to assign Members a basic budget amount determined by their personal situation – single, couple, family – and allowance for future needs – do they own a home, or are in the process of saving for retirement, etc. This establishes a set base for the individual's budget, to which any special needs associated with the field assignment are added – above average travel or housing costs, for example.

Thankfully, our cost of living in PNG has been quite low to date. We eat lots of vegies like the locals, and in Ukarumpa there aren't any nearby restaurants or movie theatres to blow our money on! We also have a house in Townsville. This means we will be on just the basic budget amount, with no added extras, which raises our budget required by \$1,600 per month.

We are still unsure how this may impact our future Kingdom service. Our finances have always been a matter of faith in God to graciously provide through the generosity He stirs in others. The gifts have often exceeded our budget, enabling us to maintain a giving heart to our PNG brothers and sisters, yet we occasionally found ourselves stretching the purse until the next monthly transfer from Wycliffe. At this point, we are simply assuming that this is God's way of opening a door for greater opportunities to serve. Our prayer is that our extra financial support will be in place so that we can depart Australia thanking the Lord for what He does in His own time.

## Prayer points

### Ministry

- Praise God that He has equipped us to fill areas of specific need in PNG.
- Pray for the timely processing of our PNG work and entry documentation.
- We aim to visit churches in SE Queensland during April. Pray for other issues to be resolved so that we can commit to this.
- That said.....continue to pray that we rest fully in God's provision, content with His perfect timing.

### Furlough plans – March - May

- **Mar** – Keith has medical tests related to the diverticulitis issue in 2019
- **Apr** – Visit SE Qld churches and supporters we missed last year due to COVID
- **May** – Keith *finally* can see a rheumatologist in regard to his joint pains
- Prepare to return to PNG

## How to partner with the Campbell's....

At the Wycliffe Australia website [wycliffe.org.au/member/keith-elspeth](http://wycliffe.org.au/member/keith-elspeth) you will see links to receive our updates and send messages, and a link to our [campbellramblings.org](http://campbellramblings.org) website to access blogs and newsletters.

Support Keith & Elspeth Campbell in the Bible Translation Movement

Once Only	\$ 35	\$ 75	\$ 100	My Gift (Select an amount or enter your own) \$ 100.00
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				<small>* Indicates a required field</small> <input type="button" value="Give now"/>

Below this is the tool to select a one-off gift or monthly support, with the **[Give now]** button to open a secure online payment screen. Alternatively, there are contact details for Wycliffe Australia in Victoria to arrange other support options. **Thanks for thinking of us.**