

# Campbell Ramblings

**Keith & Elspeth Campbell**

**Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea**

**Wycliffe**  
Bible Translators



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As the community here prepares for a two-week break, there is the evident need for a time of rest. After a year with drought, earthquake, local tensions, and the passing of a close friend, being reminded of God fulfilling His promise of a Saviour, one who would bring peace and eternal rest for His children, is a great comfort.



## Global cooperation...

Returning to Ukarumpa in September involved renewing a number of past acquaintances. Most weekends see us hosting a dinner, or enjoying a breakfast on a neighbour's deck. The multi-cultural nature of Ukarumpa always adds to the flavour of these events, and though we often find some fellow Aussies to hang out with, hearing insights of folk from Europe, the US, Canada, and South America is always enlightening.



It is a source of encouragement that so many people have come from far flung places, in that it is evidence of God's calling on other people's lives to serve the Kingdom here. The long history of gospel mission to the PNG people has certainly had an impact, but there is much more to be done. Everything we can do to support a colleague in remaining at the front line – providing a meal; sharing a burden; praying with them – is time well spent.



One structured aspect of this approach is acting as a Support Team for someone who regularly spends time away from Ukarumpa working in a village environment, perhaps in translation or literacy work. We currently assist two translation teams, and a literacy worker. This can involve watching over a vacant property; arranging for supplies to be sent out to the village; passing on prayer requests; coordinating meals for the first few days after returning from furlough leave; anything that provides some relief during a time of stress.

Keith is still putting the tools to good purpose on weekends, taking time for some post-earthquake repairs. One of the people we support had furniture and other items falling and blocking door openings, so Keith secured some shelving to walls, and another translator friend needed a storeroom door lock replaced.



## Pressing needs...

There are particular challenges ahead for our school community in the coming year. Six faculty are departing from the Secondary Campus in June 2023 (the end of the US-based academic year) with only two staff returning from furlough leave if available. This may be enough for core subjects only, with limited capacity to offer electives.

The situation for the Primary Campus is more of a concern, with all of the lead teachers for Kindergarten through to Grade 5 either departing or on temporary leave. There are no new teaching staff scheduled to arrive for the 2023-2024 school yet. At this point, one or two classroom teachers are expected to return from leave in 2024, which will still leave a shortage of four lead teachers.

Please pray for wisdom for our school administrators, and those involved in mission recruitment here in PNG and in our Wycliffe partner countries. Pray also that God will move teachers to commit to serving in international mission centres, enabling families to continue serving the Kingdom.



## What is IDIL?

It may have slipped your attention, but 2022 to 2032 has been declared the *International Decade of Indigenous Languages* by UNESCO. The objective is to encourage stakeholders to actively preserve and revitalise languages, particularly those facing cultural threats. While the intentions of the organisation may be far from being gospel motivated, we welcome any attention on the importance of sustaining language which truly communicates to people's hearts. We have the most important Truth for them to hear ... that God desires a relationship with them, and sent His Son to open a way for that to be possible.

## Finance update...

Previously we have mentioned the need for us to top up our pledged ministry support to the budget total required by Wycliffe Australia, and we can confirm now that the shortfall is around \$800 per month. At this stage, we will be returning to Australia mid-2023 in order to arrange visits with additional church communities, and to connect with potential supporters. We acknowledge that all of our financial support is a gracious gift from God, as He works in the hearts of those who partner with us in this way.

Please pray for us to continue trusting God for His provision, and to rest in His purposes for us in this ministry.

## Prayer points

*May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say,*

*"The LORD is great!" Psalm 70:4*

- Praise God that our mobile internet services appear to be back to previous capacity... which is to say, reasonably good when it isn't raining!
- Pray for Elspeth as she coordinates the orientation course commencing January 13. It will be a busy time for three months.
- The coming months are critical for Keith's development of new finance systems in the Aviation Department. Pray that he can meet deadlines, and maintain communications with key people in the US.
- Pray for peace amongst several surrounding PNG tribal groups. Tensions have led to violence and displacement of families. Pray for the Christian leaders in these communities.
- Teaching staff are just one area of need in our mission community. There are multiple opportunities for translation and literacy staff to work amongst the 250+ language groups without God's word. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers.
- Our daughter Hannah, recently diagnosed with an inflamed gall bladder, is awaiting a specialist appointment for surgery in the new year. Please pray with us that there would be an opportunity soon, and for relief from serious pain during the wait



## Unexpected blessing ...

Of course, a trip back to Australia – even an unscheduled one – may provide memorable moments. When Hannah and Corey faced yet another change in their housing, it soon became downsizing into a caravan. At least now they cannot be evicted! This led to a problem in what to do with some belongings of ours they held, including a now redundant second vehicle. With all of the uncertainty, we opted to dash back and deal with all of the loose ends, relieving them of at least that aspect of the moving stress.

After flying into Brisbane, Keith made the 3,000 km return drive to Townsville solo over three days, before joining Elspeth down south to spend another three days with his parents, and celebrating Lily's first birthday over breakfast. Lily's first and only time munching cake icing for breakfast!

It was an exhausting week (Keith slept for 11 hours on returning from Townsville to a proper bed), but the photos below are certainly ones to treasure.



## How to partner with the Campbells....

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
Monthly	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	
				Indicates a required field
				<a href="#">Give now</a>

Below this is the tool to make it easy to partner with us financially. If God is moving you to be a part of the work in this way, Wycliffe Australia can help with any questions or to arrange other support options. **Thanks for thinking of us.**