

# Campbell Ramblings

**Keith & Elspeth Campbell**

**Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea**

**Wycliffe**  
Bible Translators



Wycliffe Australia  
70 Graham Road  
Kangaroo Ground 3097



It is a relief to have this edition finalised! Getting our news published is just one of the many tasks we have been rushing to complete, both at work and at home, in preparation to travel back to Australia for a few months with a flight out of Ukarumpa on June 13.

## Work on the home front...

Addressing the obvious question first, we are returning to Australia in line with a schedule set by Wycliffe Australia back in November 2021. With changes to the structure of ministry support budgets in that year, our pledged financial partnership sat below the threshold for approval to be assigned to full-time work in the field. We were appreciative of Wycliffe leadership allowing us to conditionally return to new roles in Ukarumpa, agreeing to their request for us to come back after 12 months if our financial situation had not improved by then.



Church visiting... COVID style



Camp speakers in 2021



Renewing friendships

## Aussie travels (at this stage)...

**June**      Townsville  
**July**      Rockhampton / Yeppoon / Gin Gin  
             Perth / Toowoomba  
**August**   Northern NSW / South-east Qld  
**September** Home to PNG?

Praise God, it has improved substantially.... though not yet to the level required. We currently require \$8,200 in additional annual pledges to meet the target. Elspeth has been arranging visits with several existing partners who are keen to engage with us further in the future, and also invitations to speak at churches in new regions. As always, we take these opportunities to point to what God is doing in PNG and to encourage people to become involved – through prayer, financial support, or perhaps to seriously consider full-time ministry. We do enjoy meeting with partners, sharing mission stories, and the encouragement that follows, though it can be physically challenging. Our focus remains on PNG and the task at hand, so developing partnerships is the means of rejoining the work. Check out our Aussie itinerary, and keep praying that the door will open for us to return to PNG in September.

## Prayer points

Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4

- That we recognise God's hand in all of our ministry movements, trusting Him for our future.
- For safety and energy during our Australian travels, covering over 3,000km by car and 8,500km in the air. Pray that the car behaves itself this time too!
- For good, albeit brief times with family in Townsville, Perth and Maclean; and extended family all along our route.
- For open doors and open hearts... to our situation; to God's call to mission; and to the spiritual needs of the PNG people.

## God will provide...

The six weeks Elspeth spent at the Ukarumpa Academic Training Centre as a mentor during the Translators' Training Course 1 (TTC1) proved to be a great success, with the invitation being extended to return in a teaching role for the Initial Skills Course in October.

As a TTC1 mentor, Elspeth assisted PNG citizen students to learn the skills required to access an array of resources which are available in English, as they work their way through the basics of the Bible translation process.

Students are instructed in Study Skills (how to use the resources); Language Discovery (learning the linguistic structure of their vernacular language); Bible Translation Principles (the process of Bible translation); and Bible Background (methods for Biblical cultural research).

Cassius and Patricia, from the Ubir language in Oro Province, went to great lengths to travel to Ukarumpa for the course (adjusting to the high altitude and cold weather!). They are committed to providing their people with an Old Testament after a New Testament was dedicated in 2006. They have returned to their home region, aiming to encourage others to undertake training and join the translation effort.



The following is a sample from the Genesis 22:1-19 passage which was translated during the course. First line is their translated text from verses 13 and 14, followed by the *gloss* – the literal meaning of each Ubir word translated to English. The third line contains the *back translation* – rewriting the *gloss* with English grammatical style for eventual consultant checking.

13. Abraham matan iyeit wengar sanasi nan, foro tona an gegai itarun.iyen.

13. Abraham looked saw trees between there, sheep male it's horns caught.

13. Abraham looked [and] saw between [the] trees [a] male sheep, caught by its horns there.

Basit Abraham inai foro tona ibo iyasbun. On tufufin ukutetai God aurin, ato natum.

So Abraham went sheep male got killed.it. He whole offered God to, and his.son.

So Abraham went [and] got [the] male sheep [and] killed it. He offered [it] whole to God, and it took his son's place.

14. On mes Abraham on efan iwabai, God Arimon Inbononowat.

14. That's why Abraham that place named, God Will Provide.

14. Abraham named that place, God Will Provide. It has been known as that name since then.

Ato on wera nanaba ari on, sabu on efan seyoyorai, God Arimon Inbononowat.

And from time onward now till, people are place calling.it, God Will Provide.

And from that time onward till now, people are calling it, God Will Provide.

## Prayer points

- Praise God that Elspeth's teaching experience will be useful in presenting course content for PNG citizen Bible translators.
- Pray for the many students participating in up to twenty scheduled academic courses throughout the year. It is a massive shift for many to adapt to the resources and methods. Praise God for their heart and commitment!
- Pray that on returning home Cassius and Patricia will be able to focus on developing their skills and completing the initial assigned tasks ahead of the next round of training.
- Pray that we will be able to return to PNG by September, in time for Elspeth to participate in the initial *Paratext* course, a key computer program widely used in Bible translation.

## 'It's You and me, God' ...

*Keith* - Over recent months I have wrestled on and off with feelings of frustration, that we had been blocked from coming to PNG back in March 2022 due to the delay in needed entry documentation. These thoughts arose as I worked through setting up financial processes and getting things in order from the period from late 2021 through to September 2022 when Aviation did not have a qualified accountant on the team. "If only I had been here when...". There are a number of significant issues which may have been resolved earlier had I and our Finance Controller – a friend since our orientation days together – been able to be hands on at the time. Dawn had also been delayed in returning due to COVID-era restrictions. But then, I thought further about how I frequently describe my role here at Aviation as "an Esther moment".

When Mordecai challenged his cousin Esther that she should consider if her position in the palace was "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14), he first explains that if she does **not** act, the Jewish nation will be delivered by some other means. The writer does not mention God at this point, but the inference is clear. Mordecai knows God will not let His people be utterly destroyed – to them belong the covenant promises. (Rom 9:4) God chose to deliver His people on that occasion through the courage of Esther (4:16), and the insomnia of Ahasuerus (6:1), together with a number of other amazing 'coincidences'. But note that He did not spare them from the initial threat altogether. These were dark days for the people, moving them to mourn and lay in the dirt in desperation at the thought of their impending destruction. (4:1-3)

God sometimes allows us to walk through difficult situations where we learn to lean on Him fully, and realise that it isn't a case of 'It's You and me God', but that 'You are God!'. Whatever we are able to achieve during our time ministering in PNG is all of God, and all to His glory, and He alone sets the agenda.

The Jews in Esther's days were established and blessed as a result of the deliverance God provided. I expect that the tough financial decisions having to be made now in our Aviation department will make us more resilient, and perhaps are more easily addressed and willingly tackled in the harsh light of reality following a few earlier setbacks. But that's just me slipping into rationalising why God didn't do things the way I would have. Think I better go read Esther again.

## Good times...

It hasn't all been pressure and deadlines at Aviation. The team love a reason to come together over food, and we have sadly farewelled two valued staff members in recent months, but also rejoiced with one of our pilots who completed the certifications and hours required to fly solo. It was very moving as he spoke of this being the culmination of many years of longing for him and his family to serve God in this way.



## 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
Monthly	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	<small>* indicates a required field</small>
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