

Campbell Ramblings

Keith & Elspeth Campbell

Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea



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No... the header is not a typo! We are with Keith's parents in NSW at the time of publishing. With Mum transitioning into full-time care it was an appropriate time for Keith to be there and lend support during our mission's Christmas shutdown.



Working all things...

With critical deadlines for Keith following the September 30 end of financial year, we were settling in for a busy end to the year and a welcome rest during the two week shutdown around Christmas. Even when news came at the end of October of Mum having to move into an aged care facility, our planning for a possible hurried trip mid-December had a huge question mark hovering over it?

But, need we say.... God is Good!

The initial disappointment of a delay in the implementation of the new software systems Keith has been heading up, led to one of those moments when all we can do is stand in awe of our God. Forty-eight hours after the management team's decision to delay, Keith's Dad was on the phone saying that Mum seemed to be failing and had been admitted to hospital while awaiting a place in aged care. It seemed to us, and Keith's senior management, that God was opening a door to be there to support his parents through a very challenging time.

Keith being there has been such a blessing, and now seeing Mum in a wonderfully caring and supportive environment and Dad recovering his health and strength is a great comfort to us. Lily gave residents and staff a reason to smile as she wandered the halls, then left with a wave and a loud "Bye!"



Prayer points

For our 40th newsletter, what could be more appropriate than Psalm 40?

Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done for us.

None can compare with you, were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

Psalm 40:5

- Praise God that the timing of the events surrounding Mum moving into care is nothing short of miraculous – a witness to family, friends, doctors and carers.
- Pray for Keith's parents, that their relationship and attitude might display to all God's love. (Mum is affectionately known as "Smiley" by the care home staff – a beautiful testimony of God's grace in her life)
- Pray for the challenges facing the Aviation services which Keith, and others, are having to address. It is a complex operation, with increasing operating costs and global shortages of qualified staff in the area of aviation maintenance.
- Yet... praise God that everyone involved has the priority of serving God as they transport people and resources to the remote places of PNG in an effort to share God's word.

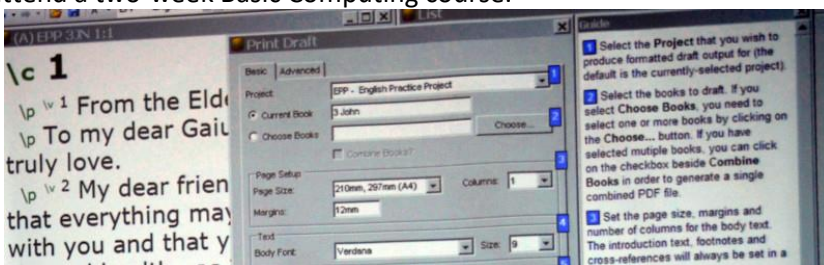
A promise of life...

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

1 Timothy 4:8

Elspeth is thrilled to be engaging with PNG students at the Ukarumpa Training Centre (UTC), guiding men and women through the skills necessary to be involved in Bible translation.

The **Paratext 1** course in September saw seventeen students from ten language communities developing skills with a globally utilised computer program specifically designed to assist the task of Bible translation. As most of the participants had never used a computer before, they came to UTC early to attend a two-week Basic Computing course.



Paratext 1 students
& staff

The **Initial Skills** course is the first formal training provided for PNG people who have been appointed by their language community to the work of Bible translation. It would be understandable that they generally come with a mixture of emotions – excited at the opportunity, but perhaps uncertain of what will be expected of them.

What an ideal environment for an experienced Australian early childhood teacher! Although instead of apprehensive five-year-olds, Elspeth had a classroom of adults for five weeks (October – November), initially learning the mechanics of pronunciation. Imagine the laughter as the students learned where to position the tongue and lips, as well as feeling their throats vibrating while creating several new vocal sounds. The majority of PNG vernacular languages do not feature one or more common English language vocalisations such as “th”, “l”, “r”, “p” or “b”, so becoming familiar with these sounds will help the students in their interactions with the large number of English language Bible resources available to them to complete this task.

The second module required the students to undertake an Integrated Skills Project, using the skills and understanding learnt to script write, perform and record an audio drama of one of Jesus’ parables or healing miracles. Initially, Elspeth was concerned that the students did not fully understand how to undertake the task, so she presented follow-up explanations. The puzzled students listened patiently... then showed Elspeth their first drafts and early edits. Obviously Elspeth was more effective at teaching than she realised!



The Initial Skills group enjoyed their first training modules.

Prayer points

- Pray for the PNG students facing so many new concepts and challenges daily, giving thanks for their overwhelming enthusiasm and commitment to the task of Bible translation.
- Praise God that the creative use of technology can further the Gospel... even in a country like PNG with challenges involved in electricity supply, internet access and education.
- Pray for communities eagerly awaiting the Word of Life in their heart language, that they may be supportive of these dedicated men and women, sacrificing time with family, village livelihood and other responsibilities in order to gain the skills required to complete the task.

A promise of life (continued)...

Late in November the **Back Translation** course included 19 students from five languages, honing their skills in preparing a drafted vernacular translation for checking by an external consultant, with each of the groups having a New Testament already but desiring an Old Testament to complete their vernacular Scriptures.

The process involves translating each word of every verse from the final draft in the vernacular language back into English – the *gloss* – and then rearranging those English words into a form which is close to a regular English grammatical form. (See the example below) That sounds challenging.... **because it is!**

Matthew 14: 23

Kaluli: ...eyo: iyo: ka ta:ta:sa:ga; ina:li hen misio:wa ha:na:ni ane.

Gloss: ...he(sub) they(obj) just left(SEQ), alone ground mountain.to going went.

Back Translation: ...after he just left them, (he), going alone, went to the mountain place.

This critical aspect of Bible translation is intended to provide an external consultant with an effective tool for ensuring that the translation accurately conveys the meaning of the Biblical text. The consultant check is one of the final steps of the translation process before the technical aspects of typesetting and preparing for publication, hence a consultant check is often a tense time for the translation team. Being adept at back translation will smooth the process, and hopefully give them confidence in the quality of their work.



Overflowing with thankfulness (Col 2:7)...

Our home group celebrated Thanksgiving with a meal on November 25. Though a particularly North American celebration, ours had an international flavour with South Koreans and an Aussie. We value the prayerful support and encouragement from these dear friends each week.



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

You will find links to receive our updates and to send messages at the Wycliffe Australia website wycliffe.org.au/member/keith-elspeth, with a link to our campbellramblings.org website to access blogs and newsletters. 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.**