

Campbell Ramblings

Keith & Elspeth Campbell

Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea

Wycliffe
Bible Translators



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To be honest, we are experiencing a sense of relief knowing that there is a two-week break around the Christmas / New Year period. Both of us have been working solidly, and a time of relaxation, celebration, and ticking off several items from the 'to-do-list' around home will be wonderful!



Tis the season...

At this time of year, our various Departments within the mission organisation hold their Christmas breakup events. While it is fun to relax and celebrate the past year with our work teams, a highlight for us was seeing friends from our previous work at the Regional Centre in Lae.



The Lae staff came up to Ukarumpa for a change of scenery, a noticeable change in temperature, and to renew old friendships with members of the community. We hosted them for a meal – which stretched our small lounge room to capacity - and caught up with what was happening in Lae with various translation teams, with the children of our old staff, and changes in the city itself.

The mood turned more sombre when we announced that we were returning to Australia in April 2025. They were all a bit shocked, but pleased to hear that we will still be connected with Bible translation, and have plans to return to PNG often over the coming years.

Prayer points

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.

Psalms 52:8

- Praise God for the beauty of the relationships which develop as we work together with PNG people,
- Pray that the break over Christmas will provide some good recovery time – physically, mentally, and spiritually.
- Please pray for safety for the many people travelling on the roads at this time, particularly PNG staff planning to spend time with extended family in some difficult to access places.
- Pray that we 'finish well' in terms of the relationships which we leave behind next year.



The Aviation Christmas party was a great time, though cut slightly short by a request for a medical evacuation from Wewak to Port Moresby for a pregnant PNG woman experiencing late complications, requiring staff to prepare the stretcher and ready an aircraft for an immediate departure.



Preparing the workers...

In October eight men and women undertook the Initial Skills Course, equipping them for the task of Bible translation. The group learnt effective English, critical thinking, and research skills necessary to utilise the many Bible study resources they will engage with in the process of translation.



Laying a foundation...

The first Old Testament Introduction (OTI1) course provides translators with a survey of the narrative and historical OT books, emphasising the historical, geographical and literary context of each book. Lectures are supported with group activities, including a 'Walk Through the Bible' activity to help students remember the material.

Watch a video of the students presenting the activity at their course graduation posted in our latest blog <https://campbellramblings.org/2024/12/>



During the graduation ceremony, the students were challenged to share their newly acquired understanding with their village communities.

It is hoped that each of these 18 participants from the East Sepik and Central Provinces will be able to continue their training during OTI2, when they will focus on the wisdom and poetry OT books, together with the major and minor prophets.

Engaged in the task...

With their expat Project Manager – our good friend John - out of the country, Elspeth assisted the Kapin translation team during a visit to Ukarumpa for a consultant check on the Gospel of John and Ruth.

The consultant, Duncan (at the head of the table) was very pleased with their drafts, and the whole process took just two weeks instead of the intended three. We expect our Morobe Province friends were also pleased to leave the cold Highlands weather and get back to their families.



Prayer points

- Pray for the 136 translation projects currently active in PNG, whether just commencing or nearing completion.
- Praise God for each and every individual willing to commit time and resources to the task, and for the families and communities who support them in this.
- Pray for the Kapin team as they prepare more books for consultant checking in 2025.
- Praise God for full healing for Itama (in yellow at the rear of the photo), who arrived in Ukarumpa with a serious infection in his hand. Our clinic staff were able to bring the infection under control after a week of daily antibiotic injections and dressing of the wound.

A significant year...

This past year saw ten newly translated New Testaments dedicated, across mainland PNG, East New Britain, New Ireland, and Milne Bay. These communities can now engage with God's word in their heart language...

Kaluli	Meramera	Nalik	Yale
Enga	Uare	Feni	Nara
Saliba	Label		

Though teams are actively translating amongst 136 PNG language communities, there are still hundreds more longing for Scripture in their heart language.



A cause to celebrate...

The dedication of a new Scripture translation is a major event, and communities come together to celebrate, and share a meal.

To see the traditional music, song, and dance used to glorify God is an amazing testament to the capacity of the Gospel to speak into every people and culture.

The main focus is always on the word of God, and the acknowledgement of how it represents the presence of God amongst His people in PNG.

To have joined with a PNG community to celebrate the dedication of a new Scripture translation is an unforgettable experience.



Prayer points

- Pray for the 136 translation projects currently active in PNG.
- Pray for the communities who received the NT this past year, that they would grow in their relationship with God.
- Praise God that the Gospel is for every nation, tribe, people and language. (Revelation 7:9)

Turning a corner...

With the completion of much of Keith's initial setup of the two new software systems for flight bookings and maintenance of aircraft, 2025 is shaping up as a time for training and development tasks. It is certainly something to look forward to, as we have considered a significant part of our legacy here to be equipping our PNG co-workers to thrive in their roles.

While conducting annual Performance Appraisals on two finance staff, Keith was moved by a comment from one in her pre-questionnaire. In a culture where the *bosman* is often perceived as someone special and different from the worker, to be seen as an "understanding boss/brother" is something special. What a great group of people to be engaged in Kingdom work with!

Closing

Is there anything else you would like to discuss during the Appraisal?
I'll think about it if I have anything that I need to discuss with you. Lastly and finally I want to thank you very much for your kind heart that I have worked with you and Dawn this year 2024 which I have enjoyed working with. It's sad leaving a very understanding boss/brother like you but we can't question if it's the Lord calling let his will be done. Thank you to you and Elspeth for your ministry here in PNG. Blessings.



Safety first...

Since joining the Aviation Department in 2022 it is apparent that the operation has a strong focus on safety.

But seriously... hazard cones around a tree covered in blinking lights and tinsel? Undoubtedly there is a Policy document on it somewhere.

Prayer points

- Praise God for sustaining Keith through months of heavy workload implementing the software applications. Pray now for a clear path ahead in applying the finishing touches.
- Pray that appropriate time would be found for the training processes needed ahead of our finish in April.
- Praise God for the unity of spirit and purpose within the Aviation team, and the desire to pull together when facing so many challenges in staffing for 2025.

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

At the Wycliffe Australia website wycliffe.org.au/member/keith-elspeth you will see links to receive our updates and send messages, and a link to our 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
				Give now

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.**