

Campbell Ramblings

Keith & Elspeth Campbell

Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea

Wycliffe
Bible Translators



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Our first newsletter for 2025 is the final one as fully assigned here in Papua New Guinea. In a month's time we will return to Australia for a period of furlough ahead of Keith assuming a role with Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia (WBTA), though the people of PNG and the gospel ministry here will never be far from our hearts and minds.



Fare thee well...

Lord Byron wrote these words in 1816, at the time that his brief marriage ended in separation after a little more than a year.

Fare thee well! and if for ever, still for ever fare thee well!

Even though unforgiving, never 'gainst thee shall my heart rebel.

We have seen many colleagues leave the ministry in PNG. Some, like ourselves, have responded to a call to take on another role elsewhere. Others have been, in some sense, forced to make the move due to health concerns or family responsibilities which require them back in their home country. A very small few leave with a sense of regret that events in PNG did not turn out for them as they would have hoped.

We had always expressed a desire to leave on God's terms rather than ours, though fully believing that **everything** actually happens on God's terms. What we meant by this is that we wanted it to be clear to ourselves and to others that any move was in response to God's leading, and not simply a preference on our part to be somewhere else.

Keith is leaving a role he has thoroughly enjoyed to take up a senior finance responsibility with WBTA. His focus will shift from solely PNG to include many other ministries in Australia and abroad. It is a major step, albeit one which Wycliffe had flagged as a potential role for Keith over a number of years now.

Elspeth will be maintaining her current role with the Academic Training Centre (ATC) in PNG. She will be providing remote support in developing course materials, and returning to Ukarumpa occasionally during training courses to be engaged in coordinating and teaching roles.

It is a great encouragement to us that everyone here is so understanding of our move. Yes, they are sad to see us go, but they also appreciate the need for an effectively staffed 'home front' providing support and equipping people to serve in mission fields around the world.

Prayer points

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- Praise God for sustaining us in our PNG roles over the past 10 years.
- Pray that Elspeth will be able to put effective systems in place to maintain her remote involvement in ATC.
- Please pray for the staff who must take on Keith's responsibilities in managing the Aviation financials, particularly Michelle and Lilly. (below right and centre)
- Pray for our travels to and around Australia, particularly with recently flooded QLD roads.





Building decks... and community!

A Christmas project for Keith involved replacing our old minimalist porch with a more practical deck. Many tasks required a second pair of hands, so we recruited Tepi, our former casual yard worker, to be trades assistant. Keith always saw potential in Tepi to be more than an unskilled labourer, and this young man is now headed off to Port Moresby to obtain a Trade Certificate in electrical work. He certainly appreciated the opportunity to earn some funds towards his studies.

The new deck came in handy a few weeks later as the Aussies gathered for Australia Day, taking advantage of the event falling on a Sunday. We do miss our Public Holidays from home, as does an Indian friend who works with MAF, but lives within our mission community supporting the MAF children who attend our high school.



She joined the party.... though her celebration focused on Republic Day in India, where they celebrate the adoption of the Indian Constitution on January 26, 1950.



The old porch was a bit small for a party!



Prayer points

- Pray for Tepi, as his studies will take him away from his wife and children for much of the next two years.
- Praise God for the way in which hundreds of people from multiple cultural backgrounds are able to form a community in Ukarumpa. It is all down to Christ's love at work in us, as we share this task of gospel ministry.
- Pray for Nathalie's scholarship application, and her desire to use her training and development for the benefit of PNG, and to God's glory.

Blessed to bless...

While our Ukarumpa house lies vacant for a period of 8 months or so – before Elspeth returns in January 2026 – we are making it available to one of Keith's co-workers.

Nathalie is a senior administrative Aviation employee with several key responsibilities, including HR, Training and Certification, and maintaining our internal procedural documentation. She hopes to study overseas and is waiting on the outcome of a scholarship application.

Nathalie is a local – hence ineligible for staff housing which is in limited supply - and lives with her mother and extended family in a village house



with rudimentary facilities, often having power outages, and having to make her way on foot through muddy paths to catch the bus to work each day.

We offered Nathalie our house as temporary accommodation for the remainder of the year, and she and her mum are overwhelmed by this blessing, and very thankful to God. It will be her first experience of living away from home as an adult.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

On the road again...

As we prepare for our furlough in Australia, much of the planning relies on Elspeth's networking skills, and the all-important spreadsheet. We are visiting 22 congregations over five months, expecting to travel around 12,000 kilometres in doing so.

Late last year we sold our house in Townsville, knowing that we would likely be living in Victoria for as many years as God would have us serve with Wycliffe Australia at their National Centre in Kangaroo Ground. We plan to purchase a second-hand self-contained motorhome soon after arrival in Australia, with a view to this easing the pressure for us to get to the next destination by nightfall. If we start to feel road weary – *we **are** collectively turning 120 this year* – then our bed is wherever we can find a parking space.

On a side note, we are hoping that Lily will think that Pa and Nanna's vehicle is a pretty cool place to have sleepovers, and she may even join us for a few trips visiting churches.



Always a need...

One permanent feature of our speaking engagements is sharing the need for more people to serve in global ministry. SIL PNG alone lists vacancies in multiple areas...

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Linguistics & Translation | - Literacy |
| - Construction | - Auto Mechanical |
| - Aviation Engineering | - Medical & Health Services |
| - IT & Software Development | - Scripture Access |
| - Workplace Training | - Finance & Management |
| - Teaching – Primary & Secondary | |

A great place to start your journey of serving in a Bible translation ministry is with Wycliffe, and information on opportunities both in Australia and globally can be found at wycliffe.org.au/roles



* Artist impression... actual motorhome may vary

Prayer points

- Praise God for the encouragement of so many church communities and individuals who want to catch up after we return. We are looking forward to sharing news, praying together, and hopefully inspiring others in their Kingdom ministry.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send and equip workers for the field. (Matt 9:38)
- Pray for the provision of a suitable vehicle for our year of travelling, and for the logistics of our relocation from Townsville to Kangaroo Ground.
- Pray for planned gatherings with extended family – adult children, Keith's parents, and both sets of siblings. We hope that these occasions enable us to honour God through our conversations.

How to partner with the Campbells....

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

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|-----------|--------|--------|----------|---|
| Once Only | \$ 35 | \$ 75 | \$ 100 | My Gift (Select an amount or enter your own) \$ 100.00 |
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Indicates a required field

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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.**