

Campbell Ramblings

Keith & Elspeth Campbell

Equipping translation work in Papua New Guinea



Wycliffe Australia
70 Graham Road
Kangaroo Ground 3097

After less than two months back in Australia, the change of pace from PNG is noticeable. From the time of our 24 April arrival at Brisbane airport, we have traversed various Australian state borders on seven occasions, slept in five different beds, and travelled around 3,500 km by air and 8,500 by road.



Remembering in prayer (Philemon 1:4) ...

You may be thinking all of these travels are part of our scheduled church visiting, but that has only just begun. Two weeks ago (8 June), we were invited to share an update on our ministry with the folk at Willows Presbyterian, our sending church from 2014. We could only fit half of the 8:30 morning service in our selfie (*I am not that tech savvy when it comes to smartphones – Keith*) and there were three other services throughout the day.



Our little church has grown quite a bit since we first left for PNG, and it was encouraging to see so many new faces, and to catch up with many familiar ones.

The two later services involved several of the church young adults, and hearing someone thoughtfully and personally pray for us, remembering our time in the church while they were still in primary school, was quite emotional.

We shared that prayer is the engine room of gospel mission as evidenced in Scripture, from Jesus prompting the disciples to ask God to send out workers (Matthew 9:38) to Paul requesting prayer for his ability to speak fearlessly (Ephesians 6:19), something which we might simply take for granted.

Sending out mission workers is not a case of 'set and forget' – we need the church to be bringing their missional prayers before the throne of grace continually.

Prayer points

In God, whose word I praise – in God I trust and am not afraid.
Psalm 56:4

- Pray for our safe travels and energy levels while covering so much territory over the eight months of furlough till Christmas.
- Praise God for our reconnecting with the Willows church family, particularly seeing past youth maturing in Christ.
- Please pray that our visits with churches over the coming months will be times of being 'mutually encouraged by each other's faith' (Romans 1:12).

While a few spaces are still being finalised, our calendar of engagements is looking quite full...

July

- Burdekin Presbyterian Church (PC)
- Capricorn Coast PC
- Rockhampton / Gracemere PC

August

- Gladstone PC
- Callide Valley PC
- Gin Gin Baptist
- Kingaroy PC

September

- Miles PC
- Chinchilla PC
- Christlife PC Toowoomba
- Caloundra PC

October

- North Qld Christian Convention (NQCC)
- Tablelands PC
- Gordonvale / Babinda PC
- Liliana's 4th birthday!

November

- John Knox, St Andrews & Northshore PC (Townsville)

Basic training...



basic

/ˈbeɪsɪk/

adjective

1. forming an essential foundation or starting point; fundamental.

From mid-February through to mid-April 2025, 32 students undertook the Basic Exegesis courses, representing 20 language groups. The large number of students required two consecutive classes, involving nine staff.

Several students were returning after completing earlier Training Centre preliminary courses, such as Initial Skills and English Enrichment. The majority came from a localised PNG ministry organisation who have been impressed with the standard of national translators engaged in the SIL programs and want their people to benefit from the same training.

The 'basic' in the course title references this as introductory content, but certainly not simplistic. The material can be quite challenging for the participants. At the graduation ceremony, students shared how this training had changed their understanding of the Bible, and that this in turn would influence their ministry, including their style of evangelism and teaching.

The term 'basic' also defines this course as a critical foundation for those engaged in Bible translation. Translating the Bible is all about understanding the biblical text. In order to communicate the message of the Bible clearly in another language, translators have to understand the text first themselves. Exegesis is the academic discipline of understanding and explaining a written text, in this context, the Bible as the Word of God.

As we approach God's word, we need to have the attitude of Ezekiel.

And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them."
Ezekiel 3:1-4

When we eat, we chew on the food, digest it, and it becomes part of us, building us up nutritionally – assuming the food is good. Similarly, 'eating' God's Word involves studying and investigating the Bible, asking questions, and seeking answers to those questions from Scripture and other sources. Only then can we effectively take the gospel to the people.



One group of delighted students

Prayer points

- Pray for the students as they return to their respective villages to demonstrate their new learning to their friends and family in a way that will encourage them to find Jesus.
- Praise God that these men and women were able to come and learn about the Bible translation process.
- Pray for the Academic Training Centre as most of the expat staff are now either on home assignment for the next six months or have 'gone finish' and left PNG. Pray that new staff will come and join the work of training and demonstrating the task of Bible translation.



The road ahead...

Beyond the next six months, we also have a view of what lies ahead in our mission service with Wycliffe Australia.

We mentioned briefly in our last newsletter (April 2025) that Keith has accepted a role with Wycliffe Australia. From the middle of 2026, he will commence the handover of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) responsibilities. The request had been put to us previously during home assignments in Australia, but we always felt that God still had specific plans for us in PNG. Even now, the emotional ties to PNG are strong, but several factors underlined the critical need for key roles on the home front to be filled – not just as a temporary placement, but with a commitment to a long-term placement. We will be relocating to Kangaroo Ground, Victoria, to enable Keith to be 'hands on' with the local finance staff and other key administrative processes. It is an exciting opportunity, and Aussie colleagues in PNG have been encouraging as they anticipate Keith bringing his personal experience to the role.

Elspeth will continue her role with the Academic Training Centre (ATC) in PNG, combining remote support in course material development with regular travel back to Ukarumpa to be engaged in coordinating and teaching roles as needed.

Prayer points

- Praise God for His leading in our ministry, and the affirmation of others as we head in this new direction.
- Pray for a smooth transition and handover from the current CFO, Greg Conwell. There will be much for Keith to learn and adjust to.
- Pray for the logistics of relocating to Kangaroo Ground, including settling in to housing, new work relationships, and a new church family.
- Pray for wisdom in making arrangements for Elspeth's regular travel to PNG as we work with Wycliffe Australia staff to manage times apart and possibly facilitate Keith joining her at times to continue his direct support of the work in PNG.

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

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.**