



**Wycliffe**  
Bible Translators

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**Good News  
in Anyone's  
Language**

# Associate Action

## Blessed to be a Blessing *by Doug Graham*

Our desire was to be part of what the Lord was doing through the work of Bible translation, so when long service leave was due we decided to serve as short-term missionaries at Ukarumpa in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Ukarumpa is the location for the SIL main centre and the international school in PNG. We arrived in time to commence second semester 2014.

We have been blessed by the Lord in so many ways and this was an opportunity to be a channel of God's love to the people of PNG. Many workers are needed to support Bible translation in a community such as Ukarumpa. I taught Mathematics to missionary kids at the Secondary Campus. There was a big shortage in the Mathematics Faculty, however we did not know this when we felt the Lord calling us to apply late in 2013. Like a master chess player, God moves His people around to accomplish His purposes. He calls us to be available. Karen helped the family settle in and went about loving and blessing the people that God gave to her.



**Sara, Karen, Doug and Jonathan Graham**

Is love cross-cultural? Absolutely! We were blessed to have two beautiful Papua New Guinean ladies work for us. We grew close to them and their families quickly because of the common bond of love we shared. Our families walked together through hard times and good times. We read God's Word in Pidgin and English together and we encouraged each other daily.

God made children resilient and that was certainly our experience. Both Jonathan and Sara grew spiritually, emotionally and physically through their experiences. The opportunities to learn and play with other missionary kids and Papua New Guinean children broadened their worldview and their acceptance of others. They particularly enjoyed being bare-footed and playing outside with other children in yards with no fences. Jonathan's recent quote back home was 'It is much easier to clean my Australian feet'. Yes their feet were always dirty in Papua New Guinea but they loved it.

Modern technology has provided a number of different pathways to help people obtain God's Word in their own language. In addition to the

traditional written Bible, audio Bibles and also Bible apps have now been made available in some languages. Friends of ours, Mack and Doris Graham have been working amongst the Kandawo people for the past 31 years. Despite much opposition to their work, they will dedicate the Kandawo New Testament in April this year. In the past few years there has been a dramatic rise in the level of interest in the Bible as the audios have become available. The following quote from a villager testifies to this:

*'We used to be ashamed because we really didn't understand the talk in church. But now it has come clear and now we are no longer ashamed. We know exactly what is going on. The audio Bible is like the roots of a tree that go deep down, not just on the surface. These roots go down to the very ends and reveal the talk completely. It is no longer hidden, it's out in the open.'*

Thank you Mack and Doris for your dedication to the Lord's work. You are truly a blessing.

The vision statement of our church, Mackay Baptist, is 'Passionate lovers of God and others'. We had an opportunity to be a blessing to others and share God's love further afield. Through this experience, we were blessed as well.

As I reflect on our time in PNG I am reminded of Romans 10:14 *'But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?'*

We were privileged to see first-hand the work of Bible translation and the many others skills necessary to support the work. I have always thought mission work was important, but now I have a deeper appreciation of the wide range of skills and gifts that God has given His people to use for His glory. We can serve God by using our skills to love others, whether next door or on the other side of our world.



**Father and son camp out in the PNG highlands**



## Editorial

by Yvonne Gillespie

*Once again I find myself delighted and encouraged by the stories of volunteers who are being used by God as a piece of the jigsaw that is the worldwide church.*

*It is also encouraging to hear of people who did not wait for retirement, but were able to use their long service leave to contribute their skills to the work of Bible translation. It is like a 'taste and see' exercise that can whet the appetite for more engagement in the future.*

*The prophet Amos told the children of Israel that they did not know how to do right as they were hoarding their riches in their fortresses. (Amos 3:10) For this they were being judged. It led me to reflect on what I am doing with my riches. We in the 'West' are all rich by world standards. Am I using what God has blessed me with to further the work of the gospel and bring glory to God's name?*

*'Our Lord Jesus Christ, though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich'. (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

*The example has been set. We have been given eternal life because of what Jesus has done and so we can do no less than follow His example and use the things we have been blessed with to bless others.*

*The people featured in this edition know the great joy of being used by God to bless others. You too can share that joy.*

## English Lessons in Alor by Yvonne Gillespie

In October last year Barry and Kaye Martin made their sixth trip to the university in Alor, West Timor. So what keeps them going back? It certainly is not the climate as October is the build-up season and it is very hot and humid. It is not the luxury of resort living as they live in basic accommodation with a squat toilet and a dipper to pour water over themselves for a shower. No, these things do not rate as a drawback—it is the very great need and the relationships that they have made over the years.

The university is run by GMIT, the largest Christian denomination in Indonesia, but they are under-resourced and they really appreciate the work Barry and Kaye do. The university also has very little opportunity to have native English speakers teaching conversational English so they value the effort Barry and Kaye put into making the trip each year.

Their program had expanded for this trip with extra classes which meant that they were teaching from 7 am to 3 pm five days a week. During the third week a debating and speech competition was added to the program which took them through to 7 pm each day. These debates have become a very important competition between the local high schools, even affecting students' entrance to university. In 2014 a speech competition was introduced as well as the debates. Students could choose from a selection of topics and then prepare a three minute speech. Barry and Kaye had the responsibility of adjudicating the debate and judging the speeches.

As with other trips to Alor, the highlight for Barry and Kaye was the relationships they had with students. Old friendships were renewed and new ones formed. They went on picnics on weekends and continued the friendships over



**A picnic with students at Takpala village**

Facebook during the year. The head of the department, Novy Moybeka, was very helpful and they also received good support from Australia for this trip—Christian friends gave them money to take \$700 worth of books with them. One book in particular Novy had been trying to obtain for a long time, so she was overjoyed when she saw it.

'Every year when planning these trips I think to myself, *Can I do this? But then I remember that when God calls me to do something He will also give me the skills I need to fulfil that call*', said Barry.

The trips also remind Barry and Kaye how well-off and fortunate we are in our society. Many students struggle to pay university fees of \$100 per semester. Most villages view the education of their young people as the responsibility of the extended family and the whole village. Even so some students have had to drop out because they couldn't afford the fees.

When asked if they will go again, Kaye said 'Yes, God willing'. It gets harder as we get older, but there is so much need, so if God opens the way we will go again.



**Barry and Kaye at the presentation night for the debating and speech competition**

### USED STAMPS

Continue to send stamps to Ann Wiggins at her home address: 6/26 Jackson Street, Croydon VIC 3136, or to the Wycliffe Office at Kangaroo Ground. Ann's email address is [ann\\_wiggins@wycliffe.org](mailto:ann_wiggins@wycliffe.org)





# Vanuatu Venture *by Vonette Munro*

Our family is a typical one—two working parents with three teenage kids. Peter has his own business and I am a teacher. Our two boys, who stayed back in Australia, are 19 (at Uni) and 17 (starting year 12). Our youngest, 14-year-old Kianna, came with us to Vanuatu.

We volunteered with Wycliffe to help out with a three month assignment in Vanuatu. When Ross and Lyndal Webb mentioned there was a need in Vanuatu for a business manager in a short-term capacity, Peter jumped at the chance. We had always wanted to help out and experience cross-cultural ministry but never felt qualified or experienced enough to be of any use. But ... God uses skill sets that others might not initially consider.

Pete is a details kind of guy, who runs his own business, loves God, His Word and loves different cultures. All of these attributes turned out to be perfect for doing the job in Port Vila.



*Peter, Kianna, Vonette, John and Marlene*

We treated the three months as a privilege, a type of long service leave where we could have a change of pace but be useful at the same time and follow God's call on our lives. We filled a gap that was later taken over by other volunteers. Peter trained his replacement, John, a spritely 74-year-old American, whose energy and determination showed me it's never too old to start an adventurous chapter of your life!

John and his wife Marlene marvel at how interesting their life has become post retirement. These years volunteering have been the best of our lives! Peter and I would agree that being a small cog in God's grand plan proffers new perspectives and insights that have expanded our worldview and our picture of God's sovereignty.

Three months was enough time to fall in love with Vanuatu. Working in a country piques your curiosity about the place and its people; it makes you pray more intelligently and specifically, while making you conscious of how great it would be if more people volunteered.

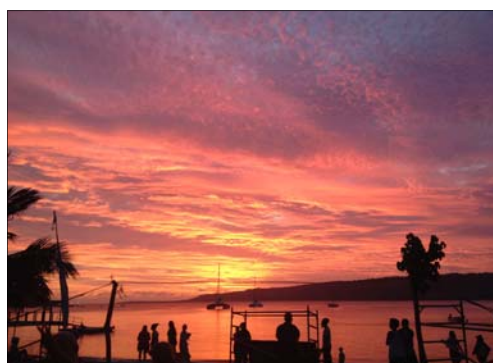
I didn't have an official job title in Vanuatu because I needed to be free to keep my



*Relaxing at the Cascades, Port Vila*

daughter on track with 'school' as we liaised with her teachers back in Australia. Kianna did school from 9 am - 2 pm and then we had an hour Bislama lesson. Bislama is the language spoken by most local people. Bislama lessons were cooking, discussing photos, eating ice-cream, reading the Bible and conversing—all in Bislama!

Kianna didn't need me all the time, so I still had the chance to do odd jobs, where I could use my creative skills like decorating and updating noticeboards, making curtains for units, baking cakes, painting, sorting and lots of cleaning. Even though Pete and I helped with the day-to-day running of things in the Bible translation office we were still able to snorkel after work, catch up at lunch, grab a coconut and straw and sit and watch the sunset over Port Vila, and get out to a couple of islands and experience Vanuatu village life. By the end of our time in Vanuatu we could understand a lot of Bislama and interact with locals. We developed a desire to see God even more strongly glorified in all the different people groups and languages



*Sunset at Mele, Vanuatu*

## Needed — Centre Managers

The role of Centre Managers in the work of Bible translation cannot be over-stated. They are the grease that keeps the wheels turning.

All the day-to-day administration, maintenance, and a hundred and one other jobs have the potential to take translators away from the vital task of giving needy people the precious Word of God. However there is a chronic shortage of Centre Managers in Papua New Guinea and other parts of the Pacific.

A centre manager needs to be a practical person with a hands-on approach to maintaining the property, keeping financial records and providing a vital link with translators in the field by arranging shipping or flights for people and goods.

If God has given you these skills and you are able to give your time, either on a short-term or long-term basis, ask Him to open the way for you.

For more information see [You Tube](#) video on [facebook.com/SILPNGjobs](https://www.facebook.com/SILPNGjobs)

Right now there are translators who have had to put their work on hold while they fill in for vacant manager positions. You could be contributing to a New Testament, by enabling translators to push on with the work.

Contact Jenny Austin  
(03) 9712 2741  
[assignments\\_australia@wycliffe.org](mailto:assignments_australia@wycliffe.org)

## NSW Wycliffe Retreat

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## Stairway to Flat 5 by Liz Linden

The goal of the latest Wycliffe Associates work party at the Wycliffe flats in Brisbane was to replace the lift and clothesline with stairs and build a small storage shed next to them. I am delighted with the result!

Technically flat five, an upstairs flat over the carports at the Wycliffe flats in Kedron, had two exits (needed to comply with safety regulations) but one of those exits was a broken hydraulic lift put in for the original owner who was in a wheelchair. In the event of a fire people would have to shimmy down the outside of the metal lift—not very practical, though if they had a fire behind them a fit person would probably manage it.

The other unique feature of flat five was the small rotary clothesline that had been raised on a long pole to second storey level. It was somewhat useful

though the bracing for the pole meant that nothing long (like a towel or sheet) could be hung successfully on it.

Peter Whitby and his team of Klaas Kuipers, Rob Damm, Neville Southwell and Graeme Kelly got stuck right into the job and had the lift and clothesline down in only a few hours. During the rest of the week they put in a lovely, practical set of stairs which will allow the residents in flat five to access the carports easily (and escape fires). They also built a storage shed into an unused corner.

The Wycliffe flats in Brisbane are used by Wycliffe members for both long-term and temporary accommodation. We have a constant stream of people coming and going around the Pacific who pass through Brisbane on their travels. They may be seeking medical treatment, having a holiday, transiting

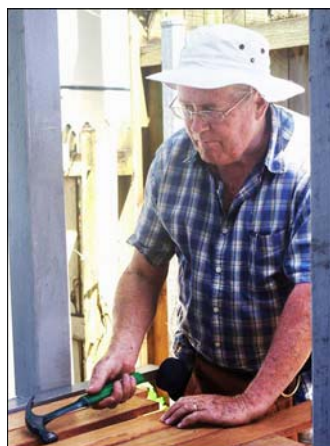
to a new assignment or any number of other reasons to be needing accommodation in Brisbane.

Some of those people want to leave 'stuff' (personal possessions, work related things, etc) with us for a while and up until now we really haven't had a good place to store things. My spare bedroom often looks like a lost property office and the garage is getting filled with 'stuff'. I'm looking forward to collecting all the random things we are minding for people and putting them into one secure, weatherproof, vermin-proof shed—out of sight, out of the way but easily accessible.

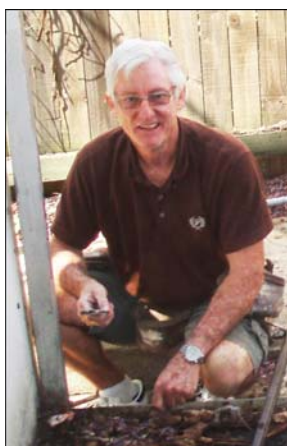
Once again Wycliffe Associates has come to the rescue! We could not have afforded to have this work done commercially so I greatly appreciate the time and effort the men put in to help us out. Thank you!



Graeme Kelly



Neville Southwell



Peter Whitby



Rob Damm (L) and Klaas Kuipers

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