

Wycliffe Assist

Tag Team on Tanna *by Dianne Whitby*

Peter and I were invited to the Lewo New Testament dedication on Epi Island in Vanuatu. Rather than just go for the week, we asked if there was any work needed doing at SIL Vanuatu. There was! They asked us to go to the island of Tanna.



Peter and Dianne (centre) with (L) Noel and Miklos and (R) Zsofi and Malna

Miklos and Zsofi Greizer with their three-year-old twins, Noel and Malna, were serving there. We had met the Greizer family during our last visit to Vanuatu, after Cyclone Pam in 2015. It was lovely to catch up with them again and be part of their family for the time we were there.

They lived in a small village house, consisting of three rooms. They needed an extension. Water had just been connected to the village so they decided to have an indoor toilet and shower and an all-purpose sink as part of the extension.



Peter laying the cement slab



Miklos and 2nd Peter shovelling coral into the pit

Peter drew up the plans and arranged for the necessary materials to be shipped to Tanna in time for our arrival in early February. Miklos and two of the national men helped.



Zsofi and Miklos hold the ceiling sheet in place while 2nd Peter nails

By the time we left, the room was enclosed and the shower installed, with most of the inside plumbing done.

While we were there we became part of the village family and left with some lovely memories. Peter and Yvonne Gillespie were our tag team to finish off the project after they had been to the Epi Bible dedication.

Second Peter worked with Miklos to line the extension, dig an absorption channel for grey water drainage and install a septic tank and

absorption pit. They also built a bench with a drop-in laundry tub and a storage shelf below.

In addition to the extension, Miklos and second Peter were able to replace solid glass windows in the existing building with glass louvres to allow airflow into the building. This made a big difference to the temperature of the house.



Miklos placing tiles on the splash-back

Both Peters agreed that the time spent on Tanna was extremely rewarding and left them with a deep appreciation of the dedication of families who give up the comforts of modern Western living to bring the precious Word of God to others.

If anyone with trade skills would like to experience the reward of helping others, contact Peter Gillespie (see back page) for ways to help.

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Editorial

by Yvonne Gillespie

Our God is a relational God and because we are made in His image, it follows that working in relationships honours God in our life.

All the projects in this edition came about because of relationships and because of that, work that may otherwise have been hard or tedious, became a rewarding experience.

When we work with fellow Christians we not only achieve practical goals, but we encourage each other in our faith. As we work together we get to know each other and are in a better position to offer the right help at the right time.

Wycliffe Assist exists to help the work of Bible translation. Helping could mean a two to three week work team, or spending one or two days per week at the National Centre.

Helping can also be done at home; praying, assisting with financial records remotely by email or even sewing Bible bags. The opportunities are limitless, the workers are few. *Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his harvest field. MATT 9:37*

Photos on cover page

l-r: Loui Makie, Susan Makie, Chief Mato, Kalite (Chairman of VBT)

English Immersion Experience by Marg Borneman



l-r Pastor Joshua and Elder Kalite from Vanuatu, Marcel, Isma and Ibu Ola from Indonesia

Since October 2012, 16 national colleagues from Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and East Timor have come to our National Centre during October and November to take part in Wycliffe Australia's English Immersion Experience (EIE). While this is quite a change of scenery - and weather - from their regular work, it is in fact a lot of hard work for each one who has come.

It all started back in April 2012 when our CEO Barry Borneman was sharing a room with Marnix Riupassa, the director of Kartidaya (Indonesia) at a Wycliffe Global Alliance Conference in Bangkok. Barry asked a simple question. How could Wycliffe Australia as a Western mission organisation be of help to Kartidaya? Marnix' immediate response was to ask for help with English.



l-r Ika, Yenny and Raemon, from Indonesia, Ilyn from the Solomon Islands and Olinda from East Timor.

He explained that several of their key workers needed a higher level of English to do their work more effectively. Some were writing emails and reports or setting up travel arrangements for non-Indonesian speaking consultants. Those involved in translation projects needed to access commentaries that were not available in Indonesian and it was important for leaders to participate in the global mission conversation, and the list went on.

When Barry returned home, he asked if I would consider heading up a response. My heart jumped. This request brought together Wycliffe Australia's desire to empower our

national Bible translation organisations and my background in teaching English.

It was clear that this was to be more than simply offering an English course or program. It was a great opportunity to be immersed in English, building their confidence through sharing life and their stories of family, work and faith with each other. They could also share with Wycliffe staff, home stay hosts and taking part in church-based English classes, etc. It would also be an opportunity to experience our culture and hence understand better their Western colleagues.

Participants have included translators, pastors, Scripture engagement workers and administration staff, all with a keen desire to see the Scriptures translated into the heart languages of their people. There is much to talk about and much to learn from one another. They discover they don't have to speak English perfectly to be understood and be able to engage in a conversation. They realise they just need confidence to 'give it a go'.

Each year different opportunities have enriched the experience. The first year's group spent two days each week taking part in a TESOL training course. This added to their own training skills as well as giving them the opportunity to interact with the other trainees. Talking about their work at Wycliffe's Open Day and being hosted by churches in Albury and Kerang have been other highlights. Last year's group took part in SILA's week-long Program Planning workshop. They provided real projects for the students to work with along with the opportunity to verbalise their hopes and plans for their organisations. It also gave everyone invaluable experience of working alongside teammates from other cultures.

Wycliffe Australia's relationship with our partner organisations has grown so much because of this sharing of lives, faith and ideas. Barry observes the fruit at conferences with EIE participants confidently taking their part. However, the participants are not the only ones to gain from EIE. We have all been enriched and we love seeing what is continuing to happen in their lives.

Dedication on Epi Island *by Yvonne Gillespie*

The dedication of the New Testament on Epi Island in Vanuatu was the catalyst for a gathering of helpers. The Lewo language is Loui Makie's mother tongue and Loui has become a friend over the ten years that we have been doing work teams in Vanuatu.

Not only us, but also other support volunteers such as Denis and Merle Lawrence and Peter and Dianne Whitby. Until recently, Loui was based in Port Vila, looking after the

SIL grounds, so when work teams came, Loui became part of the team.

We felt privileged when Loui made a point of inviting the regular work team volunteers. This also presented the ideal opportunity to extend the time in Vanuatu beyond the dedication to do some practical work. The Whitbys and ourselves worked on Tanna and Denis and Merle worked at the SIL Centre in Port Vila.



Bringing Scriptures ashore, re-enacting the arrival of the first missionaries



Village chiefs escort the Scriptures ashore



Lewo women with their first New Testament

From Tourists to Team Members *by Denis Lawrence*



Denis and Merle Lawrence

My wife Merle and I are members of the Gin Gin Community Church in Queensland and our association with Wycliffe started in 2009. In May that year, I was scheduled to crew a yacht from Bundaberg to Port Vila, Vanuatu. Merle was to fly to Vanuatu to meet me. We decided instead of just being tourists, we should find some mission organisation and offer to help in whatever way we could, but we didn't know anyone to contact.



Denis and Loui working on the driveway

That very week our church world mission magazine, *Serving Together*, arrived. Included was an article by Chris and Cheryl Mason, of Global Recordings in Port Vila. Chris put us in contact with Ross Webb who at the time was Director of SIL Vanuatu.

Ross was delighted to accept our offer of help and we spent three months there that year, helping with building maintenance and other practical jobs on the centre. My usual explanation of what we did is everything from re-roofing a house to fixing a sewing machine.



Denis working on Loui's house

It was during this time that Peter and Yvonne Gillespie arrived with a work team so we joined them to re-vamp one of the missionary flats. The work included taking up old vinyl tiles and replacing them with ceramic tiles and repainting the whole flat while Merle helped sew new upholstery and catered for the group.

In 2011 we went again for two months, and connected with another work team that constructed a basketball court for the missionary families, a new roof for Loui's house and fixed the driveway.

After the dedication of the Lewo New Testament on Epi we stayed on for a few weeks at Port Vila. I did maintenance while Merle compiled a recipe book for national women to help with cooking for the family and for fund raising.



Answer to Prayer

by Miklos Greizer

My wife Zsofi and I have been on the island of Tanna, Vanuatu, serving through Wycliffe Bible Translators since 2015. We are involved in checking an already completed New Testament translation in the Lenakel language, which is in first draft.

Because we have three-year-old twins, we had been talking about the need for our own family bathroom from the time we arrived. The Whitbys and the Gillespies were an answer to prayer, making everyday life much more comfortable for us. Prior to their arrival, we had been using a long-drop toilet on the edge of the village and an outdoor village community shower, which was doable, of course, but does not compare to the luxury of an inside toilet and shower.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.
Phil 1:3-5



Do you enjoy sewing?

You could assist the work of Bible translation by making simple draw-string bags used to hold translated Scriptures. Contact Yvonne (see below) for an instruction sheet.

Make it a time of fellowship by getting a group together to make these bags, or work alone as time permits.

In a village situation these bags help protect the Scriptures and make it easier to carry on the trail.

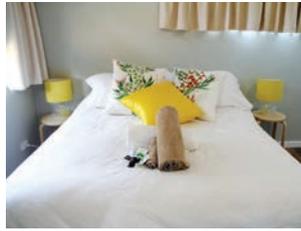
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www.wycliffe.org.au/retreats



Old Out - New In by Liz Linden

Since Wycliffe has owned a block of flats in Brisbane we have been systematically



Peter and Adam Whitby assembling cupboards

updating the kitchens that needed it. The last one has just been installed thanks to Peter Whitby, ably assisted by Neville Southwell, Sharon Lithgow and Peter's son, Adam.

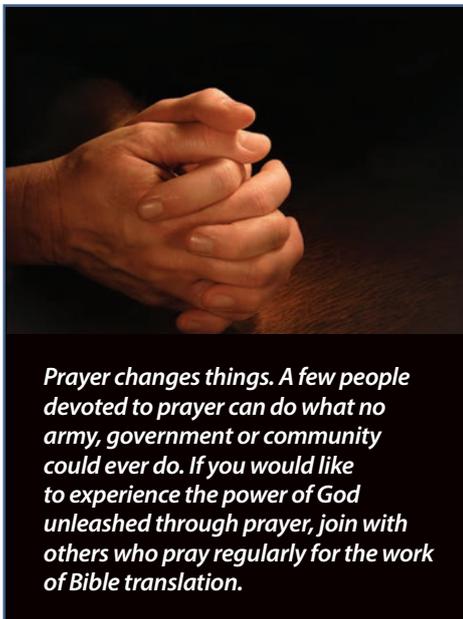
The kitchen they took out was a worn out 1960s model, so it was high time for a replacement. The new bench top and cupboards will be much easier to keep clean as well as providing more storage space.

I'm very grateful for the hard work the gang did — especially as this kitchen is in MY



Completed kitchen

flat so I will be the one enjoying the shiny, clean surfaces and extra cupboards.



Prayer changes things. A few people devoted to prayer can do what no army, government or community could ever do. If you would like to experience the power of God unleashed through prayer, join with others who pray regularly for the work of Bible translation.

Wycliffe prayer groups

WESTERN AUSTRALIA. 1st Saturday of the month at 2.00 p.m. 4/5 Reddington Way, Brentwood. Contact (margaret_thatcher@wycliffe.org.au) 08 9243 0486

TASMANIA. 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm. 22 Elizabeth Street, Penguin. Contact Peter Cunningham (phcunningham@telstra.com) 03 6437 1000

SOUTH AUSTRALIA. Contact Lorene Van Rossen on 0439 968 197 (saro@wycliffe.org.au) if you would like to start a group.

NEW SOUTH WALES

• **Castle Hill** 1st Sunday of the month at 2.30 pm. Contact Helen Boxwell: 0404 010 447

• **Moore College, Sydney** Contact Matt Tyler for details of times and venue. 0427 049 829

• **Tamworth** Contact Robert Love for details of times and venue 0431 984 203

• **Wollongong** 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact Warwick Grace 02 4272 7013, 0422 187 648

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