

# The Journey of Hanna Joy

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Hello all,

It has been a long time since my last update, so thank you for your patience, and for continuing to pray for me and support me in the meantime. It has been a busy year so far, and even though I keep trying to pace myself, life is full.

The biggest thing on my plate in recent months has been writing an *MA dissertation* on how Kope verbs work. Kope verbs have lots of affixes that you can attach to add layers of meaning that between them answer the questions who, what, when, how, if, and to whom. That's a lot of information in one word!

Studying verbs carefully for my MA has increased my confidence in understanding how this very complex part of the Kope language works. The next challenge is to understand them when I hear them in a normal conversation, and then to be able to use them. When a word can have more layers of meaning than it has syllables, this is quite a challenge! Please continue to pray for me to have persistence and insight as I finish my MA dissertation, and for patience as I keep learning to use Kope in everyday conversations.

My last village trip was in Feb/March, and this was my last trip with Hollie, the intern who worked with me for 18 months. She was a blessing to me, as she helped produce many literacy books, supported the early stages of a literacy class for women, taught computing skills to some of the translation team, and took on the many and varied challenges that were thrown her way. The community gave a big farewell that was a fitting thank you for all her hard work. Please pray for her as she embarks on an MA with the goal of eventually returning to this type of work full time.



*Handshakes and decorations were a big part of Hollie's farewell celebration*



*Final farewells*

My next village trip is July 4 to Aug 17. The big event this time is that a team from our Scripture Use (SU) department is coming to run a two week *Bible Overview course* (July 9 – 21). The aim of this course is to give local church leaders an opportunity to better understand the story of the Bible as a whole, as many of them have had little training. The course will also include ways to teach what they have learnt to their own congregations once they return home. Please pray for the SU team (Crystal, Faith, Michael, Ruth and Jess), the participants, and the community, that this workshop may be a time of blessing that plants seeds of knowledge that grow the fruit of faith.



*The women's literacy class*



*Making sago, the staple food.*

During the rest of my village time, I will continue training the Kope translation team and checking any drafts of Luke they have done in my absence. Pray for good relationships, good insight into the draft, good health and safe travel during this time. This will be my last village trip for about a year, as I will be going on furlough, so please be praying that I am able to provide any materials or training that they require for their year of working independently.



*The Kope translation team at work*

*Furlough!* The two years of this field term have passed quickly and once again it is time to return home to visit family, friends and supporters, to reconnect with Australian life and culture, and hopefully to slow down for awhile. I am still putting plans together, so please pray for me to have wisdom in how to balance my desire to catch up with people and congregations, and my need to slow down for awhile.



*With friends in Goiravi, where I go for Bible study every Wednesday*



*The view from Wouobo when we spent a few days working there.*

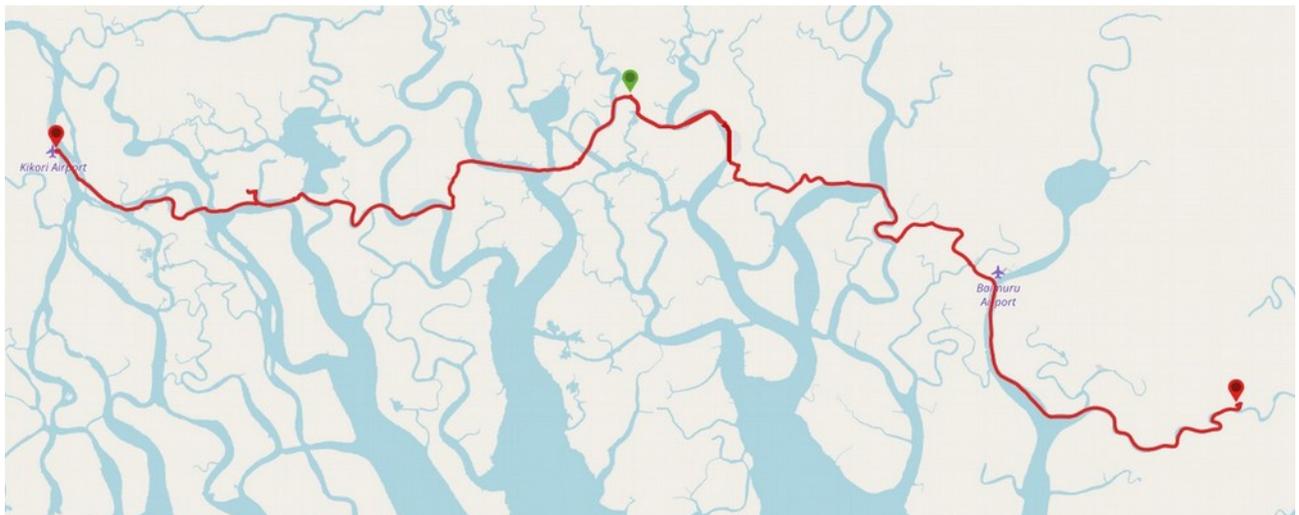
To finish with exciting news...

*I bought a boat!*

My travel around the area of Gulf where I work is all on the water, so having my own boat makes this a little more simple. Thank you to Redeemer congregation in Toowoomba for raising the bulk of the funds I needed to buy a 23 foot dinghy and a 40hp Yamaha outboard motor. I am looking forward to using them. Please pray for me as I navigate the complex river system of the Gulf delta, for wisdom in when to share my boat with others, and for no mechanical or technical problems.



*The boat I've previously travelled in with the translation team.*



*The challenging web of rivers that I navigate. The red mark on the left is Kikori, the green dot in the middle is Ubuo, where my house is, and the red dot on the right is Kapuna hospital, where I will store my boat.*

## *Song book!*

Actually, there is a little more exciting news; in March we dedicated the Kope Language Song Book that we have been working on over the last few years. It was a fun day of celebration and song. Sorry for the shortage of pictures of the actual dedication, I was enjoying myself too much to remember to get the camera out!



*Singing together from the new song book*

*Welcome banner for the Kope Language Song Book dedication*

Thank you for your prayers and support. It is a privilege to share this ministry with each of you.

*Blessings, ♥ Hanna*



*My parents came to visit!!!!*



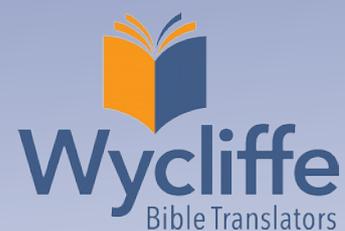
*Things I like about living in the Highlands while working on my MA: lots of yummy fresh veggies from the market*

## *Prayer Points*

- \* For persistence and insight as I complete my MA dissertation.
- \* For health, safety and good relationships while I am in the village (July 4 – Aug 17).
- \* For the Scripture Use team coming to run a Bible Overview workshop, and for all the participants who attend.
- \* For the Kope translation team as we continue to work together drafting Luke.
- \* Praise that the songbook is complete and dedicated! Pray that people will use these songs learn more of God through them.
- \* Praise that I now own a boat... and prayer for all the complexity and responsibility this brings with it.



*My neighbour's kids enjoying splashing about in my front yard when a spring tide caused flooding.*



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