



Wycliffe Assist

Termite Troubles *by Paul Moore*

As we pulled up the vinyl flooring in one of the bedrooms we found ourselves looking down at the ground below and Adam carefully walked along the floor joists so that his foot did not go through the floor. Such was the extent of the termite damage we found at Adam and Hester Pike's home on Santo, Vanuatu. However, the story did not start there.

I had been on a mission trip to Santo in 2016 with the focus on distributing books and other school equipment such as desks, chairs and shelving, donated by schools in Queensland. While there, I met the Pikes and observed the problems they were having with termites. I was impressed with how Adam and Hester accepted the conditions of living in Santo, but I also felt that it was up to Australian supporters to do what they could to make things easier for these two who had devoted their life to translating the Bible into a mother-tongue language.

I returned home and unbeknown to the Pikes I put together a project plan to help them with their termite troubles. I shared this plan with my pastor at Victoria Point Baptist (Qld), one of the Pikes' supporting churches. He was enthusiastic, as were the



Ray working with John and Soren

pastors of other supporting churches in the area. The project was priced and we relied fully on the Lord to provide the funding required to complete all aspects of the project to his glory. And it happened!



Many village helpers made light of running the new water supply line

A lot of planning went into preparing for this work team and God's hand was

evident in so many ways. Even having the supplies procured and delivered to the village ahead of the team by Bill Widup, Up and Up Ministries, Luganville.

God put together a team of nine enthusiastic and skilled people and on 16 May, we set off for Santo. The first night was spent in Luganville and the next day we drove to Pikes' village.



Hester and Jill cooking for the team

With only thirteen days to get all the work done it was always going to be busy, but the fellowship was tremendous and the team worked together as one, happy to be able to help not only the Pikes, but the village people also.

As well as completely replacing the floor of the house the team also ran fresh water more than 500 metres to Pikes' house and installed taps in the village for the community to access. We also installed solar lighting in the church that had never had any form of lighting before.

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The Work Team: l-r: Bennie du Plessis, Greg Hawes, Paul Moore, Greg Fairley, Ray Pearson, Jill and Garry Innes, Chris Faulkner, Craig Lambert.

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Thanks to the Team



A 30-Year Passion *by Greg Mellow*

Editorial

by Peter Gillespie

The report in this edition of the work team in Santo is a great example of how churches can support their missionaries in practical ways.

Often missionaries put up with all sorts of problems and inconveniences which makes life hard for them, especially as many are raising children and home-schooling as well as working to grow Christ's gospel and Bible translation.

Are you communicating with the missionaries you or your church support? What are their needs? Can you assist? As you answer these questions you may open yourself to the wonderful blessings that come from helping others and experiencing a different culture!

Greg Mellow's report is a demonstration of what is often seen; that Bible translators never really finish, or retire, but choose to honour God by supporting the people they serve long after the New Testament translation is completed, sometimes well into old age.

Do you know any retired missionaries? Find out what they are doing and how you can pray for them.

The completion of the Owa grammar is one of the last steps in a journey that began in 1987 when Heather and I commenced our training for Bible translation. In 1993 we went to the Solomon Islands where Bishop Mason invited us to work among the Owa people.

The Owa people live on the three islands at the end of the Solomon Archipelago, the island chain that stretches 800 km from Papua New Guinea, south-east into the Pacific Ocean. Family life there was a mixture of rough living, an idyllic lifestyle and normal family life. We lived in a four room house with an unlined corrugated iron roof, and walls clad with thatched sago leaf. Solar panels provided enough power to run the computer during the day but not for lights at night. Instead of electric lights we used kerosene lamps.



Greg working on translation with John

There was no local market or any significant shops, so we brought all our supplies with us on the coastal trader ship every three months, and grew fresh vegies at the back of the house. The voyage on the ship was a 40-hour trip, sitting up, followed by a 1.6 km walk home at 1:30 am, carrying whatever we could. There were no phones, no internet and no vehicles. Communication with the outside world was by a daily two-minute two-way radio schedule conversation with our colleagues in Honiara, or snail mail that arrived every 6 weeks or so.

Our home was a two-minute stroll from a beautiful white sand beach, with no sand flies, no mosquitoes, no malaria. The children would finish home schooling by noon and had the rest of the day to play at the beach, play soccer, or explore the island. I would sometimes take my fibreglass canoe down to the water at the end of the workday and get some exercise by paddling out onto the calm, tropical Pacific Ocean. Heather liked to read and do craft work when she got the chance.



Heather working with Emma

Starting in 1998 the Solomon Islands experienced a civil conflict, which included the breakdown of law and order in many places. By 2002, it was apparent that it was better for the Owa translation project to be completed outside the country, so John Walwori and his family joined my family and me in Darwin for the final checking process to complete the Owa New Testament. That New Testament was printed, joyfully dedicated and distributed in December 2005.

After that time, it was not possible for me to return to the Solomon Islands but with the help of the wonderful staff at the Australian National University, I was able to complete the Owa Dictionary in 2014. The dictionary is one of two essential volumes for delivering bilingual education for the Owa people. Bilingual education means children can learn to read in their heart language, which is a much easier task than learning to read in any other language. The other essential volume is an Introductory Grammar that serves as a reference for developing the teaching curriculum.

Last year Heather and I visited Honiara and met with John Walwori and his two very sharp nephews, Ishmael and Timothy. Together we reworked the rough draft of the Introductory Grammar and recently I was able to finish the drafting, so with the Grammar complete, the Owa school literacy curriculum can be drafted up and a new generation of Owa children can learn to read in their heart language. Being literate of course, does help when you want to read your New Testament.



Greg with John Walwori and his nephews Ishmael and Timothy

As I reflect on our family's time with the Owa people, I can see that village life has left its mark on us in different ways. We all have a lasting awareness that cultural differences really do affect how people see the world. Our children in particular have a tendency to be a bit laid back and more focussed on relationships. Heather and I have learned to wait without stressing too much, and enjoy the moment for whatever joy it might bring.

Please pray for John Walwori who is translating the Old Testament, and for those who are developing the bilingual education program.

Photos at the top of cover page:
l-r: John Walwori, Paul Moore, Ray Pearson, Laura Thulesen

Being 'On the Spot' by Yvonne Gillespie

Being 'on the spot' in Port Vila, Vanuatu recently gave us the opportunity to experience Ephesians 2:10 in practice. 'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'

During our March visit to Vanuatu a few jobs were lined up for our return in May, like making cyclone shutters for the five large sliding doors in the Legacy building and putting in adequate drainage for the balconies so they do not flood during heavy tropical storms.



Peter painting cupboards and installing doors

Other jobs presented themselves while we were 'on the spot', like building new kitchen cupboards for Flat four because of water damage to the old cupboards. This turned out to be a major undertaking because without flat packs or melamine-coated timber available, everything had to be done from scratch!



Compiling Matthew and Mark for Moto Lava

* *The JESUS Film* is a ministry of **Cru** (new name for *Campus Crusade for Christ in the USA*). The goal is to share Jesus with everyone in their heart language. This full-length feature tells the story of Jesus and God's plan to redeem mankind to himself. The film is based on the Gospel of Luke, and has been translated into more than 1,500 languages and shown in almost every country.



Some of the people working on the Jesus film project

That meant painting plywood with several coats of paint before cutting out the cupboard components. The layout of the cupboards was redesigned to allow easy access to corner space and a more functional placement of the stove near the gas bottle.

God's good works also included helping assemble a thousand copies of Matthew and Mark for Moto Lavo, printing a Translation Training document for Santo, sewing for colleagues and helping type the sub titles in language for the JESUS film project.*

Many Wycliffe translation and literacy members joined others for a five-week workshop to translate the dialogue and subtitles of the Jesus film into eight Vanuatu languages.

The warmth and encouragement of working with colleagues, participating in Scripture distribution and other aspects of missionary life, was a real joy.



Distributing Scriptures after church



My Kitchen

by Laura Thulesen

Normally I'm a Bible translator out on Ambrym Island in the north-central part of Vanuatu. However, several times a year I work and resupply from the SIL properties in Port Vila, the capital city.

While the Gillespies were around, I pointed out to Peter that my lower kitchen cupboards had been rotting over the last decade, thinking that sometime in the coming years, someone might have time to replace them.

What a lovely and unexpected blessing then that Peter made it his very next task, spending the next several weeks building all new cupboards, rearranging appliances to a more logical flow, and even replacing handles and painting the upper cupboards! I now can enjoy a beautiful and functional kitchen whenever I'm back in Vila, for which I am so grateful!

Child's Play by Karen Telford

Assisting the Translation Centre in Vanuatu during their conference in January was a rewarding experience for me. The opportunity to serve came when I was asked to help with the children's program.

All the Bible translators and families in Vanuatu travelled to Port Vila for the conference. To enable both parents to attend, a kids' program was organised. Over the six day conference, with the help of seven teenagers (including my two daughters) we ran a Scripture Union holiday program for the 20 children, with ages ranging from two to fifteen years.

It was a delight to help the parents and the work of Bible translation in this way and it was a highlight for us to link our faith to service.



Enjoying some 'air guitar' during conference

Prayer groups

Since our last edition Peter Cunningham has changed his email address. Please note the change.

TASMANIA. 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm.
22 Elizabeth Street, Penguin.
Contact Peter Cunningham
peter.h.cunningham@gmail.com
03 6437 1000



Chris cutting while Paul learns the technique

Pulling up the whole floor meant moving everything out of the house. The old kitchen was set up on the verandah and Jill and Hester cooked for the group there.

Rain sometimes made work difficult, but the team did not stop. They covered the bench saws with tarps, raising them high each time timber was to be cut. Bennie Du Plessis was a cabinetmaker and led

the process of making the new kitchen cupboards.

Village chief Paul helped the work by arranging for young men from the village to work with the team every day. As part of God's provision, my background as an electrical engineer meant that I could organise the installation of solar lights into the church. Now they are holding Bible studies in the church at night. Praise the Lord.

Another provision of the Lord came from Garry and Jill's son and his friend being able to assist Adam to lay the vinyl floor covering after the team left.

One of the highlights of our stay was the night Adam talked about the work of Bible

translation. The team was enthralled and spent over an hour listening and asking questions. What an insight and what a privilege to be just a small part of this essential work of God.

When we saw the lights in the church I prayed that the Lord who is the light of the world would shine into their hearts and illuminate his word to them.

Running a pipe into the village to bring fresh water also reminded me that Jesus is the living water. I pray that they will all drink of him as they learn to read God's precious word in their own language.

This was the first time I had organised a work team and it was quite a challenge but the rewards far exceeded my efforts.

Thanks to the Team by Adam and Hester Pike

It was great to have the team here. They have done a fantastic job that will benefit the community and us.

To have the water supply restored has meant that we actually get a lot more water than before, not only for us but for the community as well. Also having a nice new water pipe will save me a lot of effort in maintenance, so I am glad to be relieved of that.

The pastor of the church is planning to have a lot more Bible studies,



something that will be a lot easier now that there are lights in the church.

It has been a huge blessing to have a new

kitchen, the central hub of the house and to know that bread can be made on the bench top without it giving way because of termites. Walking around the house knowing that our feet aren't going to go through the floor is also a real relief.

Thanks for the team and thanks to the church in Australia for sending them to be part of our lives for a couple of weeks. It has been a real blessing to have them here, a great time of fellowship and I know that God will use these things to bring honour to himself and to bring the gospel forward amongst the Merei-speaking people.

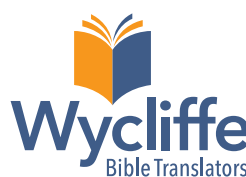
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