



Wycliffe Assist

Volunteering in a Virtual Office *by Yvonne Gillespie*

'There are challenges working in a virtual office. Motivation is often hard when it is not possible to bounce ideas with the rest of the team and the time zone differences make voice communication difficult. Planning a return trip to the area has given me a great boost in motivation and I am preparing a long list of questions to ask my old neighbours and friends to support the progress of the translation. I am also praying that God will keep me faithful to him and the work.'

How did this virtual office begin? It was after completing her school education that Margaret took a trip to an exotic location and that trip changed the direction of her life. She loved the location and the people and knew that she wanted to learn their language and tell them the gospel in a way they could understand.

After returning home, Margaret experienced God's power in so many ways. He opened the door to enable her to do Greek at a theological college and have it credited to her degree. The second year she did translation and exegesis at the theological college through another cross enrolment. In the third year, her favourite linguistics lecturer let it slip that he had previously run a Biblical Hebrew course and Margaret was immediately on his tail to say 'Run it again, run it again!' He ran it for three students in first semester and then in second semester there was only one student, Margaret! He still ran it.

At the end of those studies Margaret worked for a year and then part-way through 1999 some friends challenged her by asking; 'Are you serious about mission and about Bible translation?' She replied 'Yes! Yes!' Then they said, 'Then what is stopping you?' She didn't

have an answer and it took a couple of weeks to work through what was stopping her. After that she moved to Kangaroo Ground to do the year-long applied linguistics course.

The Lord opened the door for Margaret to move to the location she first fell in love with. However, during her first two years of language learning Margaret was very sick with a water-borne disease that took her down to 38 kg. But the Lord was gracious, and she recovered.

The experience of being so sick spurred her on to move to a remote area with another language, where she taught English and shared the gospel through Bible storytelling. When she started, the people would say 'Don't speak that language. It is a rubbish language.' By the time she left, the people would gather round at the fish market and say 'Listen to her. She speaks the language.' It was like entertainment for them, but it was encouraging for Margaret.

Other encouragements came along the way. A former student once said to her 'Tell me about your religion'. To Margaret it was like saying 'Tell me the gospel!'. While sharing about Jesus, Margaret stated that Jesus heals the sick because he has authority to do that and the student said, 'I know, because my teacher prayed for me in Jesus' name and I was healed.'

During that time, Margaret also worked remotely on Genesis with a US translation team.

Returning to Australia to take a break from the social isolation, Margaret took the opportunity to do further studies in linguistics and write about the language of the area. However, she then felt that it was

not wise for her to go back, and after much prayer, God gave her a job in a new field on the opposite side of Australia; a job she still holds.

Sometime later, a siege in Sydney was the catalyst for her re-engagement in linguistics and translation. Shortly after the siege, her uncle asked: 'What can the government do?' Margaret told him that only God can change people's hearts. She also knew that she could be part of God's changing work through Bible translation. Margaret reduced her hours at work, and contacted her former translation colleagues to see if there was anything she could do to assist. They welcomed her with open arms and gave her the task of imputing a whole lot of language material into a database to form a dictionary and undertake linguistic analysis on the language. She reviewed translated material the team had produced, checking it against the Greek to see that the right meaning was conveyed.

The virtual office and flexible working hours has enabled Margaret to work on a language project in another part of the world. Despite the challenges, for Margaret there are great rewards in knowing that the precious word of God will one day be available in another minority language, the language of the people she came to love many years ago.

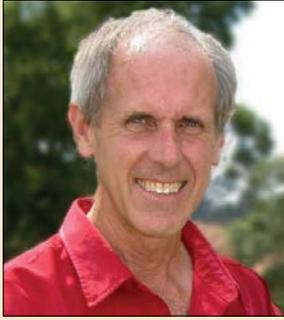
Praise the Lord.

**IN
THIS
ISSUE:**

Page 2
Go MAD to Poland
and Northern Territory

Page 3
Go MAD to Vanuatu

Page 4
Volunteers Needed
A ministry in retirement



Editorial

by Peter Gillespie

We plan to step down from our current role coordinating the work of Wycliffe Assist at the end of this year. It has been a great privilege to support the work of translation over the last ten years. We have made many new friends among the volunteers who have joined us as well as among the members in each location around the Pacific. Thank you to all those who have participated in work teams and those who have supported us with prayer over the last ten years. It is now time to pass the baton to a younger couple to continue the work.

The position requires frequent travel to Wycliffe centres around the Pacific but in between trips the work can be coordinated from home. The desired skills between the couple are: Spiritual Leadership, Building, Hospitality, Organisational, Administration, Ability to compile the newsletter, People skills. Above all, the couple should have a love for God and his people, a commitment to translation and a desire to serve.

TEMPORARY MANAGERS needed for Kedron Flats, Brisbane

Mid-August 2018 - April 2019

Contact Roslyn Nicolle: personnel-manager@wycliffe.org.au or liz_linden@sil.org for more information.

Photos on cover page (L-R):
Eva McMaster, Grace Lok, Jordan Crispin, Mitch Misak, Peter Tyrrell.

Going MAD again! by Eva McMaster



The group in Wadeye

I love the title 'Go MAD'! It speaks to me about the joy of serving with Wycliffe Australia here in the Victoria Regional Office. I became involved in MAD



Mt Connor and the wide open spaces

through my discipling role. Helping people process what God is saying to them and how he might be leading them is exciting and fulfilling work. God has made me for this role and I really love it. I love adventure too, so when Dave Wake invited us (husband Gary and me) to join him on 'Go MAD Oz 2017' I jumped at the offer. Our girls were able to go as well as God provided for them through some generous donors.

It was wonderful to see the amazing landscape of Australia. I grew up in Europe and the wide-open



Sitting around the campfire in Ernabella

spaces were new to me. We were privileged to share with the translation team at Ernabella and pray with them. Sitting with the Pitjantjatjara women around the fire was a wonderful time of connecting. There was no pressure to talk all the time: we sat together, drew pictures in the sand to explain families and lives and were happy to enjoy nature and each other and just 'be'.

The people from Port Keats have a strong, spiritual, bond with their land. Camping there on the beach at Kurdantiga with the Aboriginal families gave us the opportunity to see how relaxed and happy they were to be there together. They shared their stories with us and took us to some sacred sites. The children swam together and hunted for turtle eggs. Our high point was the baptism in the ocean of one member of the MAD team by two other team members.

Parts of the New Testament have been translated into the Murrinh Patha language and there is a

strong, mutual, love between the local families and Lyn and the late Chester Street, who did the original translation work. The families were honoured to be a part of the baptismal service and that their land and their people had been chosen as the place for it to occur. Very few 'whiteskins' come to visit Kurdantiga for the purpose of blessing the local people. The older ladies were very grateful for the input and friendship shown by the team to the teenagers and children there.



Kalina and Marlena McMaster with friends they made on MAD NT

One of the younger team members, Shannon, devised some dances that she taught to our team and to those we visited. It was a culturally appropriate way, wherever we went, to bring people together and have lots of fun in the process. Even after the trip ended, our girls were still enjoying these dances.

Our time in the Northern Territory was really precious and the memories will stay with us forever. Our girls loved their time there and still wonder what their new friends are doing now.

Barely two months after our return from MAD Oz, I was once again heading off; but this time back to Poland, where I was born and ministered with my husband and family until we relocated to Australia four years ago. I was leading a team from the Melbourne School of Theology who were keen to see church planting in Poland.



MAD Poland team at Krakow station

First we went to Krakow, a very old city, the old capital of Poland. It was a time of orientation into culture, history and language. We also visited the salt mines and the Jewish quarter of Krakow, and a small Baptist church where we spent time with the pastor hearing about his challenges and joy of ministry.

I wanted to introduce the team to the challenges and opportunities for the Gospel in the Polish context. We did this by first connecting with the church my husband Gary planted in the city of Opole, during his nine years of ministry in Poland.



Sharing the gospel through Aboriginal Art

We spent time with young Polish believers, encouraging each other in our faith. We also ministered in local schools, using Aboriginal art as a way to explain the Gospel. Having to think about faith through a very different lens caused the students and teachers to engage more deeply with Gospel truths.

Whilst in Opole we had an opportunity to share our faith at the Library of Foreign Languages. We used conversational English in small groups, as well as dramas, skits and testimonies. At the end of a very busy week we invited all our new friends to a picnic beside a lake, where we had very deep conversations and a lot of fun throwing boomerangs. A few of the new contacts attended the worship service at Opole Baptist Church and spent the day enjoying rich fellowship with the church folk and us.

Visiting the cities of Krakow and Warszawa helped the team appreciate the differences between Australian cities and those in Poland. This was a learning experience. In Poland everyone walks everywhere or takes public



Grace ministering in a high school

transport. There are stairs everywhere you go and you have to carry your luggage with you. It rained nearly every day for 10 days straight. Very, very different to the vast, dry expanses of Central Australia!

My two Go MAD trips were quite different, in the way living in a city is so different from living in tents in a dry landscape, but both of them left me eager for more. MAD experiences were a great time of Ministry, Adventure and Discovery!

Wycliffe holds 'Go MAD' trips each year. For more details go to www.wycliffe.org.au

Go MAD Vanuatu by Paul Huglin*

Once a group of very smart lawyers asked Jesus which is the greatest commandment. Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22:37-39)

Vanuatu is our South Pacific neighbour, and Jesus calls us to give it the same attention we would give to ourselves.

Vanuatu's popular exotic reputation distracts attention from the realities of a small population that is relatively poor in both natural resources and infrastructure. The people (Ni-Vans) are friendly and welcoming. The population of Vanuatu is spread across 80+ islands, with more than 100 different languages.

The aim of Go **MAD** is for participants to experience: **Ministry** opportunities

whether sharing their faith or witnessing the faith of others. **Adventure** in visiting some amazing island communities. **Discovery** of new personal perspectives, challenges, or life opportunities.

We will start by flying to the main island of Efate on 30 June 2018 and staying a couple of nights at the SIL facility in Port Vila. After a short time of orientation and briefing we will fly into Northern Tanna staying in the village of Eluai. While there we will trek to different villages, engaging in faith and Scripture translation discussions and hosting some clinics, and evening worship times. While on Tanna we will get close and personal with Mt. Yusur, an active volcano. We fly back to Port Vila for an overnight stay before flying to the island of Espiritu Santo and heading to Angoru village on the banks of the Jordan River.

Again, we will be involved in village activities, and spend time with the local

Scripture translators. We will then travel to Luganville for a couple of days R&R - visiting some waterholes or trekking to the Millennium Cave. We fly back to Port Vila for a couple of days to check out the nation's capital, debrief the trip and observe a Scripture engagement master class conducted by translators from Uripiv. Finally, we pack up and return to Oz on 15 July.

The trip is open to anyone interested in experiencing an insight into Scripture translation or wanting to experience a non-tourist perspective of Vanuatu people and culture. Participants will need to come with an open mind and be willing to see God's presence in others. They will be part of a team that seeks to be a blessing to all, and should be open and flexible to the unexpectedness that sometimes occurs on mission trips.

It will be an opportunity for participants to learn more about themselves, God, faith, people, and creation. They will also gain a deeper appreciation of Scripture and those who are devoted to bringing it to the people of Vanuatu.

For Enrolment and additional information go to <https://wycliffe.org.au/events/go-mad-vanuatu/>

* Paul is a pastor at Diamond Valley Baptist Church and his wife Apryl is a Wycliffe member serving at Kangaroo Ground in the Personnel department.



Viewing Mt. Yusur from the rim of the volcano

Volunteers Needed

Mature age volunteers can play an important role with Wycliffe. There are many vacancies for centre managers. The role can be short-term (up to 2 years) or longer if your situation permits.

Contact the Wycliffe office at Kangaroo Ground for details of locations and skill requirements. info@wycliffe.org.au
Jeanette Bennett: (03) 9712 2733 or
Jenny Austin: (03) 9712 2736

Holiday in Cairns and Support Missions

Enjoy the Christian atmosphere, excellent accommodation and lush tropical setting at an affordable price

Ph: (07) 4039 9599

treetops@wycliffe.org
www.treetopslodgecairns.org.au



A Ministry in Retirement by Ken Green

Ken Green has been teaching mathematics for over 40 years so there was no doubt that he is good with figures, but could he do financial management? The answer to that question became evident as God enabled him to work remotely managing debit cards for staff working in Asia. Ken tells his story:

I live with my wife Diana in Maitland NSW. Our four adult children have all left home and after a year of retirement I prayed for an opportunity to serve in some way. At the same time Peter Gillespie made me aware of a need for an accountant to perform remote finance responsibilities. The current volunteer from England wished to withdraw from the role. Wycliffe member Bill James has been performing a similar role for a region that Wycliffe is working in and provided me with some helpful insights to the work.

I am good with numbers but as I was not an accountant or businessman, there was some reluctance to let me do this work. In the end, they were desperate so I was trained to perform tasks which were more clerical than accounting.

The work involves managing debit card expenditure by coordinating uploads and collecting expense details. I complete reports which are sent to Wycliffe US. I also train workers in various aspects of managing their accounts. There are about 30 accounts for workers in different parts of the world.

The main challenge is that all communication is by email. There are three different accounts that need to be checked each day. In my working life, I mostly tried to ignore emails but now I have to respond to each of the many that I receive! It is sometimes challenging to be vigilant with respect to security issues. I need to be careful to express myself clearly and to realise my readers are not Australian.

There are some really nice people serving overseas and it would be good to know personally the people I work for. There is a kindness and generosity of spirit that enables God's grace to be revealed. When I read expense reports, it is encouraging to see how I am helping the translated Word grow.



There are many people around the world doing remote work via email. It is something that many people with different working backgrounds could do. It does not require overseas travel or expensive outlays. It can be done at a time to suit yourself and there is no daily commute. If you would like to know more about remote volunteering contact Peter Gillespie (details below).

USED STAMPS

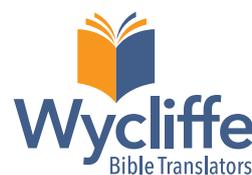
Continue to send stamps to Ann Wiggins at her home address: 6/26 Jackson Street, Croydon, Vic 3136 or to the Wycliffe Office at Kangaroo Ground



WYCLIFFE ASSIST

Peter and Yvonne Gillespie
National Coordinators

Email: peter-yvonne_gillespie@wycliffe.org.au Phone: 02 4933 2512
50 Clarence Street, Tenambit NSW 2323 Mobile: 0427 059 662



Wycliffe Australia
70 Graham Road
Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097
PHONE (03) 9712 2777
EMAIL info@wycliffe.org.au
WEB www.wycliffe.org.au

If you **don't** wish to receive this newsletter please write or send an email and include 'unsubscribe'