



Wycliffe • Assist

Expedition to Epenarra *by Yvonne Gillespie*

Located over four hours' drive south-east of Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory, Epenarra is not a tourist destination. It is not even on the way to somewhere! However in August this year a team of men from Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM) and Wycliffe converged on the community for a special project. Tim and Jane Letcher, with their daughters Ruth and Anna, recently moved to Epenarra and are working in Scripture engagement, helping the local church see how the Word of God relates to everyday life and being an encouragement to the local church.

remaining men flew to Alice Springs where they joined the bus for the trip to Epenarra.

The original home consisted of two caravans joined by a deck and covered by a carport roof. In 1992 a re-assembled granny flat of fibro cement was added. Over the years, additions were made for it to be fit for family use.

The work team achieved a lot in the short time they had and Dave said he was delighted to see how much work was done. They replaced floor



Tim and Jane Letcher with Ruth and Anna

through the jobs so much so that before they left they were also able to do a bonus job and painted the interior of the house. This required an all-day round trip to Tennant Creek to buy paint, but it was worth it to put the finishing touches to the work.

'Seeing the way the team got along, the camaraderie, and the way God was working in people's lives was a highlight of the whole trip,' said Dave. 'We also enjoyed mixing with Aboriginal people and hearing their stories.'

A special treat for the team was being able to listen to the local musical group practise each evening. They played country gospel music, and were very good.

The team thank God that they had the privilege of blessing the Letcher family and being part of the ministry.



L-R Rob Alley, Brandon Teo, Peter Greiner, Clayton Burt, John Oonunny, Trevor Ingamells, Christoph Bitterlin, Kevin Sayers, Dave Wake, Steve Letcher, Tim Letcher, Neil Boots

The house they live in had not had permanent residents for ten years and needed a lot of maintenance. Dave Wake led the work team and said that his greatest challenges were ensuring that he had enough supplies of building materials for the work and that he had anticipated any possible problems. 'There is no hardware shop down the road!'

Volunteers came from NSW, Victoria and Western Australia. Some travelled in the AIM bus from Victoria, Neil drove a truckload of supplies and building materials from Sydney, while the

coverings to most of the house, upgraded electrical work on the house and deck, replaced plumbing, hot water unit and the taps, installed new air conditioners and re-installed an old evaporative system, divided a large room to make two bedrooms, replaced a section of roof that was leaking and sealed the flashing. They also installed a new cupboard in the kitchen, repaired a sunken floor, installed new spouting above the decking, removed an old hot water unit and removed a tree overhanging the power lines.

With a great deal of enthusiasm the men powered

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Editorial

by Barry Borneman
CEO Wycliffe Australia

Welcome to the first edition of *Wycliffe Assist*. Of course volunteering with Wycliffe is not something new. It is as old as the organisation itself. Even the mud bricks that form the national centre buildings were made by volunteer young people and the whole centre has been built by volunteers.

Wycliffe Australia has been able to 'punch above its weight' in its contribution to Bible translation because of volunteers like yourself.

Wycliffe Assist is our new name for those self-funded volunteers who give a day here and there, help in a work team or assist in any practical way they can.

Previously you may have known these volunteers as Associates, but now they are known as volunteers with Wycliffe Assist.

The word Associates means different things to different people, so we hope the new name better describes the function of the group and encourages many others to give assistance where they can, because we need as much assistance as we can get. Welcome aboard.

Awesome Adventure by Michelle Arnouth

On Monday 4 July a group of 17 Aussies headed to Ukarumpa in the highlands of PNG for an awesome two-week adventure. The mission trip planned to run a Vacation Bible School, do building work for the laboratory, and offer ultrasound machine training.

A New Laboratory

A team of six stripped out the old lab which included identifying 240 and 110 volt power and lighting circuits- quite a task! A doorway was closed up, a new window cut into a wall and new Masonite wall and ceiling sheeting installed. Some of the team worked in the joinery to construct new cabinetry and benchtops to fit into the odd-shaped room.



The finished lab in full use

With only one square corner, the U-shaped benchtop proved to be difficult. However, with persistence and skill the team were able to produce a neat fit.

Vacation Bible School

A team of nine ran a VBS with the help of some of the high schoolers from the centre. The program ran over six days using Godspace material with the theme *Dare to Be a Daniel* and *Being a Follower of Jesus* based on the lives of Daniel and Peter. An average of 70 children, from pre-schoolers to grade 6 participated each day. There were games, singing, Bible stories, puppets, crafts and memory verses.

Once again the Aussie bush dance with over 200 people was a highlight. As well as dancing, parents and friends joined in the children's songs and memory verses for a great night of fun and laughter.

On the Sunday the team went to church in Aiyura. It was a wonderful experience to worship



Vacation Bible School children and leaders



*Front row: Janette, Warren, Andrew, Josh
Second row: Buddi, Fiona, Belinda, Roslyn, Phil,
Third row: Bruce, Ben, Julie
Back row: John, Michelle, Cheryl, Ian, Simon*

God with these people. After church we visited a village where they prepared a *mumu* (traditional meal) for us. It was a half hour walk to the village, walking along a dirt trail through bush. It is humbling to see how these people live and how happy they are to share with the 'white skins'.



Mumu-wrapped in banana leaves and cooked in a pit

Our accommodation had comfortable beds and hot showers most days (solar power requires the sun to shine).

Some of the team had the opportunity to go on the clinic runs to the villages to assist in the vaccination program. They travelled over very rough roads to reach the people and many children were given the measles vaccination.

An Aussie afternoon was organised for the Australian families on centre. There were party games such as the chocolate game, pass the parcel, lamington making and backyard cricket.

Going to PNG made me reflect on how I view the world and how privileged I am to live in a place like Australia.

Thank You Awesome Adventurers

For the second time we have been graced with and overjoyed by a team coming to Ukarumpa from Cardiff Heights Baptist with two ring-ins from San Souci Baptist and Belair Baptist. Michelle came as the cook for the whole 'shindig' and she did an amazing job. No one starved thanks to her ingenuity of mixing foodstuffs together to come up with an acceptable eating product. There were also quite a few big eaters including me on occasion and some other drop-ins who came to get their free fill of Aussie culture.

Cheryl and the whole VBS team put together a great program that the kids LOVED. I'm constantly being asked when are they coming back again.

The Clinic reno team was also kept flat out working. The clinic work really should



have been called a rebuild instead of a revamp as there was really nothing in the lab which did not get touched, removed, remodelled or remade. It really was energising for me to spend time with these guys as they all have become good friends and work incredibly well as a team. We build together, laugh together, laugh at frustrations together and even counsel each other.

Natalie was in London when they were here and had a great surprise when she saw it for the first time. She was overwhelmed with what they had managed to achieve.

As an added bonus, team member Buddi, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, came and worked alongside the doctors in the clinic teaching them important ultrasound skills. It was an immeasurable gift to them and all the clinic staff want to 'steal' her permanently!

We can't say how much we and the community here enjoy this team. Other department managers have already approached me about how to get them back so stay tuned for Chapter 3.

James Nelson

It's a Small World *by Jenny Kleywegt*

Recently John and I had the privilege of catching up in Hobart with the inspiring church planter Rev Dr Thang Bwee from South-East Asia. We met Rev Thang Bwee last year when we attended his church while on a Wycliffe assignment. We would never have thought that within a year we would meet him again and have the opportunity to reciprocate hospitality, and in Hobart (Hobart not being a place one usually passes through).

Reconnecting with Rev Dr Thang Bwee is just one example of connecting and reconnecting with wonderful Christians while performing these financial control reviews for Wycliffe.

The phrase 'It's a small world' comes to mind especially in the mission world. We should not be surprised by these seeming 'coincidences'. We love the increasing familiarity within the Wycliffe family, the building of friendships, and fascinating flow-on situations that arise.



Jenny having tea in Soe with mother of staff member from UBB

This year's review included two locations; Australian Society of Indigenous Languages (AuSIL) in Darwin and UBB - a partnership between a local church and Wycliffe in Kupang West Timor.



John and Jenny in the Darwin office of AuSIL

Reconnecting with people in the Wycliffe family was very evident within AuSIL Darwin. Ray and Glenda Leach shared their home with us while working at AuSIL. We had worked with Glenda in Vanuatu where she was the Finance Manager. We also met again Ann Wiggins, AuSIL Financial Manager, who we met a few months earlier in Hobart for the day and showed her the best tourist attractions. And it was great catching up again several times with Peter and Yvonne Gillespie as they were in Darwin organising the renovation and moving of the AuSIL office.

We were encouraged with the translation work in AuSIL, especially the Bible apps that have been created for android phones including Australian Indigenous and Timorese languages.

West Timor was an encouraging country to visit, with a welcoming and friendly office staff and great accommodation in the AuSIL guest house. Chris the IT guru from AuSIL was in Kupang at the same time as



Jenny with Dave and Joan Cram

us. We were very thankful for his computer expertise in getting us set up. These days one of the first people we need to get 'friendly' with is the IT expert!

Christianity is growing in West Timor. The church Gereja Masehi Injili de Timor (GMIT) has 1.2 million members and 600 pastors. As there are over 50 local languages in West Timor the GMIT and Wycliffe have formed a partnership called Unit+ Bahasa+ Budaya (UBB) or Unit of Culture and Language.

One highlight in Timor was travelling up to the hill town of Soe, where we visited the parents of one of the staff from the UBB office. We had no language in common except pointing and smiling, highlighting the importance of a common language.

Recently Dave Cram (who we report to) and his wife Joan visited us from USA. Dave and Joan successfully raised the profile of the control audits and increased the volunteers from Australia and New Zealand.

Next year we plan, God willing, to go back to Sentani, Papua. It seems like a full circle. Our first audit was for Hillcrest International School in 2014. Our knowledge and understanding of Wycliffe is so much greater now, having reviewed 14 offices over six years.

Getting Active to Support Bible Translation by Bernardine Easton

I first heard of Wycliffe when I did the Kairos course at my home church in South Africa. The Kairos course is a short intensive course with the aim of challenging the typical Christian to become aligned to a 24/7 biblical mindset. The heart of the Kairos message, and in fact the Gospel, is that every follower of Christ is called to be involved in advancing the Kingdom of God, whether we go out to the mission field or not.

Since I had cycled a few long distance cycling races in the past, and seen how many charities participated in these races, I decided to put a team together to ride for the bibleless people of Africa.

In September 2013, Wycliffe South Africa published an article in *Joy* magazine regarding the status of Bible translation in Africa. Grant Easton was moved by the article and phoned Wycliffe to find out how he could get involved. He was redirected to me as the team leader for the cycle team, soon to cycle 95km in a big cycle race in Johannesburg, South Africa. Grant happily joined the team to cycle for the bibleless. Grant and I became friends and a year later we were married! Three things stand out for me about this: 1) God's timing is perfect 2) he knows the desires of our hearts and 3) he delights in using anyone available to serve him for his glory.

As a team of approximately 40 riders, we rode the 'Cycle Challenge' (as it's called) in 2013 and raised R50,000. This was far beyond



Grant in the Bible costume with Bernie behind

what I expected we would raise, which was so encouraging. We participated in the Cycle Challenge again in 2014 and 2015, with giant 'Bible Man' as the team mascot. The 'Bible Man' concept was Grant's idea and he worked hard to make the vision of cycling in a Bible suit a reality. This was a big head-turner during the 2015 Cycle Challenge and a great way to raise awareness for the cause.

The funds raised in the 2013, 2014 and 2015 races enabled Wycliffe South Africa to kick-start a Bible translation project for the Himba people. There were certainly challenges in the three years of arranging this team event, but nothing that made me want to give up. For me it's about the bigger picture...to see the Word of God made available in every language!

Grant and I now live in Australia and we would like to encourage others to get involved by cycling, running, walking or even climbing for Bible translation. The great thing is that these events are for anyone, you don't need to be a pro.

For those in the Melbourne area, you can join us for the 'City2Sea' run on Sunday 20 November 2016. To join the Wycliffe team contact: bernie_easton@wycliffe.org.au or go to wycliffe.org.au/event/finish-the-race/

Finish the Race to see God's Word in every language.

Tree Tops Lodge Cairns, in beautiful North Queensland, is a joint venture of Mission Aviation Fellowship Australia and Wycliffe Australia. It provides accommodation for missionaries and those interested in supporting missions, in a peaceful Christian atmosphere.

We are offering two full-time voluntary positions, ideally a husband and wife team, as Motel ASSISTANTS.

Working as part of our expanding team you will be involved in general

POSITION VACANT



maintenance (buildings, grounds and cars), servicing and assisting with cleaning of rooms, reception and administrative duties.

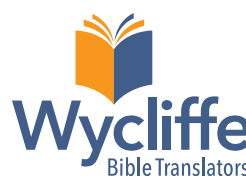
The position is physically demanding and has a shared roster which includes weekends and some evenings.

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