

Wycliffe Assist

Yajasi *by John and Jenny Kleywegt*

Yajasi – Spreading the Gospel in the remote mountains of Papua.

In August this year our volunteer assignment with Wycliffe took us to Sentani in Indonesian Papua (the other side of Papua New Guinea). Sentani had made an impact on us seven years ago, the location of our very first internal controls review for Wycliffe at Hillcrest International School. We knew Sentani to be isolated but beautiful, nestled under Mount Cyclops and alongside the large Lake Sentani. The Americans had built an airfield there during WWII — Sentani being the perfect location to prepare for an offensive against Japan.



John standing near the painting portraying Yajasi's goal of supporting translation with aircrafts.

Flat land and roads are scarce in such mountainous regions, so aviation is vitally important to Papua and also for God's great commission to spread the gospel to all corners of the world.

Auditing an aviation entity was very different to our usual assignment for Wycliffe. Yajasi (Yayasan Jasa, Aviasi Indonesia) is the Wycliffe organisation created to service the Bible translation work in Papua. Aviation in Papua is not only risky due to the terrain but also very expensive. Yajasi have five Pilatus (Swiss built) planes, which are suitable to cross high mountains and land on tight airfields.

As aviation is so expensive Yajasi have to operate on a commercial level in order to cover their costs to achieve their aim of promoting the gospel and supporting translators. This means the audit has broader objectives to some others we have done, as there is a greater focus upon their financial sustainability.

The number one highlight for Jenny was checking out a normal scheduled flight to two villages high in the mountains; reviewing procedures, financial transactions, ticketing, security, safety etc. John knew he had to go as part of the audit but was more reluctant.

Hospitality came a very close second. A Wycliffe social committee organised a meal for us with a different host family every night. The prospect at first was rather daunting, especially as our working days were long, but we thoroughly enjoyed every evening. The hospitality was not only with pilots and mechanics, but also doctors and translators, single women, to families with eight children. Each evening was an opportunity for Christian fellowship and encouragement.



Airplane arrival is not an everyday occurrence and worth stopping what you are doing to come and watch. One of the Yajasi pilots grew up in this village, his parents Wycliffe Bible translators

The dedication and sacrifice of the pilots and mechanics was also a highlight for us. They were all well rounded, friendly engaging and passionate about their mission to spread the gospel in Papua.



Visual shadow encased in rainbow and forming the shape of a cross. A beautiful reminder to us that the Lord was with us.

The positive exit meeting was also encouraging. There is always a presentation to senior managers at the conclusion of an audit. The Yajasi management team; pilots and the director, were extremely appreciative of John's findings and suggestions. Some of John's time was spent looking into a special request from the newly appointed director that involved much delving into legal documents and contracts (mostly written in Bahasa). John has become an Indonesian bush lawyer as a result of many of our assignments in Indonesia.

We look forward to where God will take us in 2018.

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Editorial

by Peter Gillespie

In Matthew 28, Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Often our own sense of fear or inadequacy holds us back and we say – 'I could never do that.' But in God's power we can, and it is only when we step out in faith that we realise we can. This edition again tells the stories of people willing to take that step.

When Paul wrote to Timothy about his fears he said: 'For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Tim 1:7)

The most common command in the New Testament is 'Fear Not'. God knew that the evil one would use feelings of fear to try and stop the work of God. Don't fall into the trap of fear. He promises to be with us even to the end of the age. What have we to fear!

We also draw your attention to the urgent need for managers in most of the regional Wycliffe centres in the Pacific. Please pray, asking God if He can use you. It can be rewarding work and without managers, translators are pulled from their work to fill the role.

Photos on cover page: Ash Young, Richard Noy, Laura Mason, Brendon Solomons

Express Work Team *by Yvonne Gillespie*

At the end of September this year Dave Wake led an Express work team to Darwin. Flying in for just one week, the team of four rocketed through a huge amount of work, for which the Armstrongs are very grateful! The team consisted of Daniel Craig, Ash Young, Tim Stokes and Dave, all skilled in the building trade.



Ash Young, Daniel Craig, Dave Wake, Tim Stokes with Matty and Lydia after hand prints in wet concrete.

They were helping John and Jenna Armstrong, who for the last six years have been working with Wycliffe at Ngukurr in the Northern Territory in Scripture Engagement roles to support the local Aboriginal church. Now their situation is changing and they are relocating to Darwin. Their new house is a typical elevated post-cyclone Tracey construction with a laundry underneath. The Armstrongs had already begun building a guest flat under the house to enable a ministry of hospitality,



Daniel Craig, Ash Young and Tim Stokes assembling the kitchen cupboards.

especially for missionaries and remote workers in need of a break.

Dave's speedy team hung doors, installed skirting and helped the contracted builders to extend the deck and roofline on both sides of the house. They also installed a new kitchen, laundry, outdoor shower, outdoor kitchen sink and cupboards, added fittings to the bathroom, and created spoon drains and paths to help redirect wet season rains away from the house. The team helped erect poles for a shade cloth over the caravan and clotheslines, as well as creating a side gate access for the guest flat, which included digging out a palm stump to make way for the gate and path.

The hot and humid 'build-up' period was a challenge for the team. 'I have never sweated so much in my life,' said Dave, 'but the reward of seeing how much the team achieved was worth it.'

The Armstrongs really enjoyed the company and encouragement from the team's visit, and of course the amazing work that was accomplished. Matty (5) and Lydia (3) loved the afternoons of fun in the pool at the end of each day and they continue to enjoy the gift installed by the team - a slide into the pool!



Ash Young, Matty Armstrong, Daniel Craig, Tim Stokes enjoying the pool.

Three-Pronged Project in PNG

In July this year the Cardiff Heights Baptist Church, supporters of James and Natalie Nelson, embarked on their third short-term mission trip to Ukarumpa in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. James is a pilot and Natalie a pathologist and they have served in PNG for nearly ten years.

There were three groups in the team; one to run a Vacation Bible School (VBS); one to do a building project and one team to offer medical assistance and training to the staff at Ukarumpa. Here are the reflections of two first-timers to the trip.



The full team of leaders and students at the Vacation Bible School, Ukarumpa 2017

Blessed to be a Blessing *by Laura Mason*

I had considered joining the team twice before, but felt that God was not calling me to participate in person. This year I felt as though that call had changed, and God was leading me to join the team, with the intention of being a blessing to the missionary families. I was part of the VBS team working with grades One and Two. The aim was to deepen the children's faith and to give the parents some time off during the

school holidays. I felt daunted by the limited time frame and knew that I needed to rely on God for strength and wisdom in order to be a blessing to those I came to serve. It was so rewarding to get to know the



kids and especially the teenager missionary kids who assisted in the program. I was also impressed with the relationships the missionaries had with the local people. It was like a foretaste of heaven to have people of different cultures worshipping together. I have so much respect for members at Ukarumpa, and the work they do. It was a privilege to be able to support them and I would encourage others to seek God's will about joining a short-term mission trip.

An Eye-Opening Experience *by Dr Richard Noy*

God opened my eyes and found an absolute niche for me. This was the confirmation of God's leading for me as I participated in the Cardiff Baptist mission trip to Ukarumpa in the highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG).



Dr Richard Noy and patient

When Dr Seshu Mandapati, who went on the mission trip to Ukarumpa last year, asked me to join the team, I felt I did not have the skills

for a mission trip. I had trained first as a radiologist and then a doctor, but did not think that these skills fitted in with mission life. How wrong I was. On the first day on the job a patient presented with neck pain. However, the clinic could not get a picture so I was able to use the very old Xray machine to see that the patient had a fracture in the neck.

This led to my next eye-opening experience as I observed the great disparity between health services in PNG and Australia. An expat would have been air lifted to Cairns, but for nationals the cost is prohibitive. This disparity was more deeply imbedded when I was taken on a tour of the hospital in the local town of Kainantu. While this was a shock, it gave me a deep desire to return at a future date to help more with the provision of health services and to take my family with me.

Every afternoon for ten days I taught the Ukarumpa medical staff how to take ultra-sounds, not only for obstetrics, but also for kidneys and other internal organs. There was no shortage of nationals willing to provide real life situations.

It was a very rewarding time, especially seeing the medical staff going from not knowing how to hold a probe, to being proficient ultra-sound operators. The down side for me was the great sense



'Volunteers' waiting their turn for an ultra-sound

of helplessness in the face of serious pathology and lack of specialised help. However, the highlight was the relationship made with the missionaries. These relationships have continued as there has now opened up a line of communication that the Ukarumpa medical staff are happy to use to ask questions and seek advice as situations present themselves.

God taught me that no matter what a person's skills, he has a plan and a job for them to do. I would encourage everyone to test the waters by taking a short-term mission trip. It will open your eyes to a world of possibilities that you may not have considered before.

The Building Team *by Brendon Solomons*

The most rewarding part of participating in the short-term mission trip for me was the thankfulness and encouragement we got from the people working at Ukarumpa. It was very humbling. I joined the work team because I felt God was leading me to do so. The project was to turn an old lunch room into three offices at the airfield and construct a roof over the spray-painting booth.

God has gifted me with skills as a carpenter so I felt that I could be useful on the building team. It is always a challenge working with old or existing buildings but by God's grace everything went to plan and the team achieved everything they set out to do.

It was a great experience and it would be great to be able to go back there and serve! God showed me once again



The Building Team: l-r James Nelson, Bruce Fraser, Warren Moore, Andrew Smith, Ian Smith, Brendon Solomons, Ben Smith, Stephen Parker.

his presence in my life and his hand upon all things. Talking to people, who have been there for years, was a real encouragement also! I would encourage

others to serve in this way, not only to experience different cultures, but to learn more of God's work in other parts of the world.

Volunteering at Kangaroo Ground

PRASANTHI JAYASINGHE 'It is very satisfying to do something that is not for one's self or for money.' That was how Prasanthi summed up her foray into volunteer work for Wycliffe. She commenced work in the finance department in April this year. Prasanthi heard about the need at the time she was considering her future. She had

completed a Diploma in Accounting while looking after her two boys. With the younger boy starting school, Prasanthi had the opportunity to work outside the home. Prasanthi's previous work in both Sri Lanka and Australia has been with the banking sector, so the work at KG was challenging and her first experience of the not-for-

profit sector. She is taking over Gordon Tucker's role dealing with superannuation and investment. 'At first I was scared that I would not fit in,' said Prasanthi, 'but now I can recommend anyone to try volunteer work for Wycliffe. I work one day a week which gives me time for other work and to be with my family, a perfect balance.'



KARIN PRENTICE 'There is great satisfaction in doing something worthwhile for our Lord' said Karin Prentice when asked about volunteering in the finance department of Wycliffe. Karin has known about Wycliffe for over 30 years and has always felt that Bible translation was very important.

Karin's background was in the banking sector doing accounts receivable and payable. However, she retired last year, so when she heard that the finance department was short-staffed, she volunteered. Now she is handling support payments and banking, working one day

per week. Her greatest fear was learning a new system, but it turned out not to be as difficult as she first thought. 'I just love the interaction with the staff,' said Karin, 'and the grounds are lovely.'



ATI HOH 'It is very encouraging to be part of a team that has devotions every morning, upholding members in prayer,' said Ati. 'I feel very welcome.' Ati Hoh knows Wycliffe very well as her husband John joined in 2010 and has been working in the

finance department ever since. Ati continued working commercially for another four years supporting John. Together with John, Ati completed a Graduate Diploma in Divinity in 2012. With a background in banking and internal audits in the Philippines,

Indonesia and Australia, Ati is well suited to volunteering in finance. 'It is both a challenge and an opportunity to get to know the members working in the field, and in the office, and be able to support them in prayer,' said Ati.



BRUCE EVERY 'The best thing about volunteering is that I can still be active in the Lord's service.' This is how Bruce Every summed up his work in the media section of Wycliffe. Bruce trained as an Electronic Technician and in 1990 he and his wife Margaret joined Trans World Radio in the Caribbean. In 1994 he transferred to HCJB (now

called Reach Beyond) in Kilsyth, running the technical side of broadcasting. After retiring, Bruce started volunteering in the media unit at KG. Approximately 600 video masters were produced at Wycliffe since the early 80s, and they needed to be digitised before they died (some of the masters were not in a good state). This is where Bruce

came into his own and now after nearly four years most of the tapes have been digitised. Bruce said that the most challenging part of the work was learning the software necessary to do the capture, editing and saving the files. But despite the challenges, Bruce loves being able to volunteer, to keep active in serving our Lord.



MANAGERS NEEDED

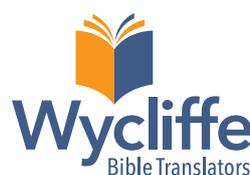
- **Centre Managers** for **Vanuatu** and **Solomon Islands**. Duties include: Finance, maintenance and logistical support for missionaries on the outer islands.
- **Motel Managers** for Tree Tops Lodge in **Cairns** supporting Wycliffe and MAF missionaries.
- **Manager** for Wycliffe flats in Kedron, Brisbane. Would suit a handy person or couple to live in and do bookings and maintenance. Contact Queensland office 07 3256 1803
- All positions are voluntary and accommodation is available.
- Contact: Marg Borneman - applications@wycliffe.org.au Jeanette Bennett - volunteers@wycliffe.org.au

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