



Keep up with the Koens

Andrew and Clare Koens, serving in Papua New Guinea

No 16: October 2012

The themes that I (Clare) want to write about this month seem to be linked; so, just for fun, I'm going to see if I can start each section with the same word that ended the previous section! I'll start my introducing some FRIENDS.



FRIENDS, Evan and Liz Larson, along with their two boys, have arrived from Oregon, USA to join us in supporting Bible translation in Papua New Guinea. Andrew and Evan were friends here in PNG when they were both single, and are now serving together at the Autoshop.

Thank you for praying for new colleagues at the Autoshop for Andrew. A few months ago, there were two Wycliffe members working at the Autoshop, but now there are seven Wycliffe mechanics including Andrew and EVAN.

EVAN, in this photo, is working on the bridge that connects our centre to other roads in PNG. Various repairs have been made over the last few months to try to keep it usable while we wait for the new bridge to be installed.

There have been times when it's been possible for lighter vehicles to drive over, and other times when only foot passengers have managed to get across.

This has meant it's been difficult for our centre to obtain supplies, including food. If it got to the point where there was no way to bring food by road, we would need to use planes until we were able to once again use the BRIDGE.



BRIDGE crossing difficulties make it harder for us to go anywhere! Andrew recently drove this six-wheel truck out to meet the high school students as they returned from their annual spiritual retreat. They crossed the bridge by foot.



Petrol sales are being limited, as the bridge is unable to support heavy vehicles carrying fuel. I'm trying not to use the car much (though I'm certainly still using it to transport Heidi and my two heavy buckets of vegetables up the steep hill from the morning market each week!). The Larsons have just bought a house near ours, which means that Levi now has four three-year old friends within two minutes' walk of our house! This is particularly useful at a time when I'm trying not to use the car too much. Heidi spends one morning a week with the Larsons while I go in to SCHOOL.

SCHOOL is now one of Levi's favourite places to be. He has started preschool two days a week, and loves it. The name of his class is 'pukpuk', which means 'crocodile'! Fortunately there are no real crocodiles here in the Highlands!

At Ukarumpa International School, I'm working again in the purchasing role that I had before furlough. I'm entering a busy time of year as I order textbooks and other supplies in time for them to arrive for the start of the new school next July!



PRAYING FOR US:

I looked to Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-11 (NLT) for inspiration for how to ask you to pray for us. The prayer from the Bible is in blue, with my comments in black.

'We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honour and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.'

We certainly need wisdom and understanding, especially working with people from different cultures to our own. We want our lives here to bear fruit, both in our official work roles and in our other relationships too.

'We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father.'

I feel as though we need strengthening right now, as we've each suffered from a whole range of minor illnesses over the last few months. I think all parents of small children need endurance and patience!

Thank you so much for reading our news, praying, and for your support.

**With gratitude,
Andrew, Clare, Levi and Heidi Koens**



Heidi : Now a happy, friendly one year old.

Keep in Touch!

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