

REBEKAH

March 2018

DREW'S NEWS

Photo: Catherine Rivard

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Ukarumpa! It's hard to believe that when I last wrote it was between Christmas and New Year's, and now Easter is just around the corner! It's time I brought you up to date on some of the highlights of 2018 so far.

In January, my good friend and former housemate, Catherine, arrived together with her fiancé, Dan, to spend two weeks to pack up her things and say goodbye. It was a lot of fun having her back in my house again, and getting to know Dan as well. Catherine and I share a love for horses, and I really appreciated her help in coaching me as I work on training my young horse, Cassia. I miss Catherine a lot, but will be seeing her again soon—more on that later!

In February, I had a unique opportunity to play violin in the pit orchestra for Ukarumpa International School's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*! We had a small string section with only two violins, two violas, and a cello, plus all the wind instruments. Most of the musicians were high

school students, but all of the strings and some of the other instruments were played by community members such as myself. It was a lot of fun to dust off my violin and brush up on my skills, as I haven't played at that level for about 17 years! It was a big commitment, as we had daily rehearsals, culminating in four performances, for most of February. It is a huge blessing that the kids here have the privilege of attending an amazing school that gives them such excellent



Photo: Sonya Paoli

Dan, Catherine, and me.



Left: In the pit during a rehearsal. (I'm just to the conductor's left.) Above: The pit members got to dress like pirates, too! 😊

Photos: Anita McCarthy

opportunities in music and drama, and I was so glad to be able to be part of that!

In March, I have been working hard to prepare a consultant check for the Sos Kundi language. The consultant check is the final stage of checking that a scripture translation needs to go through before the text is approved for publication. This will be the first ever consultant check done for this language group, and I will be checking the book of Jonah, as well as Genesis 12-23 (Abraham's story). Because I do not know the Sos Kundi language, I look at a "back translation," in which the Sos Kundi text has been translated back into English in a way that reflects the Sos Kundi wording. I compare each verse of this back translation with Hebrew and several English translations, and refer to commentaries as needed, and come up with questions which I will ask during the check. Some questions are designed to check the clarity of the meaning of the text; others arise from potential problems, where it looks to me like the translation might be communicating a different meaning from the original. In April, the translators will arrive along with some Sos Kundi speakers who were not involved in the translation, and we will sit

down together to read the translation and carefully go through all my questions. Then, the translators will edit the translation as needed, and it will be ready for audio recording and/or printing!

After that, I will be heading out on my next adventure: a trip home! The main purpose for this vacation is to attend Catherine and Dan's wedding in Minnesota as one of her bridesmaids. But before going there, I will be spending 1.5 weeks at home with my family (April 20th-30th). Because it's such a short trip, I won't be able to visit all of you who live in that area...but you just might see me around! I'll be back later this year for a five-month home assignment, which begins in October.

Pet project: This lovely Doberman is currently in training with me, and will soon become the new Kavieng Centre guard dog! 😊



In my last newsletter, I requested prayer for my teammates in the Tiaang translation program, so here is an update on them, with praises and prayer requests in **bold**:



I was able to speak with Grace and Ephraim on Djaul Island recently, and I learned that **the village check on the Christmas story that we translated back in November did happen, and they were very happy to be able to use the translation at Christmas time** – thanks for praying for this! However, it sounds like **no further progress is being made on translation work in my absence**, which is a bit disappointing.



My co-worker, **Janell, has taken a leave of absence from Wycliffe in order to take more time to pursue new treatment options for her chronic migraines.** Please keep praying for her so that she'll be able to

return to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and continue working with us some day!



My other co-worker, **Jessie, had been planning to return to PNG in August 2018, but is now having to postpone her return until March 2019. You can pray for her as she**

works to finish her Master's degree.

As for me, **my back pain has been gradually improving.** One big praise is that I'm **no longer**

taking any pain meds, having discovered that the pain was no worse when I stopped taking them! In February, about a third of the days were pain-free, and in March, it has been closer to 50%; but I'm concerned that this positive trend is starting to be interrupted by the increased hours I've been spending at my computer to prepare for the consultant check. The check itself, and my travel home afterwards, are also potential hazards to my healing, as anything that involves sitting for longer than twenty minutes at a time can be a trigger for pain. **Please pray that my back would continue to heal in spite of the necessities of work and travel!**

As Good Friday and Easter approach, I'm reminded once again of God's extravagant love in sending his Son to redeem us and give us new life, and of his passionate desire that all people would come to know his love and receive salvation in Jesus Christ. Thank you for your part in supporting my ministry here in PNG. May we each consider our part in sharing the Good News with those who have yet to hear it!

He is risen indeed!

Rebekah

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