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February 2002

Last writing we were in Madang attending our Annual General Meeting. Since then, we had a week of down time following the meetings and have returned to Uria village. We have had a productive time so far. Angela and the kids are back at home schooling and the kids are adjusting back to village life really well. Todd has had a very productive time of both language learning and language analysis. Thank you all for praying for these very issues.

Since we are not primarily working on house building, our life has slowed down a lot and we have been able to focus much more on ministry activities and our life is not quite as tiring or stressful.

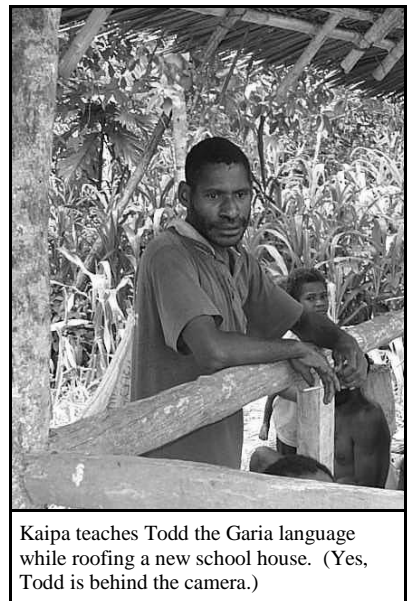
It is fortunate that we have been able to shift our focus, because now, more than ever we need to be focused on village ministry. Why? First, our plan is to begin translating the gospel of Mark in either July or August. Todd needs to spend the next several months in concentrated language learning. Second, there has been interpersonal conflict between two of the clans in the village, and Sunday morning meetings

have ceased, at least temporarily. It is not unlike a small church situation in the U.S., except that conflict is amplified here because the culture values and needs harmony for any social group to function. In this situation, one of the leaders has offended several clans and has been unwilling to reconcile. Thus, no one participates. Our personal evangelism and ministry activities have become even more significant because of this. Third, this disunity has also affected the literacy program and the mother-tongue schools are also in a time of great difficulty.

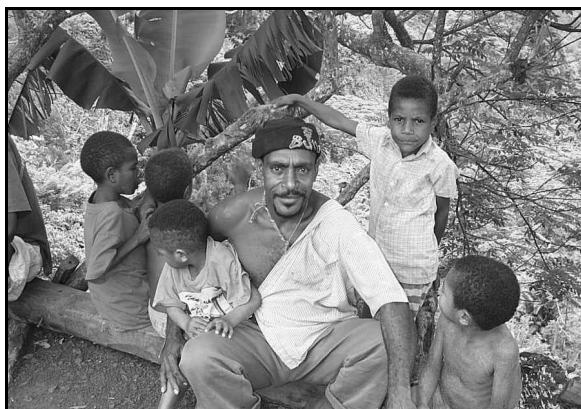
Satan is at furious and is lashing out. Many of the older leaders are still deeply committed to the worship of bush gods (demons) and are hard of heart.

Pray: Pray for reconciliation of the clans. Pray for a renewed interest and desire for the things of God among the people. Pray for a sweeping repentance and renunciation of the demonic. Pray for God's Spirit to strengthen and encourage those who do believe. Pray for Todd's language learning to go well and for Angela and kids to have good school time.

Praise: Praise the Lord for blessings regarding ministry activities. Praise God for strength and rest for the Owen family. Praise God for his abiding Spirit.



Kaipa teaches Todd the Garia language while roofing a new school house. (Yes, Todd is behind the camera.)



February 12, I (Todd) was able to attend village court in another village and was able to spend several hours practicing and learning the Garia language. Andrew, pictured here, helped me much that day.