



The

Storyboard

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Diary of a Remarkable Week

by Jacque Harper

WEDNESDAY 11:45 a.m. May 17, 2000

Bob and I are picked up by the Pacific Orientation Course (POC) staff and taken from the tiny village of Umnu, where we lived for five weeks as part of our training. Washing clothes and bathing at Umnu meant a twenty minute walk down to a water hole and a steep, slippery walk back up carrying fifteen or twenty pounds of wet clothes in my bilum (string bag). We also cooked over an open fire and boiled our water to drink and wash dishes. At night we used lanterns or candles.



Jacque and Bob at the Pacific Orientation Course (POC)

We got off the truck at 1:30 p.m. to find lunch ready in the cafeteria and hot water ready for the bucket showers. **Oh**, to be clean again! Five days back at POC to debrief about our experience and repack for our next move. Clean clothes and bodies, and food and electricity, wow!

MONDAY 9 a.m. May 22, 2000

Bob and I are taken into Madang town where we pick up keys to a rental house and are deposited with our six suitcases to set up housekeeping – a flush toilet inside, a regular shower, a fridge, a stove AND a telephone!!!

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We want to introduce you to our newest teams, the Harpers and Shreves. It is a joy to have them here and we ask that you pray for their continuing transitions and adjustments to life in Papua New Guinea. You can see additional photos and read more about each couple's Pacific Orientation Course experience by having a look at www.pioneerbible.org.pg/members.htm.



Time for a Change

by Mark and Diane Shreve

trans•port | trans port | *v.* to cause to go from one place to another.

Our home is Louisville, Kentucky. We were baptized in Christ, met and were married at our home church, Southeast Christian. For now, however, the Lord has relocated us. He burdened our hearts for the Bibleless peoples of the world. In 1999, after Mark received his Masters of



Mark at a celebration with his POC village parents

Divinity from Cincinnati Bible Seminary, we were transported from Louisville to Dallas for a year of linguistic, translation and literacy training. Then earlier this year

He sent us here to Papua New Guinea to serve full-time with PBT. Please pray with us that God would transport the peoples of PNG from lies, fear, darkness and paybacks to truth, peace, light and love.

tran•sition | tran zi shen | *n.* a change from one stage to another.

Previously we were in computer sales (Mark) and investment analysis (Diane). God transitioned us from the workforce to the school desk, and then from being students in the classroom to being students in the bush. In late May we completed a fifteen-week orientation course to help us begin



Diane teaching breadmaking

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The Gospel of Mark comes to the Banaro!
See related article by Jim Davis Inside

Our Friend Irwin
by Marsha Relyea Back Page



Samuel's Tears

by Jim Davis



On April 22nd, history was made for the Banaro people of Papua New Guinea's East Sepik Province. The first book of the Bible ever published in that language arrived by chartered plane....

morning, having flown via MAF from Madang, and there was excitement in the air. After a captivating drama which depicted the Banaro people group before and after the Gospel had come to them, we enjoyed a worship service with singing and dancing, as well as a touching and inspiring message by William Butler. Following the worship service we had twelve speakers interspersed with twelve special music presentations by various villages and churches within the Banaro people group. The messages



Children of Waran, part of a Banaro group performing a drama about the coming of the Gospel

This photo courtesy of Olavi Kumpulainen, MAF Madang

It had been a long day – a good day, but a long one nevertheless. My wife and I (and many others) had been fortunate enough to go to Momonup to attend the dedication of the book of Mark in the Banaro language. The dedication fell on the Saturday of Easter weekend, and a full day had been planned. We arrived around eight in the

“I have waited so long for this moment!”

were messages of thanks and encouragement; the songs were heartfelt and sincere, with several songs being written just for this occasion. But you can see why I said that it had been a long day.

Samuel Speaks From His Heart



Samuel

Then Samuel, one of the two Banaro co-translators, got up to speak. And that was when the Word of God once again pierced my heart. Samuel was silent for a moment, then said words I will never forget, “I have waited so long for this moment!” With his voice

breaking and tears streaming down his face, Samuel (pronounced Samwell) Sangon described the hours of sweat and work and tears that came



Seraah, another co-translator who, along with Samuel and William Butler, has worked diligently to produce the book of Mark in Banaro.

as they realized God's Word would finally be available to them in their own language. If you knew Samuel, you would know a shy, quiet man—one who rarely speaks unless spoken to, but one who is committed to the task of seeing God's Word

published in his language. He went on to say, "When I first touched this book in Madang after typesetting, I cried. But I didn't reveal what I was feeling. I was crying in my heart, because I was so happy. Today I see this book finished/printed.

This is a day I have dreamed about—a day that I have longed for." If that wasn't enough to move everyone to tears, then what he said next most certainly did. Looking straight at William, Robin, Tyler and Bethaney Butler with more tears in his eyes, he said, "Without you, this never would have happened! We would not be here. We have you to thank. Thank you for coming and giving us the Word of God."



William Butler preaches an Easter message as part of the Dedication program.

Samuel went on to say that the work was not done; "We must continue what we have started. Yes, it will be hard; yes, it will take time, but the work must go on!" By this time tears were



flowing freely down our faces, and I wondered when was the last time I cried because I had the Word of God in my language. You see, Samuel's tears were a mixture of relief, joy, and anguish: relief in knowing that one hurdle had been

"This is a day that I have dreamed about — a day that I have longed for."

overcome; joy at seeing the first New Testament book published in his language; and anguish for the work yet to come. So, the next time you wonder why we send missionaries, or you take having God's Word for granted, remember Samuel's tears. Maybe even shed a few of your own for the ones who still long for, but don't have the Word of God in their language.



Our friend Irwin by Marsha Relyea

Our friend Irwin Kuabe is an Aruamu man with ten children. He is intense about everything— especially about God.

While we were translating Romans Chapter 7, I was trying to find a way to talk about the “sinful nature” in Aruamu. So, I said to Irwin, “Irwin, when you became a Christian, what happened? What did the Lord do for you?” I asked that question with linguistic research in mind. I was hoping to just sit and listen as Irwin talked, and catch how he put terms like “sinful nature” in Aruamu.



Irwin

“Oh, Marsha,” he sighed in his intense way, “the Lord has done so much for me! He has changed my life all around. He has given me a new stomach. He has given me new desires. Before Jesus, I used to be a totally different person, but Jesus has changed me from the insides/in-

testines out....” And Irwin went on talking like that for the next 20 minutes, about how the Lord has worked in his life. My naive, work-related little query had elicited an amazing flood of praise. It was a holy moment. I sat overwhelmed as I listened to the most wonderful testimony I have ever heard.

Some days in translation work are like that. It’s not just the end product—the finished Book—that you’re after. It is the lovely process of watching the Lord mold people’s lives all along the way that makes it worth it all.

Shreves / “Time” continued from front page

learning the trade language and cultures. In July we change roles again from being students to language surveyors, as we are scheduled to conduct a four week survey of one of PNG’s Bibleless people groups. Some individuals in this group have been praying for two decades for a translation/literacy team to serve among them. Pray with us that God will soon make His Word available and clear to them, change their hearts, and transform them into students of His Word and surveyors of all His handiwork.

trans•late | tranz lat | *v.* to express in another language.

God’s Word has been translated for us from Hebrew and Greek to English. If the data from our survey, the branch directors and the Lord so lead, we will assist in the translation of Scripture from the Biblical languages into yet another language. Our primary focus for the first two years will be language learning and relationship building. We will also strive to establish and teach their alphabet. (Although they already have a language, it simply hasn’t ever been analyzed and reduced to writing.) It would not be until our second term that we would focus more fully on developing local literacy programs, training national co-translators, and expressing Scripture in their heart language. Pray with us that the Lord of the Harvest would continue to prepare us and nationals for such a work.

Mark, Diane, Jim Davis and Kirby Weythman will be conducting a language survey on foot and by motor canoe throughout much of July in a swampy, isolated area. Pray for accuracy, endurance, and safety during the survey. Pray for wisdom in allocation decisions following the survey.

Harpers / “Diary” continued from front page

WEDNESDAY 9 a.m. May 24, 2000

We’ve both been driving a car today! It sure feels good. We shopped for groceries and got our email set up on our laptop. We’ve gone from primitive to modern in one week and are functioning normally (we think).

It’s hard to believe we’re finally here a little more than two years after we said we’d start our training. We’re excited to get to work here in Madang, establishing relationships with expatriates (other foreigners) and nationals as we’ve been doing at POC and village living; and then doing our “work” of helping our co-workers at PBT complete the task of getting God’s Word to the many people of PNG. We praise the Lord for His guidance and grace in our lives and all those partners with us in this work. John 15:5 – “Apart from Me you can do nothing.”

We are the new “kids” in the PBT office in Madang. Actually we are 59 now and the proud parents of two grown daughters. The younger, Jennifer, is a translator and literacy specialist with SIL (Wycliffe Bible Translators) in Nigeria. Our older daughter, Michelle, is married to Wyatt Smith. They are the parents of our three wonderful grandchildren. Leaving our family was just about the hardest thing we have ever done. But we know other grandparents who have survived, so, with God’s help we are confident we will also.



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