



The Storyboard

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Ethnologue

The Mbore by David Parrish

"Welcome to the New Covenant!" A floral archway erected before the earthen stairway cut into the bank of the lake in front of Peter Tapoi's house displayed this simple and yet amazing sign. The sign was erected to welcome the **Mbore** people who had made a very brave and determined decision to step out in faith. It was Peter Tapoi himself who etched those words into that wooden plank. Peter was the first to make such a decision among the Mbore people. His decision to accept the gospel message and all the changes in his life that this message implied appears to be having an effect similar to that of a stone dropped onto the surface of a still pond. A rippling effect has indeed begun.



Rippling waters of baptism as Peter Tapoi stands by to welcome a new Mbore believer

To continue with this same analogy, the Mbore "pond" has not always been still enough to allow such an effect. Since my wife Alice and our three

daughters and I began working among the Mbore people we have learned to love and deeply appreciate them as very good friends, though getting to know and understand their ways has not been easy for us. They do not easily accept outsiders. Building trust between us has been a goal we have had to work hard at.

The history of the Mbore people is one of war and fighting. The "Big Men," leaders among the Mbore, like to tell stories of great battles that were fought along the Ramu River against enemies from other language groups. The warriors used to hang the skulls of their enemies on stakes around their villages in order to boast of their fierceness and to cause all who knew them to tremble with fear. They were known all through the Ramu valley as a people who would steal your children either to make them into slaves or soup. Undai, the man who taught me to speak the Mbore language, was once such a child whom today will tell you quite plainly how thankful he is that he was not eaten. But the Mbore did not battle only with enemies from other languages, they fought quite often among themselves. According to their own customs, if a Mbore dies, no one is to strike a drum or make loud noises. This allows the people of the village a chance to hear who among their neighbors is celebrating that death. In that way they

will know who is responsible and due to be paid back.

Although those days of open tribal war seem for the most part to have ceased, the Mbore have continued to be a people of conflict. Even between those groups who have said they accept some form of Christianity, there has continued to be strife and dissension and a fairly high level of mistrust.

But we have also seen among the Mbore people the work of the One who has the power to calm the waters. Since we first came to work among these people, Alice, the girls, and I have watched God work as He has drawn them together to form a translation team capable of doing the work of translation. He has also caused his message of grace to be told clearly in words that to the Mbore have real meaning. We have seen all the villages pulled closer together as they worked to form a board of representatives selected by each of the different villages, in order to oversee the work. The Mborena Kam Bible Translation Board of Management now oversees all aspects of the translation and literacy work. They are using a seal (shown above) to identify their work. Since they formed this board we have seen many changes. Leaders of the different communities are working together, listening to the translated word of God in translation checking. Teachers have been trained to teach the children to read and write in the Mbore language, and now these



continued on back page

They Are Moved

As we traveled around Papua New Guinea for a couple of months, we saw many physical needs being met by Pioneer Bible Translators. Allow us to share a few of the stories.

Three Emergencies — All in One Day!

A young man had accidentally slashed a deep gash in the palm of his hand. While blood dripped on the linoleum of the Pryor's living room floor, Bonita cleaned the wound and cut butterfly bandages to pull the cut together. She worked like a skilled nurse, though her only training developed through the situations their family faced right there in the village. Then came the father of a small girl who had fallen out of a house and broken her leg. The girl's leg was splinted and the Pryors provided the boat motor fuel so the family could take the child the three hours by river to a medical facility.

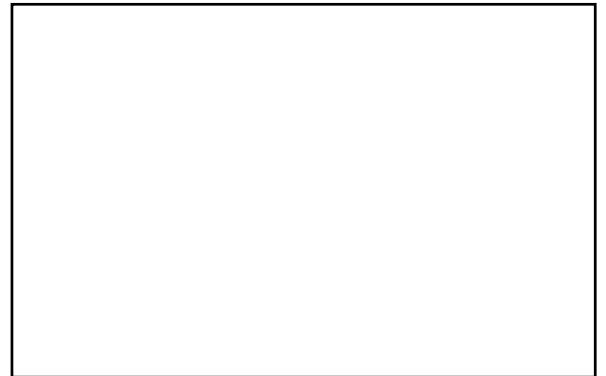


John and Bonita Pryor wrapped the arm of this man bitten by a very poisonous snake

As if they had not had enough for one day, a man came running into Samban, having been bitten in the finger by a poisonous snake. Would the venom have already circulated too far? John and Bonita worked fast to tightly wrap the man's arm with an ace bandage. We all prayed. Then the Pryors radioed for an emergency flight, hoping that the man could receive an anti-venom injection in time. It was a Saturday—a day off for the Missionary Aviation Fellowship pilots. But thanks be to God, pilot Tim Imbrock was at the hangar when the emergency call came in. He immediately flew to Samban to airlift the snakebite victim to Wewak. The man survived, and was informed, "If your arm had not been bound so well, and if you had not been airlifted here, you would be dead now." When the man returned to Samban, he expressed his gratitude to John Pryor, but John directed his attention to God's power and urged the man to give Him the glory.



Snakebite victim evacuated to Wewak



Stephen Primiri on October 19, 1994 soon after a bush house collapsed on him, crushing his 12th vertebrae

A Broken Back

Villagers carried a man named Primiri into Likan on a makeshift stretcher. "A house collapsed on him!" they explained. Primiri's legs were numb. William Butler responded quickly, radioing for an emergency evacuation by air. Then he prayed, "Oh Father, our trust is not in hospitals or in medicine. Our trust is in Your power and strength. We pray for a miracle in the name of Jesus." Primiri was airlifted to Madang where doctors confirmed that his 12th vertebrae was crushed. He would most likely be paralyzed. Six weeks later when the two of us were in Madang, we went to visit Primiri at the hospital. He was standing, witnessing to others in the ward of God's power. God had granted the miracle.



Steven Primiri (center) on December 1, 1994, able to walk six weeks following his accident



With Compassion

Episodes and photos by Janice and Faye Rostvit



William Butler with a Band-Aid in Krorowom

Barrage of Band-Aids

When we went to Krorowom with William Butler, our main objective was to sing plus have a showing of the *Jesus* film. But, medical needs arose as well. Not emergencies—mainly infected sores, where children had scratched the skin off of insect bites. Antibiotic cream and a bandage would help. One little boy alone got 17 Band-Aids on his legs. He'll remember that this missionary cared.

How to Diagnose? What Treatment is Best?

When people come with aches and pains, or strange symptoms—what should be done? Martha Wade presumed one person had tuberculosis (TB), so she asked advice (via radio) from the doctor in town. According to the symptoms, he too thought it could be TB, so Martha was advised what treatment to administer.

Another lady in Angguna faced problems with her pregnancy. Martha decided to send her up the Ramu River to a clinic at Annanberg. Later the two of us were singing at a village up the Ramu. The canoe which came to take us down river happened to have that lady and her husband on board. They had been picked up at Annanburg and were all smiles with their new baby. They were grateful to Martha Wade, because clinic staff had told them that the mother would most likely have died in child birth if she had tried to deliver in the village.

Team Members in Madang

When we were in town, we noted that Kyle and Kathy Harris, Sandra Schofield, Eunice Messersmith, and others often went to the hospital to check on ones who had been sent in from village areas. They made sure the patients had sufficient food or other necessities. Then they would radio progress reports back to the villages. This was a great encouragement to the relatives.

From Temporary Pains to the Terminally Ill

After men carried a heavy generator for miles so they could see the *Jesus* film, the Parrishes gladly helped them take care of their sore muscles.

In their village an old man named Domdom had cancer. David Parrish helped him go to Port Moresby where he could be treated, but in time he returned to the village to die. It was touching to see how Dave and Alice cared for Domdom in many ways to help him in his final weeks. Through their loving care, their teaching and their daily prayers, Domdom came to Christ and was baptized only days before his death.



David Parrish with Domdom in Tambap Mining

High Fevers!!!

We were in Uria with David and Ann Judd, and later in Yimnalem with Steve and Rhonda Hayward, who faced some emergencies. Ann wondered what to do with a child whose temperature was 106, and the Haywards checked on a man who had a high fever and stomach pains. They each showed deep concern. They prayed. They gave treatment as advised by the town doctor, and in each of these cases, the "patient" recovered.



Rhonda Hayward checks the sick man in Yimnalem

What is PBT?

All of these missionaries mentioned (and more) are with PBT. As you know that stands for Pioneer Bible Translators, but at times I couldn't help think it could stand for a whole lot more. These and others with PBT have come to the field with God's call to translate God's Word. Yet they cannot ignore the needs of the people whom they have come to love. So it is, that (like Jesus) when they look upon the multitudes, they are moved with compassion.

Janice and Faye Rostvit recently made their fourth visit to Papua New Guinea. Their ministry of evangelism through music is always a tremendous encouragement to Papua New Guineans and missionaries alike.





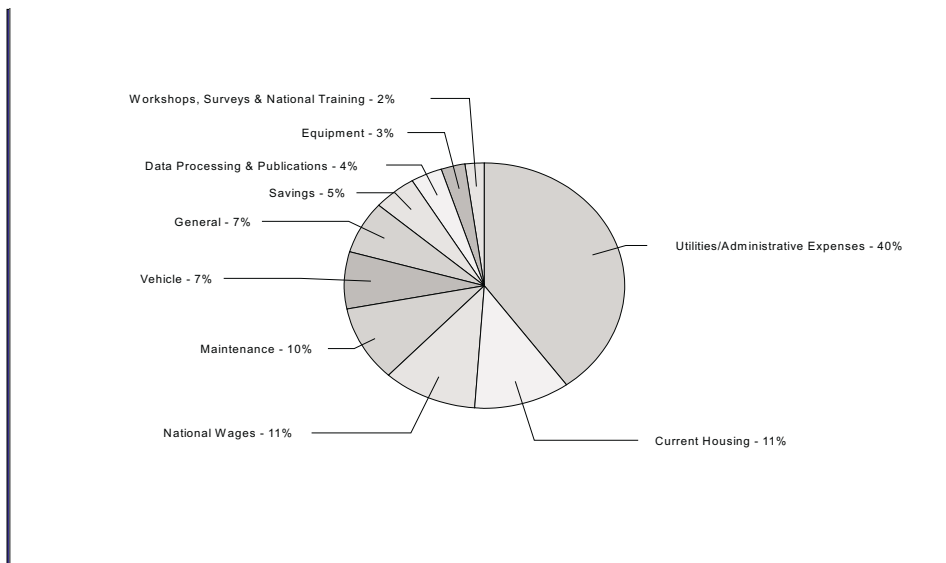
Top notch stuff

In our first *Storyboard* we mentioned that there was a growing concern that our co-workers in Christ receive a broader perspective of the work PBT is doing here in Papua New Guinea. This led us to the conclusion that there was a genuine need for a branch newsletter which would provide you with this panoramic view. In keeping with this objective, we feel that it would also be good to give you an overview of how the branch as a whole handles the gifts and offerings which come to the field.

From the beginning PBT has maintained a direct support philosophy. We want all gifts to go directly to the work which each supporter feels the Lord is leading him to help. Every PBT member, including each administrator, is directly supported. This approach has been extremely positive. It has fostered a wonderful unity between the teams which work here on this field and their fellow laborers at home. From these funds each team contributes ten percent towards what we call "team

ministry." Team ministry is a cooperative effort among all branch members to meet those operational needs which we all have in common. Two percent is applied to state side administrative expenses. This leaves eight percent for branch approved projects which bolster our overall efforts to serve the Lord here in PNG. The chart below illustrates how that eight percent and other resources (i.e. rent, gifts, etc.) are applied.

As we grow, so also does our vision for what we can and would like to do together to serve the needs of the Papua New Guinean people. We often discuss new projects and dream of ways to improve services without expanding the need for enlarging each team's financial contribution to these ministries. This brings us back once again to this great concept of direct support. In future issues of the *Storyboard* we will try to set aside some space to describe to you those projects which we as a group are convinced the Lord wants us to undertake.



Ethnologue continued from front page

teachers are holding classes in four different preschools and are preparing to begin three more soon. New readers and writers are working with these teachers to prepare new lessons to help begin adult classes as well. In addition to all this work, the board has sponsored several writers' workshops and is also managing a sawmill project aimed at raising funds to assist with the translation and literacy needs.

Through all of these efforts God has been speaking to these people...and some...are listening.

Peter Tapoi could hardly sit still as the translation of the book of Galatians was being checked at his home. Peter was known among the Mbore people as one of the most factious and hot headed men. He was often chosen to represent others in fights because he has an ability to be both loud and stubborn. But even in the storm of Peter's life God caused a change. In the Mbore language Peter listened as the book of Galatians explained God's will to him. Even though he knew he could not always trust other people, (in fact Galatians warns against putting too much confidence in people), he came to understand that he could trust God. When Peter listened to the agreement God was wanting to make with him he was ready to trust him. And so now, like the Apostle

Paul, Peter can say, *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

As Peter looked past that flower-laden archway with that amazing sign hanging from it, he watched several men and women giving their lives to God as he had. We all watched together as the water began to ripple.

David and his family moved from their village home to Madang in May to begin serving a two year term as our branch director.

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