



The

# Storyboard

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## *The Body of Christ*

by Brigette Relyea, age 8

Caring,  
Sharing,  
Bearing  
The burdens of a brother.  
When one part hurts,  
We help each other.

The church is not a building  
With a very tall steeple,  
But the body of Christ  
Made up of people.

Christ is the head  
And we are the parts.  
We love him, we serve him  
With all of our hearts.

Caring,  
Sharing,  
Bearing  
The burdens of a brother.  
When one part hurts,  
We help each other.



*Brigette and friend, Hannah, are shown here in January, just moments after becoming members of the body of Christ.*

Brigette Relyea is the daughter of John and Marsha Relyea.  
She was born in PNG and has grown up in Tiap village.



## *From the Editor ... The Body of Christ*

*We chose to work this issue around the theme of the Body of Christ and how it relates to Pioneer Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. We are not alone here in the work we do. In fact, the command by Jesus to be members of His body is often absolute necessity. Working in cooperation with others sometimes comes down to life and death matters. For example, we have leaned on the emergency services provided by Missionary Aviation Fellowship and Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship dozens of times. We really do need each other. We present this issue of The Storyboard to give you a glimpse of the bigger picture and to remind you to join us in prayer for the others with whom we work in Papua New Guinea.*

## Australian Churches of Christ by Faye Christensen, ACCM

It must be nearly twenty years since we sat down with Ron Augsburg in the mission house at Tumba, and talked about the possibility of PBT working in the languages where we had churches orderedoingevangelism.

I'll be honest and say that at first we were a bit nervous — we were afraid of the stereotypical big bucks Americans walking in and taking over! We wondered whether the organizational differences between the PBT sending body and ours might cause difficulties in cooperation. In fact when Ron first came up and asked if they could fly in for discussions with us, our leader said, "No!" But he said it over a two-way radio on a day in which static made communication very difficult. Somehow the "No!" was read as a "Yes!", and Ron came in for the discussions. He was so far from the stereotype we all had thatwerelaxedandbegantofeelthatGodwasinit.

So the cooperation between PBT and the **Australian Churches of Christ Mission (ACCM)**, and the Papua New Guinean churches to which it gave birth began. We had two translation teams at that point, and churches in at least five other language groups with plans for outreach into many more language groups. We were delighted when PBT teams were willing to go into two languages of the established churches, and later into the languages of some of the new outreach areas. Our Board was so pleased that they decided that no more translators would be sent by our mission — we would trust PBT to take care of that aspect of the work, while we concentrated on church planting and nurture. In fact, eventually William and Robin Butler took over one of our existing translation programs.

In the beginning we helped PBT with local knowledge and gave some technical help in areas such as mechanics and carpentry. It wasn't long before they were reciprocating with help in the field of computers, and

later by giving the local knowledge they had acquired to ournewmissionaries.

The PBT teams that work in the Churches of Christ areas have contributed much to the development of the churches, as they have helped with Bible study, training of village leaders, and on the spot advice for church leaders in remote areas. They have willingly helped evangelistic teams with transport in places where the mission had none available. Their input in literacy has also been valuable to the growth of the churches. Some havemadegoodcontributionsinpersonalevangelism.

Our missionaries have enjoyed their fellowship in the places where both our organizations have teams. We have all learned lots about each other's cultures and dialects, and have learned to respect and love each other. Recently when I began politely talking to Martha Wade about a "flashlight," I realized that in deference to me she had been calling this same object a "torch." We learned other important things for successful communication; when an American invites an Australian for "supper," he is talking about a meal that we usually call "tea" — when an Australian invites an American to supper, he is talking about a cup of tea and coffee and a snack late in the evening!

As the only Australian translator left in my mission, I have enjoyed great help from PBT. They have helped me with typing, consultant help, computer advice and typesetting, and with heaps of personal encouragement andfriendship.

We're very glad that our "No" turned into a "Yes." Our association with PBT has been great — both our missionaries and our church leaders would join me in saying aheartyyes,we'regladyoucameintourmidst,PBT!

Faye, originally from Toowoomba, Australia, has worked in Papua New Guinea for over twenty years. She started as a school teacher for national children and eventually became the Bible translator for the Rao language. She also keeps busy in administrative roles for Australian Churches of Christ Mission.

## Networking in Madang Province by Sandra Schofield

As missionaries in Papua New Guinea, we have many opportunities to work with other missions as we endeavor to spread the Gospel. There are also many non-mission service organizations that are based in Papua New Guinea and with whom we interact as we meet the physical needs of the people we serve. It is easy, however, to get involved in the work and not take full advantage of the experience of others. For example, all of our village teams deal with health issues on a daily basis. Often sick villagers begin lining up at their doors first thing in the morning. While our teams give selflessly of themselves to meet these needs and are willing to do so, medical work is an area that absorbs much time and money and one in which they are not fully qualified. There are organizations that specialize in the area of health, but we have not always been aware of them or known how to take advantage oftheirservices.

Many people have recognized the need for these organizations to communicate more effectively with each other,

but coordinating the efforts of so many autonomous groups has longseemedanimpossibletask.

A few months ago, leaders from SIL and World Vision along with PBT Director, David Parrish, met to discuss ways in which this plethora of groups could network. We were soon scouring phone books and following leads in order to come up with lists of service organizations working in Madang Province. David corresponded with them and spearheaded the arrangements for the meeting. These contacts were met with much enthusiasm. In April, the results of that first meeting were evident as David Parrish emceed a meeting which included the Governor of Madang Province, Peter Barter, other government officials and the heads of over 40 missions and service organizations working in the province. One of the results from the sessions was that subcommittees were set up under the headings of Health, Education and Community Development to share information and resources. These will be meeting periodicallytoseewhattheycandotogether.

## CRMF to the Rescue by Diane Miller



"Hotel Golf! Hotel Golf!" John Relyea called out on his Codan radio. Soon an answer came back and CRMF (Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship) was able to contact a doctor from whom John could get advice as to how to deal with a life threatening situation. His wife Marsha had a very serious case of malaria and had already completed a treatment course of chloroquine. Her fever had just risen again and she was vomiting so much she couldn't keep medicine down. It was a Sunday afternoon and we have no mandatory PBT radio skeds at that time, but CRMF is always available for emergency situations such as this. A doctor contacted by CRMF was able to advise them to start on a course of quinine and to propose a plan for calming Marsha's system so that she could possibly retain the medicine long enough for it to be effective. If that didn't work, he advised that she get quinine injections. Since there was a health aid post in a nearby village they were able to get Marsha there for the quinine injections, and she did recover, but she was a very sick woman for a while. CRMF also contacted our PBT office in Madang and let them know about Marsha's condition, so we could be praying for her and keep in contact to do whatever was needed. This is but one of many emergencies CRMF has helped to handle for us. They also provide various other services.

Living in remote jungle villages where there are no telephones, our translation teams rely heavily on the radio for various types of communication with other teams and with our PBT office in Madang. Thanks to CRMF we have daily scheduled radio times which can be used in a variety of ways. At 7:30 each morning our teams hear the cheery voice of Alice Parrish repeating, "This is Papa 2 Foxtrot 848 opening Pioneer Bible



Eunice Messersmith often "bosses" PBT radio times from Madang

Translators' sked. Is there any emergency or medical traffic?" If there is, that traffic is taken immediately before the other business of the day. Next comes the roll call and each station number is called out so they can respond and tell of any radio traffic they have and be informed of any messages our office has for them. They may have orders for food and other supplies to pass on to their buyer/shipper team in the Madang office, messages



Martha Wade talks from the village of Angguna

to or from villagers in their area to relay, or they may simply want to pass some information to another team or to seek advice. We often have radio skeds for designated purposes. Some have been designated for discussing translation matters, relaying logistical information, and conveying information our director wants all teams to know. On Wednesdays all of our teams come up for a devotional time and a time of sharing in prayer and praise. At times we have also had radio Bible classes for our PBT kids, a KED sked (Kids' Educational sked) which enabled our kids to both share things they had written and visit some among themselves, and an Ed sked (Educational sked) which allowed parents and teachers to discuss various educational matters. Special skeds for visiting among various teams can also be scheduled. These are especially valuable to teams who have children attending school away from home in Ukarumpa.

Whether our needs are great or small, it is a great comfort just to know the radio is there to help us communicate with one another. We would hate to think what it would be like without CRMF to make such communication possible.

Diane serves the Lord and Pioneer Bible Translators as a teacher for children of missionaries, our librarian and is also the Administrator of Education. She has been in Papua New Guinea with PBT since 1985. Prior to that, she served in Germany with Alpine Christian Mission for ten years.

## BTA – Building for Endurance by David Parrish



We, who are partners in the task of translating scripture into Bibleless languages, have a formidable task ahead of us. Our aim is not only to provide people groups with written translations (an enormous task by itself), but also to provide the members of these groups with the kind of quality training needed to enable them to fully use the scriptures and to give the riptures an opportunity to have the impact Godintendsittohave.

BTA (Bible Translation Association of Papua New Guinea), is a national organization of Papua New Guinean people who are committed to the development of national Bible translators as well to helping national co-workers within

PBT and the Summer Institute of Linguistics through training and encouragement. PBT has had the pleasure of working alongside BTA, providing them with administrative assistance for the National Translators Course (NTC) which they sponsor. We are also committed to providing teaching staff each year for the Culture and Bible Background components of the course. Through this cooperation, PBT has had the honor of being able to participate in the training of translators beyond the scope of our own programs, helping to equip the students and encourage them to accurately handle scripture both as translators, church leaders, and fellow citizens within their own communities.

David is currently serving the branch as Director. David and his wife, Alice, and daughters first came to PNG in 1981. They serve as Bible translators for the Mbore people.



## United Bible Societies by Dr Mike Sweeney



Many people are familiar with the American Bible Society, the nonprofit organization based in New York that has, since its beginnings in the early 1800s, distributed more than three billion Bibles around the world in over 500 languages. But did you know that the American Bible Society was not alone in this work? There are over 60 other national Bible societies that work hand-in-hand with the American Bible Society in an organization called (appropriately) the **United Bible Societies**. The UBS was first established in 1946 and has taken over a good deal of the task of worldwide distribution of scriptures.

Since the United Bible Societies and Pioneer Bible Translators are in the same business, it isn't surprising that we find ourselves working with and serving one another in many ways. Here in Papua New Guinea the most notable connection with the United Bible Societies is with a person: Norm Mundhenk. Norm has been appointed by the UBS to work with **The Bible Society of Papua New Guinea** in the translation, publication, and distribution of scriptures in Papua New Guinea. He brings years of experience and accumulated wisdom to this task, and he has been a great help to many of us as we struggle through the process of bringing the Word of God to the various people groups we work with.

You might call Norm a sort of quality control agent. Before a translation is actually allowed to be published, it needs to go through a myriad of checking procedures. The final phase of this process is what we in PBT call the "consultant check", where a consultant (such as Norm) meets with the people and goes over the translation in some detail checking for accuracy and clarity. In fact, with over 40 translation projects under his supervision, Norm keeps pretty busy. For this reason the UBS appointed me as an Honorary Translation Advisor (their term for a recognized translation consultant that works for another organization), in order to cut down on Norm's

work load by having me do most of the checking for PBT teams in Papua New Guinea.

But the work of the UBS does not stop there. After the translation is complete, there is still a Bible to print. The UBS, acting in conjunction with the Bible Society of Papua New Guinea, provides most of the finances necessary for publication, asking in return that the people will pay a reasonable price for the printed scripture portions when they are put into their hands. This is generally something much less than the actual cost of the publication.



Mike checks a translated text.

But we at PBT have also found a way to assist the UBS in their work. Our own computer department has lent its desktop publishing skills to the UBS, occasionally typesetting scripture or literacy material for them when needed.

Our association with the United Bible Societies has been a long and valued one. We pray that God will continue to show us ways in which our united efforts will get God's Word where it needs to be — in the hands of the people of Papua New Guinea.

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In addition to serving as a United Bible Societies Honorary Translation Advisor, Mike is serving as PBT's Assistant Director of Language Affairs. He and his wife, Linda, are also Bible translators for the Mum people.

### Remember in Prayer.

We have six interns and their two coaches with their eyes on the future visiting us as you read this. Please remember Jason Brandon, Steve Brewer, Katie McKenzie, Daron Pitts, Mark Shreve, Joel Tramel, Betty Trueblood and Lisa Yokshas in your prayers. They have a full and most likely adventurous summer ahead of them. Pray for their safety and that the Lord of the Harvest will open their minds and hearts to the needs here. Watch the September issue of *The Storyboard* for more details of their



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# Summer Institute of Linguistics / Wycliffe Bible Translators

by Sandra Schofield and Marsha Relyea

When talking about the Body and its application to PBT in PNG, no other organization is as intertwined with PBT as much as is the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL). In the United States, they are known more often by the name of their sister organization, the Wycliffe Bible Translators. Each member of PBT has at least one semester of SIL training which is usually taken at their Dallas, Texas center. Following that, those of us who have come to Papua New Guinea spend several weeks at SIL's Pacific Orientation Course (which is located on a mountain just outside of Madang) to receive our first introduction to this country. The partnership continues as each mission works together to bring the translated Word of God into the hundreds of languages of PNG.

With thousands of members around the globe, SIL is one of the largest mission organizations in the world. This year, SIL celebrates 40 years in Papua New Guinea. They are currently working in over 180 PNG languages. Their expertise in the areas of linguistics, literacy, translation and training is well known. Pioneer Bible Translators has been blessed by SIL's commitment to teamwork in order to accomplish the task of world evangelism through Bible translation. Listed below are just a few of the areas in which our two organizations cooperate in Papua New Guinea.

**Linguistic and Translation Workshops** — Many PBT missionaries have taken part in SIL sponsored courses. Last September, PBT member Mike Sweeney led a translation workshop on Galatians and I John at Ukarumpa, SIL's Papua New Guinea base. PBT, SIL and the Australian Churches of Christ Mission all had participants.

**National Translators Course (NTC)** — This is a nine week course for national translators, coming from all over the country. William Butler of PBT has served as Principal of this course for three years and has taught the Bible



Marsha Relyea teaching at the STEP course at Ukarumpa.

Background and Culture part of it since 1984, when not on furlough. PBT also provides other staff for the course which takes place at Ukarumpa each year.

**STEP Course** — This trains supervisors to run literacy programs in local languages. PBT has sent supervisors from the Mbore and Aruamu languages. This year Thomas Dukun, from the Mbore language in which Dave and Alice Parrish work, graduates after completing his fifth month-long course over two and a half years. Marsha Relyea and Bobbye Eiland have both served as staff for the STEP course.

**Pacific Orientation Course (POC)** — All new members of PBT in PNG attend this invaluable course which helps to make the transition from our home countries to the PNG culture. PBT has provided staff upon occasion.

**Language Surveys** — SIL and PBT have cooperated on many surveys. Most recently, SIL's John Brownie joined Steve Hayward and Mike Sweeney on a survey on the Rai Coast of Madang Province in October.

**School** — Schooling of children is often a difficult hurdle for missionaries. SIL allows our kids to attend their schools at Ukarumpa. This year we have six children enrolled there. By the way, there is always a big need for teachers and it would be good if PBT could provide some upon occasion.

**Aviation** — The necessity of the aviation industry in Papua New Guinea is indisputable. PBT often uses SIL Aviation for flights to and from Ukarumpa and occasionally when traveling to villages. The SIL helicopter is sometimes used for our allocations without airstrips.

**Consultant Training** — Steve Hayward and John Relyea are both going through SIL's consultant training program. They are also helping to check some New Testament books SIL translators are republishing.

**Accommodation** — PBT has built three flats at Ukarumpa for our members to stay in when they are at Ukarumpa. When we do not have teams there, we make those flats available to SIL for their use.

**Clinic** — SIL medical and dental clinic has provided a great service to us over the years treating our illnesses and occasionally members of PBT's second generation have been born there.

**Friends and Fellowship** — All of us in PBT have good friends who are SIL missionaries. It is always encouraging when we have opportunities of fellowship with them.



Cathleen, a community school teacher, and Bobbye Eiland discuss literacy principles.

# Missionary Aviation Fellowship

## Prayer at Work by Peter Randell, MAF



The day ahead looked to be a busy one. I had many landings planned and would need to keep my skates on to get everything done.

The first round was to take me into the highlands and I was to make my way, via a couple of stops, to Aiyura (the airstrip serving the Summer Institute of Linguistics Headquarters) to pick up Tom Clark and Jan Messersmith (both with Pioneer Bible Translators) and take them to Madang. Tom and Jan had been in Ukarumpa for a couple of days studying new computer software appropriate to Bible translation and now it was time to get back to work at home base.

The weather this morning looked very ordinary around Madang. There was plenty of rain, but of greater concern were the many layers of stratus cloud with embedded cumulus here and there. The radio reports received from the highlands suggested that the bad weather was confined to the broad expanse of the Ramu plains between Madang and the area of the highlands I wanted to go to. After departing Madang it was obvious that this initial part of the journey was not to be as straight forward as is normally the case across the Ramu plains.

I was up and down in my altitude, picking my way between the layers of cloud and eventually was confronted by a large embedded cumulus cell which made me think, "Well this is as far as I go, the only way is back to Madang." At this time I'm thinking, "Lord, I've got a big day planned tomorrow as well; if I don't get today's program finished I'm going to be in a stew tomorrow — please find me a road through this weather."

I progressed a little further, and further, and was by now quite a ways off track, but still I had a clear option to return to Madang. I kept uttering the prayer, "Find me a road Lord." I'd managed to progress much farther than I had expected when I came around the back of a cloud between layers, and whacko! there they were in all their pristine glory... *the mountains rising out of the solid cloud beneath, a beautiful sight, THANK YOU LORD. But we weren't out of the woods yet! Having arrived over Kenainj, our first stop, one solitary layer of cloud blanketed the strip, preventing us from landing. "Hey, what's up Lord? You've just gotten us through the muck, and now I'm no better off."* I had no option but to divert down to Aiome and leave my passengers and cargo there, slip over to Aiyura, (the weather was somewhat better in this direction), and come back later and pick up again from Aiome. But where was Aiome? It was down underneath the muck, butting up against the mountains! I'm back to praying that prayer again. "Please Lord, find me a road"... and He DID! I found an area that I could descend down below the cloud layers and turning towards Aiome (still about twelve kilometers away) saw an archway in the cloud, stretching from the ground on one side of my track, over in an arch to

the ground on the other side, all the way to about one kilometer past Aiome where the cloud went to the ground... THANK YOU LORD!!! This is a "happily ever after" story. From Aiome I was able to pick up Tom and Jan, take them to Madang and finish my whole day's program.

I find that as a *bush pilot* flying in the jungles of Papua New Guinea it is good to have the Lord on my side. I find myself regularly talking to God, either marveling at His incredible creation in PNG, or pleading for his assistance to make life easier for me in my work.



*Being an MAF pilot is physically demanding work. Peter Randell is shown after unloading the plane at a village airstrip.*

Yimnalem, with a 4500 foot elevation, is right on the edge of the highlands. Its aircraft carrier style airstrip commands the most spectacular views during the odd times it is not covered in cloud. Last week, PBT translator at Yimnalem, Rhonda Hayward, was desperate for medicine from town. The day before I had held in the area for 30 minutes, waiting patiently for a chance to get down to give her the medicine — but it was not to be. This day, again as I approached the area, the strip was obviously engulfed in cloud. I again prayed THAT prayer. I explained to God that this was my last chance for five days for me to be in this area. "For Rhonda's sake, find me a way to get this medicine in or if I can't land, at least give me a window of opportunity over their house so that I can drop the medicine out of the aircraft window." Well, guess what? It took some finding, but He did provide me with a brief clearing of cloud over the Hayward's house and I was able to drop the bag of medicine (and other things, like chocolate Easter eggs) in through their front door onto the lounge room floor (O.K., so I exaggerate my accuracy a little). THANK YOU LORD!

Prayer at work, isn't it great?

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Peter, who is from South Australia, has served as pilot and base manager in Madang since July, 1994. He and his wife, Kaye, and their three daughters recently moved to Lae, PNG where they continue to serve with MAF. All of us in PBT have been recipients of their hospitality and have appreciated Peter's dedication and thoughtfulness as our pilot.