

See You in Paradise by Ellen Rohrer

Fourteen participants in the Literacy Teacher Course (LTC) completed their last module and graduated on October 26, 2006. This was a bittersweet day for Head Trainer Lynn Muir, as it marked the end of her work in Papua New Guinea and a new beginning with her husband Leon and baby Nathan in America. The men, their language groups, and their mentors are listed below:

LANGUAGE	PARTICIPANTS	MENTORS
ABU	Mr. Bonsa Awamne Mr. Ishmael Anjambe Mr. James Gramgari	Mrs. Diane Shreve Mr. Mark Shreve
APALŪ	Mr. Sepa Hidime Mr. Lun Adivaline	Dr. Martha Wade
ARUAMU	Mr. David Berama	Mr. Steven Dazim Mrs. Ellen Rohrer, Advisor
MUM	Mr. Alex Mana Mr. Lawrence Ikra	Mrs. Kelly Robinson Mr. Scott Robinson
NEND	Mr. Thobias Endavt Mr. Benjamin Ambipai Mr. Justin Bane	(Participant/Mentor)
TAY	Mr. Onesimus Wad	Mrs. Ellen Rohrer (standing in for Steve & Rhonda Hayward who are currently in the States)
WARAN	Mr. Ruben Karika Mr. Samson Batme	Mr. Max Kamgru Mr. Kevin Mong

Mrs. Jeanette Bennett, a Literacy Consultant with SIL and Lynn's co-trainer for the two-year course, was unable to attend the graduation ceremonies. However, Lynn gave a moving speech about setting up stones of remembrance along life's way, and she assured the men that this LTC would remain vivid in her memory for the rest of her life. Scott Robinson and Mark Shreve showed their Power Point presentation of the LTC in pictures and song. Christopher Bulu, the acting Madang Province Advisor of Education, was the Keynote Speaker. He told the men that they had received quality training for the work they were starting among their various people groups.

Then, one by one, each mentor handed out certificates to the men he or she had mentored, prefacing the awarding of the certificate with some personal remarks about the participant. It quickly became apparent that God's hand had been in the choosing of these fine men, for those in attendance consistently heard words of praise for upstanding character and the God-given gifts possessed by each and every one of the graduates.

One of the highlights of the morning was the "Goodbye Song" that the men had written, which they performed just before the closing prayer. Translated into English, the words are:

*The time has come for us to say goodbye and go back to our villages.
Don't brood upon it . . . our real home is in Heaven.
After this life, we will meet there, hold hands,
And walk about in our Father God's sight.*

Chorus:

*Oo-oo-oo . . . My heart is torn apart.
Oo-oo-oo . . . Don't brood or worry too much.
However, we must work hard to win the prize of Heaven,
And we will go there.
Say goodbye now—shake hands and tell everyone,
"Goodbye," and it will come back to you:
"See you; see you in Paradise."*



Participants and mentors

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Bringing God's Word to Life!™



A stone of remembrance



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Notes

Editor's

People on the move: This year, the PBT/PNG Branch has experienced an unprecedented number of team transitions. The **Sweeneys** and the **Davises** are now living in east Tennessee, as Mike Sweeney has accepted the position of Professor of Missions at Emmanuel School of Religion, and Jim and Cindy Davis have resigned from PBT. Jim served as our Branch Director for the past five years, and we appreciate the many contributions he and Cindy made to the branch as a whole and to each of our individual teams. Mike plans to make yearly visits to PNG in his role as consultant to the Mum New Testament translation. For all those who enjoy Mike's special brand of humor and Cindy's beautiful artwork, we have good news: we will continue to solicit stories and pictures from these two amazingly talented people!

We said good-bye to **Lynn Muir** and her family in October, immediately after the Literacy Teacher Course graduation. They will live in New Zealand (Leon's birthplace) until Leon obtains U. S. work residency and then settle in Louisville, Kentucky. Lynn retains her PBT/PNG membership in order to continue to make contributions to our literacy work over the next two years.



Brian, Celeste, Nancy Ann, and Mark Wilt

Kyle and Kathy Harris, arguably one of our most adventuresome teams, if not **the** most adventurous, sailed a boat from Moline, Illinois, to Madang, arriving early in September. Look for an article and picture in the next issue of The Storyboard.

Last, but certainly not least, we introduce our newest team: **Mark and Nancy Ann Wilt**, and their son **Brian** and daughter **Celeste**. Their older daughter **Angela** is a senior at Saint Louis Christian College (SLCC). The Wilts have finished the Pacific Orientation Course and are settling in as a support team in Madang: Mark as an IT Specialist and Nancy Ann in Finance. Mark received his BS from SLCC and his MDiv from Emmanuel School of Religion. Nancy Ann received her BA in Chemistry from the University of Missouri.

Oh, yes . . . I'm delighted to be back in PNG, as well, after an extended (for knee surgery) home assignment!



Leon, Lynn and Nathan Muir

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Mbore Scripture Dedication

by Dave Robinson

Do you remember the first time you read the story of the prodigal son? Or the beginning of the Church on the Day of Pentecost? I have to confess that I don't—but then, it was a really long time ago for me. Now for the first time the Mbore people of Madang Province,

Papua New Guinea, have the opportunity to read these accounts in their own language. Wednesday, September 20, 2006, was the day set aside for the Mborena Kam Scripture Dedication.

Luke, Acts, and Galatians are the first complete books of Scripture ever published in the Mbore language, and now there are copies in each of the Mbore villages.

The dedication itself was an interesting day, as such events in PNG are likely to be. Since there is no PBT translator on site who could offer us overnight accommodations, all of our Madang-based staff had to drive

out and back on the day of the dedication. We left Madang at 5:00 a.m., a little caravan of a pickup, a Land Cruiser, and a big flat-bed truck with a roof over it, fitted with wooden benches for the passengers to sit on. It took five hours to make the trip to Tambapmining, the last two on a dirt road.



Mbore co-translators Dave Robinson, Denny Ram, Steven Piki Saragum, and David Parrish. As honored guests, both Dave's and David's faces were painted red. Steven holds the scripture books.

Somewhere along the way a drizzling rain started. This was a real blessing, in that it made the ride much cooler. But it was also a curse, because it made the road much more slippery. Sometimes it seemed like the back end of the truck was trying to overtake the front end, and the front end seemed to have a mind of its own as to which track to follow. But in the end we made it fine, and right on time.

The dedication started at 10:00 a.m., with a break for a meal at noon, followed by more speeches and specials until 4:00 p.m. I thought the highlight of the dedication was



Mbore dancers in traditional costumes



Thomas Dukun, Mbore Literacy Trainer, dressed in traditional garb in honor of the day

the presentation of the books from the translators to the Mborena Kam Board Chairman, who then gave them to the pastors of the churches. A candle was lit for each book, symbolizing the light of the Word in these books of Scripture. I hope and pray that it really will be that—the Word of God in their own language bringing illumination to the churches and the homes of the Mbore people.

Our trip back to Madang included a truck wheel slipping through one log bridge, requiring that we be pulled out by the pickup. After that we managed the slippery roads reasonably well, and we got back to the paved road safely. We were tired and grimy by the time we arrived in Madang about 10:00 p.m., and a shower felt really good. But I must say that I also felt good on the inside—proud and hopeful for the promise represented by the dedication of these first books of Scripture in the Mbore language.

This dedication has been a long time coming. It was the culmination of more than twenty-five years of preparation and work. It began as a dream in the hearts of David and Alice Parrish to become Bible translators. After Bible college, they studied linguistics. Then they moved to Papua New Guinea and allocated among the Mbore people, learning their language and setting the process in motion to translate the New Testament. In the mid-1980s they recruited a couple of young village men to join them in that task. I can only imagine what was going through the minds of Steven Piki Saragum and Denny Ram during the dedication as they thought of the years of work they had invested in this moment. I was the “Johnny-come-lately,” but even for me this was the culmination of nearly eight years of preparation and work. I am sure all of us count our time as a worthwhile investment now that the Mbore people can actually read and understand these books of Scripture better.

I was very proud of the representation of PBT at the dedication. We had seventeen PBT people in attendance, including six from the USA (the Parrishes, Gerald and Ruth Denny, and Mike and Eunice Herchenroeder). Several of our PNG office employees also made the trip with us, as well as some mother-tongue translators from several other language groups. I thought the representation of PBT people from Madang, the USA, PNG translators, and PNG employees who were joining in the celebration showed a truth about Bible translation: *It is a team effort, from beginning to end.* There were many other people besides the translators who contributed to the venture, from finance people to computer specialists, typesetters, fundraisers, individual supporters, and churches. This dedication was a time for all of us to rejoice in the initiation of a real advance in the Kingdom of God.

Dave Robinson, a former New Testament and Greek professor at Platte Valley Bible College (now Summit Christian College), came to PNG with wife Chris in August 1999. He has worked as Exegetical Consultant to the Mbore for seven years, and he also works with other translation projects, as needed.