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The

# Storyboard

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## *Celebrating the Ap Ma Way*

by Jill Riepe

No, I didn't help with the translation of the book of Acts for the Ap Ma people, but I did get to help with the dedication preparations. The celebration really began in Samban village a week before the dedication with the arrival of the original PBT translator for the Ap Ma, John Pryor and his wife Bonita. Throughout the week John and Bonita were busy catching up with old friends in Samban and neighboring villages. Everyone else was busy preparing for the celebration. They built a stage, a

*haus kuk* (outside kitchen), and a covered area where people could sit. They practiced their *singsing* (traditional songs and dances) and planned how they would meet the MAF plane which would bring PBT guests and the Ap Ma book of Acts. They worked in the gardens harvesting yams, bananas and other vegetables to feed the many people coming to witness the dedication. They even slaughtered a pig and a cow for the feast. It was a busy week.

On July 26, the morning of the dedication, we had pre-dawn baptisms. Then, as the plane arrived, the *singsing* began. A group sang, danced, and played their *kundu* drums as they walked the books and our honored guests into Samban village. As they arrived at the presentation stage, a church group sang

a song about bringing God's Word to the Ap Ma people. The book of Acts was symbolically handed from the MAF pilot, Remi Vam Wermeskerken, to the PBT representative, William Butler, to the original PBT translator, John Pryor, to the typesetter, Lori Witham, to the national translator, Maso Leko, and finally, to the Ap Ma pastors. Each of the pastors received the book as a gift. They prayed over the books and gave speeches of thanks for the hard work that went into the translation. Then it was time for the feast. Pray with us that the people will read the Ap Ma Acts book and that their lives will be changed through it.

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After finishing her PhD at the University of Texas at Arlington, Jill has come to serve with the PNG branch in translation.

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A huge crowd parades the Ap Ma Acts books through Samban village. In the center, Mike Herchenroeder walks with the other PBT guests behind the box of books, which are held high by four Ap Ma men, and surrounded by *singsing* dancers.

## Seeing God At Work in PNG

Interns interviewed by Megan Livingston



Tasting sago, a PNG staple food. Coming from many different places in the States, the interns were (from left) Megan Livingston, Brent Bailey, Lindsey Marks and Delaina Johnson. Lindy Pate, a PBT Recruit, served as intern coach for the 3rd year.

*“Be careful when you ask God to use you—He just might do it!”* This is one of the lessons the PNG 2009 interns learned first-hand this summer. During their two months in PNG, the interns visited two villages, Pasinkap and Angguna, before coming back to Madang to help with the Literacy In-Service Course.

In the bush they faced challenges, had adventures, and were able to see God working through it all. One of the first things that became apparent was how remote the villages are. “As we were flying out over the bush... almost immediately all you could see were trees,” Brent said. “There were little pockets of villages, but they seemed so far away from each other.” He added that it made him wonder how anyone could know all of the villages and all the languages. “But on one of the first days in Pasinkap, we were able to go to this impromptu worship service at someone’s house. It showed me that God still heard them and knew them personally and cared about them.”

The interns continued to see God’s love for the people in the bush as they prayed that they might be used. Upon arriving in Madang, the interns had discovered among their luggage something called a “Proclaimer;” a dramatized audio New Testament in *Tok Pisin*. On a whim, they decided to take it to the bush with them, only to find that God had big plans for this little box. “The first time we used it outside the house was when we went to the river to do laundry,” Delaina recalled. There was a family who lived close enough to hear it. As they listened, “it really touched their hearts. So the next morning... that family and some others wanted to listen to the Proclaimer again before they went out to their gardens.” She added that on their last Sunday in

Pasinkap, over seventy people from the surrounding area came to listen. “It was amazing to see such spiritual hunger.” Still, there were many spiritual challenges the interns faced. Lindy and Megan had a few interesting conversations on Revelations 13, attempting to answer questions such as, “Will the beast come on a plane?”

In Angguna, the interns stayed with Martha Wade, helping her with various projects and sitting in on checking sessions on 1 Corinthians. They were involved in Bible studies Martha holds for youth in her village. Lindsey particularly enjoyed these times. “They were so excited about coming and reading Luke in their own language. You could see that God was working in their lives and that they wanted to know God.”

Sitting in on checking sessions was very helpful for Brent, who is thinking about becoming a translator. The interns helped check back translation and then listened to the translators discuss the issues that came up. “You can’t beat actually sitting in on the checking sessions,” Brent said. “I don’t think I would have understood the process as well otherwise.” “It was neat to see them working through the problems and thinking about the things that they were finding in the text,” Lindsey added.

On returning to Madang, the interns helped with the Literacy In-Service course. “Throughout the course I’ve been thinking about everything these men are sacrificing to be [in town],” Delaina said. “They’re away from their families... their dedication and commitment to being here has been really encouraging.” When the work was difficult or stressful, the interns remembered their purpose: seeing lives transformed by the work God was doing through them.



While visiting remote areas where PBT works, the interns experienced challenging adventures, but they saw God working through it all.

# PBT Needs a Literacy Specialist. Or Five.

by Megan Livingston

Starting almost as soon as we returned to Madang from the bush, we've been part of a literacy course. It's part curriculum development, part teacher training, and part materials production. The course was held for five language groups (Abu, Apal, Mum, Nend, and Waran), some of which have multiple dialects. It's also less than three weeks long. Needless to say, there's a ton of work to be done in a short amount of time. When the interns started we had very little idea of what we were doing.

So here's basically what we're doing, now that I've been doing it for a couple weeks. Each of the interns has been assigned to work with one of the five language groups.

[Editor's note: newly-arrived STA Bethaney Butler assisted the Waran language group; her parents, William and Robin Butler, work with the Waran people.] I'm working with two teachers from the Abu language group. Over this past year, the *Tok Pisin* curriculum was adapted into another language to fit their own schools' needs. Now I'm helping to adapt that material to fit the Abu language. It's the same basic idea, but different books and different letters. All the files are shuffled around, and sometimes they use the same books but in a different order. Therefore I have to find the comprehension questions that were written for that book, and plug them into the right place in the Abu curriculum. I also have to check and make sure that book has been translated into Abu. When it seems like no questions or activities exist in Abu for that book, I take it to the two teachers so they can come up with something. They also read through the curriculum to check for errors. In addition to reading books, the curriculum also has sound drills (this is for kindergarten level reading, so they mostly just learn to recognize that sounds go with letters and then later how to write individual letters).

Meanwhile, the guys from all five groups are working on translating over 60 books from *Tok Pisin* into their own languages for the first grade curriculum. For the most part they are simple short stories, but the translations still need to be checked and double checked before they are done.

At the same time all this is going on, we occasionally take breaks so that some of the teachers can teach the

others about how to lead some of the games and songs for the kids. Some of these are adaptations of English songs and games, like "Where is Thumbkin?" and "This is the way we..." When I was in pre-school, I didn't

know those games had educational value. Turns out, they do.

The interns have also been trying to work in sightseeing and souvenir shopping. So we've been very busy, and the time has flown by. But in spite of the somewhat chaotic work of the course, it's been really fun to get to know the two Abu teachers I've been working with. They like to laugh, but they are also hard workers, and they believe in the importance of what they're doing. It's

not just about teaching kids to read so they can get into university some day and have good jobs. That might never happen. But if they learn to read, they have access to God's Word in their heart language, and their lives might be transformed.



Megan works with the Abu teachers, while Eunic Herchenroeder and Martha Wade (far right and second from right) assist Lindsey and the Mum teachers.

Megan is a senior at Lincoln Christian University in Illinois, pursuing a degree in Intercultural Studies and a certificate in TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). She serves as the Editor-in-Chief for the school's newspaper, *The Luminary*, and is also involved in the Theater Department.

## Editor's Notes

Every year each intern brings with him or her a unique set of skills to contribute to PBT's work while here. This year was no exception. For example, I greatly appreciated Megan Livingston's experience as Editor-in-Chief in her school's newspaper. As our Storyboard co-editor Eunic Herchenroeder is on furlough, I asked Megan to interview her fellow interns, and then I also asked to use her Facebook article on the LTC course. This actually is a good example for the interns, and us, to see how God works to accomplish His plans. He uses a variety of people doing a variety of jobs. He needs only willing hearts.

PBT-PNG welcomes STA members Sarah Back and Bethaney Butler, and welcomes back Diane Miller.



## Take Time To Pray

Prayer is vital to every aspect of our lives and ministries. We invite you to join us in giving thanks and lifting these requests:

### Thank God:

- That the book of Acts is now available to the Ap Ma people.
- For the training and experience of the five language groups at the literacy in-service course, as well as the school material produced.

### Please Pray:

- For the interns as they process what they have learned and make plans for their future.
- For continued significant progress towards completion of the Tay (Steve and Rhonda Hayward) and Waran (William and Robin Butler) New Testament translations.

*We invite you to join our branch prayer team. To receive weekly updates of praises and prayer requests via e-mail, please write to [prayer@pioneerbible.org.pg](mailto:prayer@pioneerbible.org.pg).*

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*Bringing God's Word to Life!*

## This is Big Talk

by Rhonda Hayward

*"This is Big Talk. This is new." "Many are gathering to discuss this talk." "We could not sleep last night because we were thinking about this."* How encouraging to hear these comments after a recent Scripture Impact course for the Tay on the subject of overcoming fear. These words served to remind me again that our main goal is not just to translate the Tay New Testament. Even more importantly, we long to see a vibrant, growing Tay church that is dynamically applying God's Word to their lives.

Scripture Impact courses reflect the need to have God's Word not just translated into the heart languages of the peoples of the world, but to have that Word practically and powerfully applied so that lives and communities are transformed. Scripture Impact starts by pinpointing peoples' felt needs and then giving them relevant scriptures to meet those needs. Last October we did a survey among the Tay leaders that helped the Tay verbalize areas in which they struggled and for which they needed God's perspective via His Word. Some of those areas included: how to pray, fear (including fear of evil spirits, sickness, and death), issues involving money, as well as several other topics. In January this year we held a course on prayer for leaders, who in turn shared what they learned with their own villages and churches. In June we did a course on fear, and soon we hope to do one on money issues.



God's Word being translated into the lives of the Tay people.

Through these Scripture Impact courses, God is opening the hearts of the Tay to a far more biblical view of God. Their

wrathful, capricious God is being transformed into the Father God they see described in Luke 15. A God who is compassionate, forgiving, forever loving, and waiting and longing for them with open arms. A God who is all powerful and wise.

This God is one they can eagerly draw closer to in prayer. This God can protect them from evil spirits, give them hope in sickness and death, and grant them boldness to break all ties with spiritual darkness.

The Tays' comment, *"This is Big Talk,"* came from a fresh and new understanding of what God Himself says in His Word about serving two gods. They learned that to continue to seek the spirits' aid (along with God's) would only foster further the fear that defines many of their lives. They were convicted when they heard Joshua's words, "Choose this day whom you will serve," and were challenged to decisively choose who is the true God as Elijah did on Mount Carmel.

This is scripture in use and the real passion of Bible translators. Not just a written translation of God's Word into another language, but seeing God's Word translated into the lives of people in such a powerful way that people cannot sleep for the impact it is making in their lives. Oh, God! Grant that I may be so gripped by Your Word that I lay awake at night thinking, *"This is Big Talk!"*

Rhonda and her husband Steve work among the Tay people. They are close to finishing the Tay New Testament translation. Pray for the Tay people to continue to apply God's Word to their lives as they receive it. Thank God for transformed lives.

## HELP WANTED

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Technical Services Specialists  
(All-Around Handymen)  
Literacy Specialists  
Scripture Impact Specialists  
Administrative Personnel

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and other personnel needs.