



The Storyboard

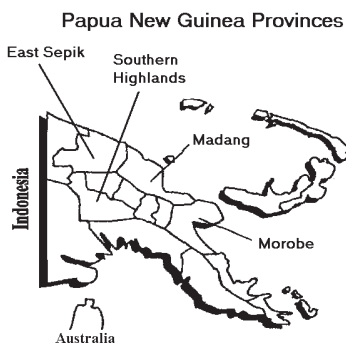
Fall
1998

published by the
Papua New Guinea branch of Pioneer Bible Translators

SIL/BTA/PBT: A Joint Ad-Venture

By Sandra Schofield

Papua New Guinea, a land with over 800 languages, provides ample opportunity for Bible translators and literacy specialists to work together in bringing the Word to those yet without it. Following is a success story still in progress which features the joint efforts of three organizations to reach the 1000 Onobasulu speakers in the Southern Highlands Province.



Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), a sister organization to Wycliffe Bible Translators, is recognized worldwide for their efforts in bringing together the science of *linguistics* (the study of language) with the ministry of Bible translation. The impact of this organization has been felt worldwide by speakers from thousands of languages of all sizes.

When Anne Dondorp was a young girl of 15 in The Netherlands, she



decided to be a Bible translator. The hand of God and that determination led her through years of training, to SIL and later to Papua New Guinea in 1993. After several years of delays, Anne was finally able to move to the village of Walagu in the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea in 1997 to begin work with the Onobasulu language, making that the 283rd SIL program in the country. To date the book of Ruth is translated and the book of I John is translated in first draft.

The Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association (BTA) began in 1977 as a catalyst to involve Papua New Guineans in the work of Bible translation and literacy. Since its beginning BTA has been a significant player in reaching Bibleless peoples in Papua New Guinea and is recognized as a leader in literacy efforts around the country.

A young man by the name of Cain Ruruk became a BTA member in 1993 after being trained by a SIL literacy spe-

cialist. He was later accepted as a Literacy Consultant with BTA and continues to serve in that capacity. As such, Cain is frequently called upon to supervise training in new allocations.

Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT) entered Papua New Guinea in 1977. As a mission specializing in evangelism through Bible translation and literacy, PBT members contribute much of their time and resources towards equipping nationals in the skills of translation and literacy as well as in training national preachers and church leaders. Such was the case with David and Alice Parrish,



Thomas Dukun (left) and Cain Ruruk enjoy their time working together

(SIL/BTA/PBT continued on back)

Papua New Guinea Tsunami

As many of you know, a segment of land along the north coast of Papua New Guinea was hit by tragedy July 17 when a phenomenon known as a *tsunami* struck. A tsunami is an oceanic tidal wave induced by an earthquake or volcano in the ocean. In this case it was an earthquake. Just after dark that evening, multiple villages along a 20 mile stretch between Wewak and Aitape were destroyed when three to five 20-30 foot tidal waves washed them and scores of inhabitants away. The final death toll is not known, but estimates are that 3,000 people died.

First Nend Books Printed !

by Norm & Jill Weatherhead

In July, Pasinkap was alive with activity as we held our first Writer's Workshop. In a Writer's Workshop, we not only teach people to write in their own language, but we get some of their stories in print to use in future literacy work. By the end of this Workshop, we had four books containing 26 stories in the Nend language—the first Nend literature ever in print! Bobby Eiland, a PBT literacy specialist, and Thomas Dukun, a national literacy specialist from the Mbore language, combined entertainment with education as they used skits and humor to teach the basic principles of writing. This year's group of interns also lent a hand in producing the books.

To cap off the Workshop, the people gathered for a feast and concluding program. Local dignitaries honored us with their presence. All the participants received certificates and copies of the four books—an accomplishment to be proud of! We have taken a major step in preparing the Angaua people to receive the Nend New Testament in the not-too-distant future!

Norm and Jill, translators working with the Nend speaking Angaua people, live in Pasinkap with their sons, Eric and Glen.



While that is several hundred miles from where we live and work, we still grieve with those affected. Most local people lost some or all of their immediate family members. As reports circulated around the world, we and family members back home received dozens of emails, calls and letters of concern for our safety. We want to thank you for your outpouring of love. We are blessed. Thank you, too, for your prayers on behalf of those who lost so much.

THE SONGS OF NEND

by Norm & Jill Weatherhead

During the month of August we spent some time "camping out" in villages that surround Pasinkap. The first weekend was in Astangu. A highlight of this visit was an all night worship service. (It is much cooler at night and there aren't any distractions!)

The youth group sang until sunrise. (We "old folks" went to bed at 3 am.) It was so awesome



Practicing some new songs from the newly published Nend songbook

sitting under the stars, listening to these voices praising God in their own language. They sang a lot of songs in Nend.

It is exciting to report that there is a book of Nend songs now in print! When we head back to Pasinkap in October we will be selling it for a small fee to help cover the cost of printing (This gives it more value in the eyes of the people than just giving it away).

We were also able to record a cassette of the songs and will make those available as well.

Soon the hills of the Angaua people will be alive with the sound of music...IN NEND!





World Mission Builders Update

As you receive this, PNG visas should be firmly stamped in passports and the personnel from World Mission Builders should be preparing to board the airplanes to take off on their first of many legs leading to Madang, Papua New Guinea. Lord willing the months of site preparations for the multi-purpose building and additional apartment will be nearly complete and the supplies will be in place awaiting their arrival.

Please continue to uphold these projects in prayer. Pray for the safety of the workers. Pray that all materials will be available. Pray that all the pieces will fall into place. Pray that these buildings will be used to the glory of God and the furthering of His kingdom. Pray that the additional funds will be given. Presently 70% of the needed funds are pledged.

We look forward to featuring *results* in our next issue of *The Storyboard*. We still want to give you the opportunity to contribute if you feel led to do so. If you would like to help us with these projects, donations can be sent directly to our International Service Center at:

Pioneer Bible Translators
SIL Box 255
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75236

Important: Please indicate that the funds are for “PNG building projects”.

(SIL/BTA/PBT continued from front)

who spent many years living among the Mbore people.

Thomas Dukun, a Mbore language speaker, was one of the first from a PBT allocation to be fully trained as a Literacy Specialist. The Lord is not only using Thomas' willingness and skills among the Mbore speakers, but he has been in great demand by other nearby languages as well.



Soon after allocating Anne felt the need to enlist others in furthering literacy efforts already begun by a former colleague also with SIL. She requested the services of BTA. In early 1998, Thomas Dukun was asked by BTA to aid Cain Ruruk in a teacher training workshop among the Onobasulu speakers. At the end of this time, Cain was confident in Thomas' ability to continue on as a literacy supervisor for this program.



Onobasulu children in school

Since that initial session, Thomas has been accompanied by Yalambing Yapi, also a BTA Literacy Specialist, for follow up courses in May and August. They have one visit remaining to complete this assignment.

On a recent visit to the village, Anne noticed that children, illiterate as recently as March, had carved the alphabet in the clay alongside the path leading from the airstrip. What a tremendous incentive and encouragement to Anne and her co-translators as they progress in translating books of the Bible. The joint organizational efforts are already bearing fruit. Among the Onobasulu there will be new readers ready and waiting to receive the Word!

Anne and Sandra both arrived in Papua New Guinea in 1993 and attended the same Pacific Orientation Course session. Sandra is part of the PBT support team in Madang serving as an administrator.



The *Storyboard* is published quarterly by:

Pioneer Bible Translators
PO Box 178
Madang 511
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Phone 675-852-2440 FAX 675-852-2506
E-Mail pbtpng@global.net.pg

Editor: Sandra Schofield

Typesetting: Chris Urton