



# The Storyboard

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## FAMILI BILONG GOD

by Ellen Rohrer

One of the first Christian songs I learned in Tok Pisin is "Famili Bilong God."

*Long marimari bilong God em i salim Jisas i kam.  
Bungim yumi ananit long diwai kros.  
Yes, yes, yes, yes, yumi kam bung wantaim  
Na kamap famili, famili, famili bilong God.*

The English translation would be: "In God's grace, He sent Jesus who came. Let's gather at the foot of the cross. Yes (emphasized), let's gather together and become a family—the family of God." The song has a second verse that says it is Jesus who brings people who did not previously know each other together in Him. God has been reinforcing this truth in me since I first came to Papua New Guinea four months ago. It was very difficult to leave my children, my parents, brothers and sisters, and friends in the States. But my PBT family met me at the airport in Madang. I was assigned a *was famili* (guardian family) on Nobnob Mountain during my time at the Summer Institute of Linguistics' Center for Pacific Orientation Course, and given another *was famili* during my five weeks of village living. All of these people have carefully guarded me and provided for my



Ellen Rohrer with Julie and Betuel and some of her "family."

needs as a *susa* (sister) in Christ.

I also became a *tumbuna* (grandmother) during village living. During my first week in Auron, I met many people, but one young woman and her baby son quickly became very

## Twice Blessed by Chris Urton

I had just made it back into the office at 4:45 PM on Friday afternoon. I was looking forward to picking up my wife, Lori, and heading home. Then Lori told me that I needed to go to the Missionary Aviation Fellowship hangar at the airport and pick up a sick woman and her husband who were being evacuated from Likan village, where the Butler family ministers among the Banaro people. They needed to be transported to the hospital. Lori informed me that the plane should be in at 5:00 PM. I was to pick up Andrew, my Papua New Guinean co-worker who is also from Likan, on my way out to the hangar or on the way back in. It was important that I take a bottle of cold water and get K20.00 to give to the husband. Although I was tired after a full week and this definitely was not something I wanted to do, I would have to carry the woman to the car and into the hospital.



The Urton family works in Madang as a support team.

My daughter Stephanie decided to go with me. We stopped at Andrew's home on the way out. Luckily, he was home and was willing to go with us. When we got to the hangar, Rachel, the sick lady and Tom, her husband, had already arrived. When I saw her, I was ashamed that I felt the way I did. Her feet and hands were all swollen. She appeared to have no strength at all and she could barely muster the energy to cough. Fortunately,

# RESU



*Framing under the Crescent House*

As promised, we are dedicating a large portion of this issue to showing results of our frequent requests for your prayers and financial support throughout 1998. For about three years we have been planning, rearranging plans and counting the cost to see if such undertakings would be feasible for us. It is with great thanksgiving that we submit this report to you. We praise the Lord for his faithfulness and the tremendous progress made thus far in expanding our office and living facilities.

Our people worked diligently for months purchasing and transporting materials to both construction sites for the two weeks of intensive hard labor during the World Mission Builders' (WMB) stay in Madang. In addition, proper architectural drawings had to be approved and building permits obtained from the city council.

On October 20th, we welcomed Ed Thomas, Wayne Duhon, George Ruffner, Mark Moody, David Monks, Art Cordoba and Juan Valenzuela (all with WMB) to Madang. Their immersion was immediate, as they insisted on going from the airport to the building sites to make assessment as to what was needed and how to divide their work force. They were on the job by daylight the next day and nearly every day during their stay. Their efforts, combined with PBT staff members and three men specially imported from the East Sepik Province, made for rapid results.

Following full days of hard work in the boiling tropical sun, which resulted in a few cases of heat exhaustion and dehydration, and first-time encounters with *kwila*, PNG's own ironwood, both buildings were taking shape. When WMB departed on November 4th, we had two solid structures.

By the time you receive this, the new two bedroom apartment should be fully functional and in use. Work is continuing on the two-story building behind our office which will house a meeting area, buying and shipping area, and a kids' room. We are looking forward to conducting our Annual General Meeting upstairs in January.

We do ask that you keep holding us up in prayer. Our Technical Services Department continues to work to complete these projects. Please keep their safety in mind. Also, we are still needing about US \$16,000 to pay off the loan we took out in order to finance these projects. **If you are led to donate funds, please send your payment designated to "PNG Building Projects" to Pioneer Bible Translators / SIL Box 255 / 7500 West Camp Wisdom Road / Dallas TX 75236.**



*Emanuel Pita and Chris and Stephanie Urton look on as Rod Hildebrand makes a cut on the siding for the Crescent House.*



*Rod Hildebrand sets another stud under the present Crescent House.*



# L T S !

## World Mission Builders Putting Permanence in Missions

World Mission Builders (WMB) was started in 1975 for the purpose of putting 'permanence in missions.' The primary focus of WMB is to recruit and send young men to Bible college, establish new churches, train church leaders, construct church buildings, provide teaching materials for churches, and support national evangelists on the field. When WMB helps a missionary build a building in a village or town, and then helps educate and support a national evangelist in his work there, they help create a permanent ministry among the people regardless of how long a missionary is able to remain with them.

Lord willing, PBT will be benefitting from the WMB construction talents for years to come. The facilities they helped us build will be used to further the work of Bible translation, literacy and training in the country of Papua New Guinea. **If you are interested in finding out more about the World Mission Builders ministry, you can write to Ed Thomas / Route 1 Box 20 / Miami OK 74354 or Wayne Duhon / P O Box 817 / Brookshire TX 77423-0817.**

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*Blessed* continued from page 1.

Tom and Andrew carried her to the truck. While driving to the hospital I looked in the rear view mirror a couple of times and could see Tom's eyes. Desperation, futility and love showed through his eyes as he nestled his wife's head on his shoulder with his arm around her. I think this may have been the first time that I have seen a PNG husband showing affection like that to his wife. When we got to the hospital, Andrew and Tom again carried her out of the truck to the wheelchair. After getting her onto a bed, Tom held her hand and tried to comfort her. I don't even know if she could feel his hand holding hers. When we left the hospital to take Andrew home, he told us that Rachel had been sick for quite awhile. For two years, health workers and doctors tried to find the cause of her illness, but nothing helped. I thought back to Lori's situation earlier this year when we didn't know what was wrong with her for two months. I thought that had been bad. Two years! I don't think I could handle that. I feel I am doubly blessed by this experience. Once, by having Andrew as a friend to share it with me, and secondly, by being a blessing to someone else.

[Ed.] *Rachel died about ten days after arriving at the hospital.*

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Chris Urton works in Madang for the Technical Services Department and the Computer Department.



*Andrew Likari helps out the World Mission Builders in setting the trusses on the new Multi-Purpose Building.*



*It took 10 men to place these heavy-duty kwila stairs.*



*The World Mission Builders are ready to leave after all their hard work.*



*Editor's Note: Each year PBT staff plan and sponsor a kids' retreat for the children of PBT missionaries as well as those from other local missions. The 1998 retreat was held in September with 16 campers (third grade - high school) from four countries and five missions.*

## Life in the Village

By Ryan Sweeney

"Yeah!" I yelled triumphantly as my friend Leslie kicked the ball into the goal. Leslie and I were playing soccer with our friends in the village of Katiati where we live in the Madang Province of Papua New Guinea. My parents, Mike and Linda Sweeney, work with Pioneer Bible Translators, and that makes me an MK (Missionary Kid). My friend Leslie is a Papua New Guinean. He and his two sisters, three brothers and their parents live about twenty steps away from our house. Whenever we are out of school, we like to play together. Usually we go to a four-inch-deep creek and swim in it. Well, okay, there are some three-foot-deep spots, but it is mostly really shallow. We always play tag while we are swimming—especially when the water gets all muddy so that you can't see your hand in front of your face. Then we get out, dry off, and go home. Another thing that we like to do is to play basketball. Sometimes the court is muddy and we can't play, but we do play often. The village is my favorite place to be.

## My Time at the Retreat

By Chris Sweeney

The kids' retreat in September was a lot of fun. We got to go snorkeling and jump out of trees into the water, and Paul Fugelstad taught us about what a disciple really is. Before Paul taught, Shem would play the guitar and we would all sing some songs. Every day we had a schedule planned out for us, and even though we had to do things like wash the dishes and go to bed earlier than we wanted to, we couldn't really expect the adults to do all the work for about twenty kids. I got to see some kids like Jason Hayward whom I hadn't seen in a while because they'd been out in the village or in Ukarumpa recently. I'm glad we had the retreat.

## Fun at Krangket Island

By Ryne Urton

My family and I just came to Papua New Guinea in March of 1998, so this was my first year to attend the PBT (Pioneer Bible Translators) Kids' Retreat at Krangket Island. At the Kids' Retreat I had a lot of fun, swimming and learning about God. Paul Fugelstad taught us about how to be disciples of Christ. Also we enjoyed talking to each other. We all had a great time swimming and being able to spend our free time doing what we wanted to do. One of my friends slept during one of our free times. We also played some games after our learning sessions in the evening. One thing I did not like is that I had to get up at 6:00 in the morning! In spite of that we all had a lot of fun at Krangket Island.



Diane Miller, PBT teacher, with Ryne, Chris, Ryan and Stephanie Urton.

Chris and Ryan Sweeney are the sons of Mike and Linda, who serve as Bible translators among the Mum people. Mike is also currently serving as the Branch Director. Ryne Urton and his sister Stephanie are the children of Chris and Lori, who are currently serving as a support team in the office in Madang.

*Famili* continued from page 1.

special to me. (Maybe it was because her name is Julie, like my own daughter.) When Julie learned that I had grown children who were unmarried and I was therefore not a grandmother, she 'adopted' me as her *liklik mama* (little mother).

One day, Julie's sister came to me and told me that Betuel was very sick. I told her that I would come to Julie's parents' house as soon as I could. When I arrived, however, I learned that Betuel had malaria and had been taken by Julie to the *haus sik* after he had lost consciousness. A terrible fear welled up inside me, and I asked Julie's parents if I could pray with them. I started to pray in Tok Pisin, but quickly reverted to English as my mind struggled to remember the right words and the proper syntax. Julie's parents may not have understood my words, but they certainly understood the tone and depth of feeling, for when I finished, all of our faces were wet with tears. This was our baby grandson, theirs and mine, and they acknowledged me as a part of their family. God was good to us. He answered our prayers as we hoped He would, and within a few days Betuel was home and re-

covering nicely. (The picture shows the three of us about a week after Betuel's hospital stay.)

In John 8, Jesus says that if anyone leaves houses, lands, mother, father, children, sisters or brothers to follow Him, He will give them a hundred-fold in this lifetime and eternal life to come. Jesus, the Truth, keeps His promises.

Ellen Rohrer arrived in PNG in August of this year. She recently completed her orientation course and is serving as a Literacy Specialist.



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