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The SIL Centre at Ukarumpa

By Michael

Papua New Guinea has lots of potential. It is rich in natural resources, languages, and cultures. This young country has a few cities, and some roads connect some of them together, but most people in Papua New Guinea live in rural villages, far from roads and the infrastructure associated with cities.



Michael with Neil Anderson, one of the translators of the Folopa New Testament. Michael recently typeset the Folopa New Testament using the software he wrote for that purpose.

Ukarumpa is a focal point for the many Bible translation and literacy projects in Papua New Guinea. The SIL Centre is an oasis for Bible translators, with a linguistic library, auto shop, Internet service provider, two-way radio station for communicating with translators out in villages, a store, a quality Christian

school, aviation services (both fixed and rotary wing), a post office, DHL delivery services, a clinic, typesetting services, computer training and support, consulting services, electronic repair services, a print shop, telephone services, our own electrical power generation and distribution services, and a whole community full of neighbors who can help each other. You may be thinking that except for the Bible translation and literacy work focus, this is all stuff people take for granted in our home countries (which are many). It is at least an attempt to be that good. However, it takes a *lot* of time and money to get from here to there and back, so it does much more good to have the infrastructure here.

Praise God for Ukarumpa and all of His servants who work and live here! Please pray that God will send more laborers into Papua New Guinea. The harvest is indeed ready!



Family on South Pacific Island Watches for Miracle

Have you ever watched *Gilligan's Island*? It was not the most comforting memory the last time I was adrift at sea, but that is another story.

Right now, we are believing God for the finances for a family trip to Australia the 26th of June to the 18th of July. The reasons we want to go include getting a couple of medical tests done for Lori, respite for all of us, and to eat a turkey sandwich at Subway. Seriously, we would benefit greatly from a trip to a country with culture and conveniences similar to what we left behind in the USA. Cost? About US \$5,000.00. If you feel that God would like you to help get this family off of this island for a sanity break, please don't miss your opportunity to be part of a miracle. ☺

SIL PNG Branch Statistics	
Living languages catalogued in PNG ¹	820
Population of PNG ¹	5,420,280
Average number of people per language ⁴	6,610
Number of languages worked in since 1956 ²	337
Number of languages we are working in now ²	186
New Testaments completed and dedicated ²	150
Complete Bibles dedicated ²	1
Number of Wycliffe organization members ³	612
Guest helpers ³	21
Seconded from other missions, including EBT ³	13
Number of PNG employees ³	258
Number of people working directly for SIL PNG ⁴	904
Number of countries represented ³	19

¹http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=PG More languages are being catalogued as they are found and analyzed by survey teams.
²SIL PNG LCORE database
³SIL PNG Director's Office
⁴Computed from the other statistics in this table

◀Ukarumpa SIL Centre from the air. The Aiyura airstrip is to the right and behind the centre.

PNG includes 600 islands. The largest island is shared with Indonesia.▶

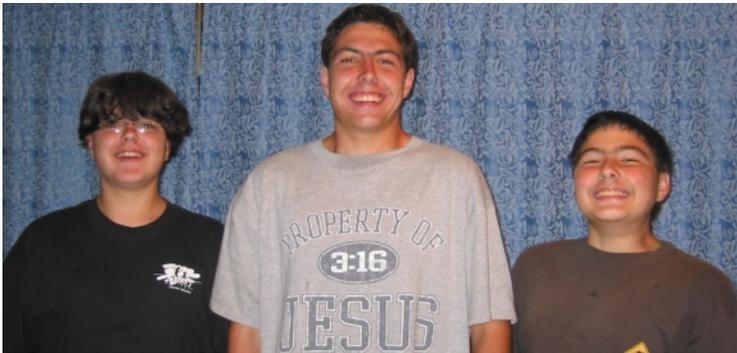


Kids' Column

President—Nate; Editor and artist—Ben; *Water Boy and idealist*—Evan

Signs that you've been in Ukarumpa for a while:

- ▶ You assume that everything starts at 7:30 pm.¹
- ▶ You can tell the difference between a Korean and a Japanese, a Swede and a Finn, and a Gadsup and Tairora.²
- ▶ You think most cars are either falling apart or four-wheel drive.³
- ▶ You understand acronyms like: PCT, TSD, CTS, UIS, LCORE, SIL, WA, EBT, PBT, and BTA.⁴
- ▶ You think bars on windows are normal.⁵
- ▶ You aren't fazed when you see someone carrying a machete around.⁶
- ▶ You mix Pidgin and English. (Let's go *bung* at the *haus win*.)⁷
- ▶ You can be totally entertained by things that cost nothing.⁸
- ▶ You think that burning things is a constructive use of your time.⁹
- ▶ You think of old TV shows, rugby games, Pidgin news, and catchy commercials when you hear someone say MTV.¹⁰
- ▶ You think that shoes belong on power lines.¹¹



Explanations:

1. For some reason, nearly every evening event starts at 7:30 PM in Ukarumpa, because that is what people are used to.
2. We spend so much time with people from these places that it is easy to tell them apart.
3. Most cars in Ukarumpa are usually either off-road vehicles or 30-year-old vans.
4. Everything has an acronym in Ukarumpa. You can guess what they mean.
5. Nearly every window has bars on it in Ukarumpa.
6. People carry machetes everywhere—in the same way and for the same reasons that other people carry pocket knives or garden tools.
7. Most people know Pidgin and English and one or more other languages, so it's ok to use whatever word is best, regardless of language.
8. I recently entertained myself by climbing a big dirt pile.
9. Burning things is a way of life, and kerosene and petrol are readily available most of the time.
10. The PNG television channel (which has only been available in Ukarumpa for under a year, but not yet at our house) is EM TV, which means "That's TV."
11. Most people go barefoot in PNG, but when a pair of shoes is old, it's customary to tie the shoes together and hang them over a power or phone line.



Lillian (center) with *The Wordless Book*

The Wordless Book

By Lori

It is common for many Papua New Guineans to not be able to read their local language or Tok Pisin. In my national women's Bible study, about 5 out of 12 of them can read the Tok Pisin Bible we study out of, and some of those have a hard time reading well. Papua New Guinean society is an oral society. Stories have been passed from generation to generation this way. This is something I have to consider as I create Bible studies for these women.

Starting in January of 2005, the other leader and I started a discipleship time to encourage other women to get fully grounded in their Christian walk. We are ending this 6-month discipleship class with an outreach to a nearby village, where many of the women live. The outreach will have the women leading worship with other people from their village, two testimonies, and then one of the women sharing a salvation message using *The Wordless Book*. I also made up many bracelets with the same colors, so it would help remind them about each color of the book and what it represents. We will also bring beads and string to the village for the people to make these "salvation" bracelets. Each color represents an aspect of the salvation message: yellow for heaven and the love of God, black for our sins, red for Jesus' blood that was given so you could live with Him in heaven, white for His cleansing and forgiveness of our sins, and green to remind us that just as plants need nutrients so we need spiritual food to grow in our knowledge of Jesus. During our discipleship time, we broke up into small groups and practiced *The Wordless Book* and also sharing the salvation message by making a bracelet. The women thought this was a wonderful way to share, and are excited to be able to have this tool. One of the women leads a Wednesday Bible study in her village and asked for extra bracelets and wordless books so she could share this with her women's Bible study.

Would you pray right now for these women, especially Lillian, who is going to share *The Wordless Book* in Aseranka Village in her Gadsup language?

Prayer Requests

- ▶ Godly wisdom
- ▶ Effectiveness in ministry.
- ▶ Provision for air fare and travel expenses next month, as well as for an increase in our regular monthly support to meet our full budget.
- ▶ That we would stay healthy.
- ▶ Protection from spiritual and physical harm.

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Michael & Lori Johnson