

MISSIONARY LESSONS
FOR MISSION MINDED KIDS

THE WILSON FAMILY
SERVING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



The Wilson Family in Papua New Guinea

Goals for the Lesson:

- Students will be introduced to the Wilson Family, E.C. Missionaries in Papua New Guinea (PNG).
- Students will understand that many spoken languages around the world have never been put into writing, so the people cannot read or write their own language.
- Students will be introduced to the culture of Papua New Guinea and the work of Bible Translators on this island nation.

Verse for the Wilsons:

“Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? Romans 10:13-14

Before Class:

- Read through the lesson and decide what you will do according to your class time and the age of your students.
- Prepare pictures, including Wilson’s Prayer Card, to be shown as slides on a screen, or print them and back them with cardstock for stability.
- Write the verse for the Wilsons on a blackboard or dry erase board or poster board so that everyone can see it.
- If you have mostly younger students, make copies of helicopter and crocodile pages to use in class or send home.
- If you have mostly older students, make copies of Page 1 and 2 of Papua New Guinea story. Make copies of Page 1 and 2 of Papua New Guinea Wycliffe Fun Facts Map pages. **Print Page 1 of the PNG Story on the back of Page 2 of the PNG Map. Print Page 2 of the PNG story on the back of Page 1 of the PNG Map.** Attach pages together so that students can see the two map pages together on one side and the double story page on the other side.
- Make a batch of banana patties to share in class if desired. Make copies of the Muna Bug/Banana Patty page to send home so the kids can try making the recipe.

Lesson Plan:

- Begin the lesson time by reading the little “Muna Bug” story. Take a few answers from the kids and then show them the verse and read it out loud. Read it again all together. Discuss what this means, and how the Muna Bug story relates to this verse. (10-15 min.)
- Play the “In One Ear” activity together, spending time thoroughly discussing the value of having a message written down as well as given orally. (10-15 min.)
- Read or tell the story part of the lesson, showing the pictures at the appropriate times and discussing as necessary. (15-20 min.)
- Use the PNG map and story pages as additional activities to teach your **older students** about PNG culture. Do these activities together as a class, talking about each piece as you go through them. Use the crocodile and helicopter coloring pages if you have mostly **younger students**. Read Elizabeth’s Story out loud while students color the pictures. Serve Banana Patties as a cultural snack if desired. (15-20 min.)

Story for the Wilson Family in Papua New Guinea:

New Guinea is the second largest island in the world, located just above the country of Australia. (Greenland is the largest) **(Show map of Australia and New Guinea)** The western half of the island is called Irian Jaya and is ruled by the Muslim country of Indonesia. The eastern half of the island is called Papua New Guinea and is an independently ruled country. On the map, you can see that Australia is pointing up at New Guinea, and that the Pacific Ocean completely surrounds this large island.

New Guinea is very close to the equator, so the weather is very hot and humid. There are a lot of mountains and jungles and rivers on this large island, which makes traveling rather difficult. There are about 6 million people in the country of Papua New Guinea, but since these people speak almost 900 different languages, communicating is also rather difficult. Because traveling and communicating are challenging in this island nation, many of the groups of people are isolated from the other groups, and just keep their own traditions, language and culture without knowing much about other people.

You might think that it is normal to be able to speak and read and write in your own language. Many of the languages of the world, however, have never before been written down. Lots of people might be able to speak a certain language, but if the people have never developed an alphabet of symbols, then there is no way of putting their spoken words into writing. Besides needing an alphabet, the people would also need to have access to paper, and writing instruments, and then they would need to have a way to teach the people how to read, and a way to print copies of something for the people to read.

God wrote a Book of His Words and gave it to people as a gift. But if a group of people has never had an alphabet, and no one in the whole group knows how to read, how will those people ever learn about what God tells us in His Book? Wycliffe Bible Translators is an organization that sends missionaries all over the world to help groups of people develop their own written language, and then translate God's Word into that language so that the people can learn to read it.

Jonathan and Kathy Wilson and their children are one family of missionaries working with Wycliffe Bible Translators. **(Show Wilsons Prayer Card)** They live in Papua New Guinea and work with the Binandere people group. About 7000 people speak Binandere and live along the banks of three large rivers in Papua New Guinea. It has taken many years for the Wilsons to get to know these people and learn the Binandere language. Then Jonathan has worked hard with some of the Binandere men to figure out a good alphabet and begin to put their words into writing. Slowly, they have been able to translate some of God's Words into the Binandere language and teach some of the people how to read it. They still have a long way to go, but they have made a lot of progress.

When the Wilson family first went to Papua New Guinea, their children were small. Now, Justin Wilson is married and living with his wife and son in Oregon. Sarah Wilson is attending college near where her brother lives in Oregon, and Jonita is finishing her last years of high school in an international missionary school in Papua New Guinea.

The Wilsons have two houses in Papua New Guinea. One is located on the mission base near where Jonita goes to school. This is a house very much like yours, with electric lights, a stove and refrigerator, a washing machine, and running water. The Wilsons stay at this house for a few weeks or months at a time while they are doing certain types of work that can't be done in their village home.

Their village home is located about 175 miles from the mission base in the jungle. To get there, they travel on a small 5 passenger mission airplane to a grass airstrip. Then they transfer all of their stuff into a mission helicopter to travel the last 40 miles to their jungle village. **(Show grass air strip picture.)**

The Wilson's village home is made just like the other people's houses in the village. It sits on stilts about 7 feet off the ground. This keeps the village pigs out of the house, and keeps everything dry when the river floods. The walls of the house are made of sago palm branches, which allow the air to flow through them. Although the villagers use thatching to cover their roofs, the Wilsons have a tin roof on their house. This allows them to catch the rainwater in a large tank so they have a supply of fairly clean water. The village people use water from the river to wash and cook with. The Wilsons also use a solar panel to generate electricity that can be stored in a car battery. This gives just enough power to work the computer, printer and short-wave radio used for the translation work, and to power one light for after-dark hours in their home. They usually stay in the village for several months at a time while they work to build relationships, teach the people, and develop their language.

Kathy Wilson works with the women and girls in the village to teach them how to read and write in their own language, and to learn about God from the Bible. Jonathan works in the shade under their house with the Binandere translating team of men. They use the car battery to power Jonathan's computer to help them in their work. Please pray for Justin, Sarah and Jonita as they complete their schooling far from their parents. Pray for Jonathan to make good progress on the translation work so the Binandere people can read God's Word, and pray for Kathy as she helps her own family and the Binandere families in many ways.

In One Ear Activity

Before Class: Cut the two small strips of language off the bottom of this page. They say the same message, but one is in English and one is in Russian.

Activity: Divide the students into two groups and have them sit on the floor or in chairs in two lines with their backs to each other. Each line will be a team, but they shouldn't be so close that they can see or hear what the other is doing. Explain that you will send a message down each line by whispering the message into the ear of the student at the beginning, as well as giving them the message in writing. Each student should then whisper what they hear to the person next to them, taking care not to let others hear what they are saying. The person at the end will report the message they received. (If your group is very large, you can divide into 3 teams. Each team should have between 3 and 10 students.)

Go to the beginning of one line and whisper "God wants everyone in the world to know how much He loves them. Some still wait!" into the ear of the first student and at the same time, hand them the message written in Russian. That student should whisper the message and pass the strip of paper down their line until it reaches the end.

Go to the beginning of the second line and whisper the same message to the first student, and at the same time, hand them the strip of paper written in English so that they can read the message also. They should pass the paper along as they whisper, allowing each student to hear the message and read it at the same time.

Discussion and Application: **This is the most important part of the activity.**

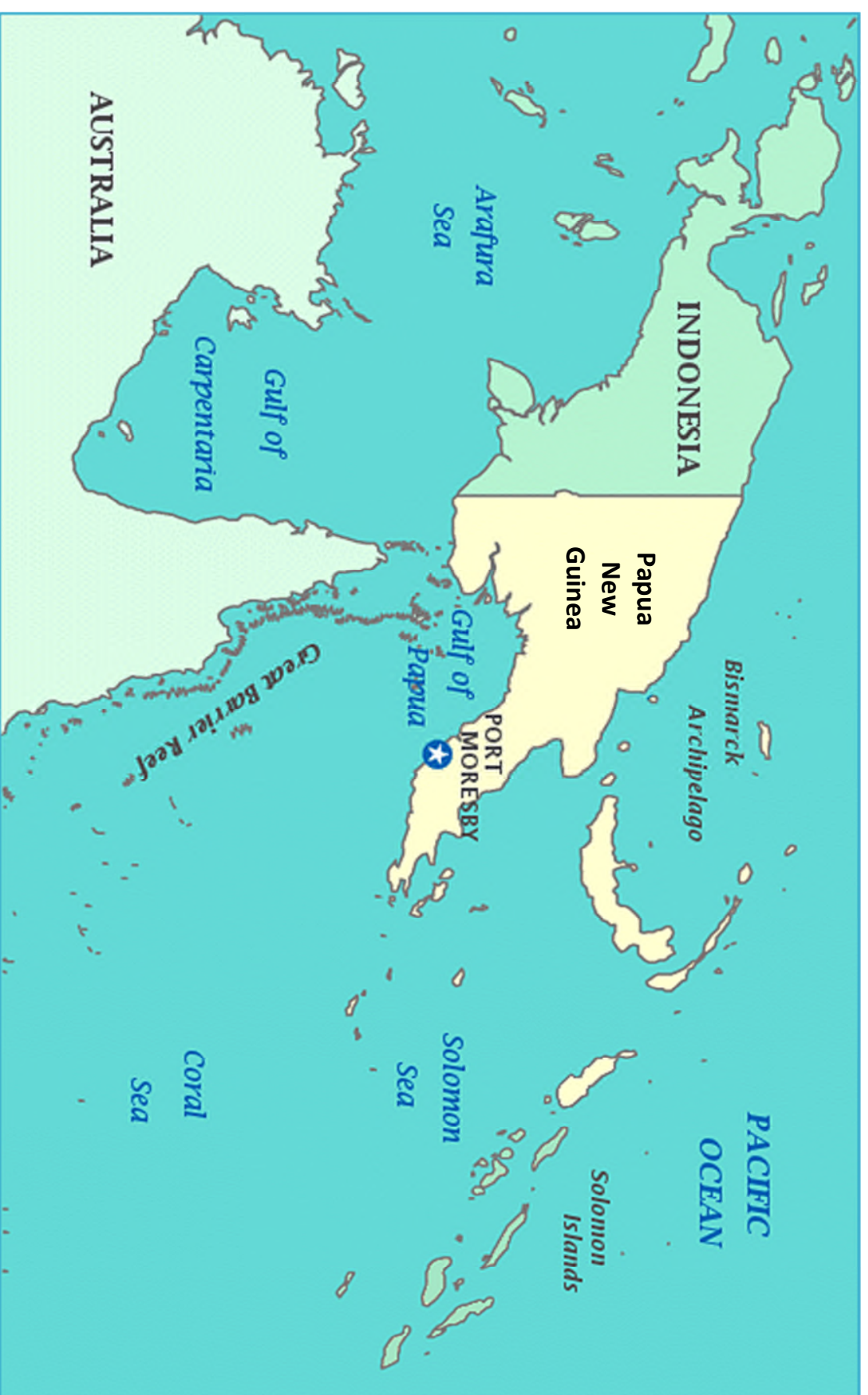
When both teams have passed the message to the end, have the last person of the first team stand up and deliver the message they heard. Then have the last person from the second team stand up and deliver the message they heard, reading it from their strip of paper.

Help the kids to discover why the first team was not able to accurately pass the original message along, but the second team was able to understand it perfectly. Discuss with them how much easier accurate communication is when the message is written in a language the hearers can understand. Why is it easier to remember and understand a message if you can both hear and see it?

Explain that for over 2600 language groups around the world, there is no Bible written down in their own language. That means that even if someone comes to tell them the message of Christ's love for them, the message can easily be forgotten or changed around, because there is no way to both hear and see the message.

"God wants everyone in the world to know how much He loves them. Some still wait!"

"Бог хочет каждый человек в мире, знают, как много он любит их. Некоторые по-прежнему подождите! "





Muna Bugs

(Pronounced “moon-ah”)

Muna Bugs are like candy to Papua New Guinean children. During “bug season” kids run around, batting the large black bugs out of the sky and saving them in pockets and cans. When the kids get hungry, they just pop off the wings and legs of a muna, toss it into the fire to roast it and then.....crunch, munch.....they gobble them up!

The Papua New Guinea kids say muna bugs taste delicious and some people think they may even be healthy for you. But they don’t sound like a yummy snack to most American children. Why do you think kids in America would politely decline eating roasted bugs with a glass of milk after school? Because we don’t usually do that in our country, we’re not accustomed to eating bugs and we don’t see a really good reason why we should try!

Reading the Bible for many Papua New Guineans is the same as eating bugs for Americans. It’s not something Papua New Guineans do because it hasn’t been available in the language they understand best. So why should they want to “eat” it? The Bible may contain wonderful spiritual food, but if Papua New Guineans have never had it before, they don’t see why they should start reading it now.

Do you think people should read God’s Word? Why?

Banana Patties

1 can of coconut milk

½ tsp. salt

3 green cooking bananas (plaintains)

½ cup flour

¼ cup chopped green onions

Peel and grate the bananas. Mix all the ingredients together. Press into small patties and place on greased cookie sheet. Bake in oven at 350 degrees until lightly browned.



ANIMALS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) QUIZ

Can you match these animals of PNG with their pictures?

___ **A) Crocodile:** I am a large reptile who lives in swamps and marshes along the coast. I have been known to attack large animals and human beings!

___ **B) Cassowary:** I am a tall, large bird. I cannot fly, but I run very fast. I lay very large blue-green eggs.

___ **C) Wallaby:** I have strong back legs that help me jump. My long heavy tail helps me keep my balance. I carry my baby in my pouch.

___ **D) Echidna:** My body is covered with long sharp spines. I use my sticky tongue to catch termites. I have sharp claws for digging. God made me special. I am one of the few mammals that lay eggs!






___ **E) Bird Wing Butterfly:** I am the largest butterfly in the world, with a wing span of nearly 12 inches. Some of my colors may be florescent green or blue, purple, yellow, or black.
















___ **F) Hornbill:** I am a large, awkward-looking bird with a large beak. I am very noisy, making whooping, grunting, braying and honking sounds.








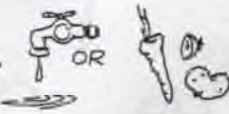

___ **G) Opossum:** I am a slow moving animal. When I am being attacked I may play dead. My babies cling to my fur. I hang from trees with my tail.




___ **H) Bird of Paradise:** I am a beautiful colored bird with long tail feathers. My home is deep in the jungles. I am the national bird of Papua New Guinea.




___ **I) Tree Frog:** I am sluggish during the day and like to sit for long periods of time. At night we jump from tree to tree and sing till day break.











PAPUA NEW GUINEA  IS ON THE SECOND-LARGEST  IN THE WORLD. THE PEOPLE OF  ARE DIVIDED INTO MANY DIFFERENT GROUPS. THEY LIVE IN  AND SMALL  ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.




THERE ARE MANY , SWAMPS AND  IN . THIS MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GROUPS OF  TO GET TOGETHER. IT'S NOT EASY BUILDING  OVER THE ROUGH LAND. MOST PEOPLE ONLY TRAVEL AS FAR AS THEY CAN WALK. SMALL  CAN LAND IN MANY OF THE . IN FACT, THERE ARE MORE AIR STRIPS THAN MAJOR  IN . THE  DO NOT HAVE A LOT OF , HOWEVER, SO THEY DON'T TRAVEL BY  VERY OFTEN. BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY GROUPS OF  SEPARATED FROM EACH OTHER,  HAS MORE LANGUAGES THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. THERE ARE 862 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES IN .







MOST OF THE  OF PNG ATTEND ELEMENTARY . A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF  GO ON TO HIGH  AND EVEN FEWER GO TO COLLEGE.  LEARN TO HELP OUT AT HOME AT AN EARLY AGE. THEY WORK WITH THEIR MOTHERS IN THE FIELDS GROWING THE  THEY EAT EVERY DAY. THEY HELP CARRY  OR  TO THEIR . THEY OFTEN HELP LOOK AFTER YOUNGER BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

PNG  DON'T KEEP MANY PETS LIKE  OR  BECAUSE THOSE ANIMALS EAT TOO MUCH. SOMETIMES THEY WILL HAVE A PET CAPUL (OPPOSUM-LIKE ANIMAL), A

TREE OR A  THOSE ANIMALS EAT  AND THINGS FROM THE BUSH, SO THE  DO NOT HAVE TO SHARE THEIR OWN FOOD WITH THE ANIMALS.

THE  DON'T OWN MANY . THEY LIKE TO PLAY A GAME SIMILAR TO  USING PEBBLES.  ARE A FAVORITE TOY AMONG THE BOYS. THEY MAKE THEM WITH A  BRANCH, RUBBER TUBING AND A PIECE OF RUBBER USUALLY FROM A  TIRE. MANY  CHILDREN LIKE TO SWIM OR PLAY IN  ... AND   IS ALSO A POPULAR SPORT.

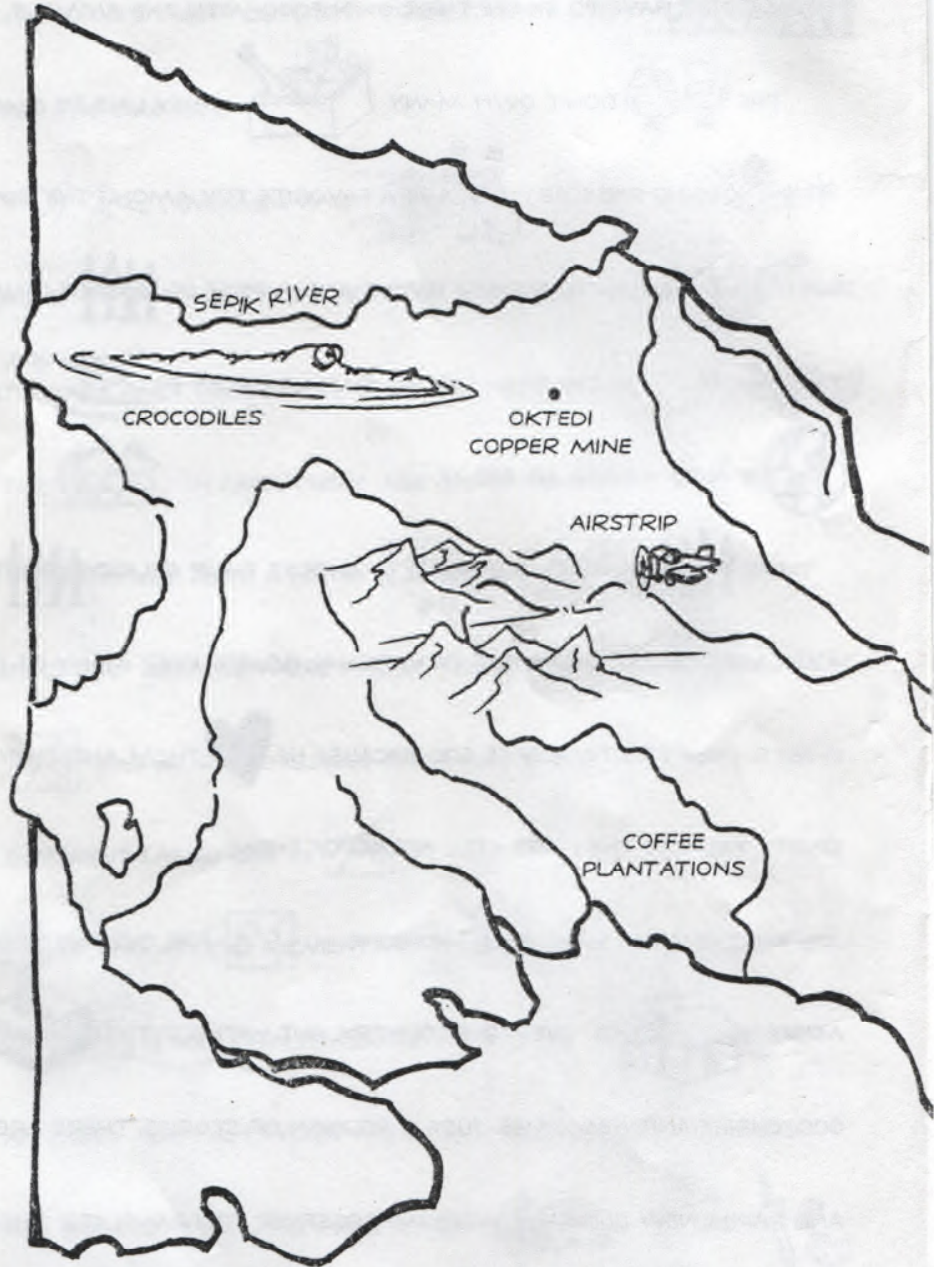
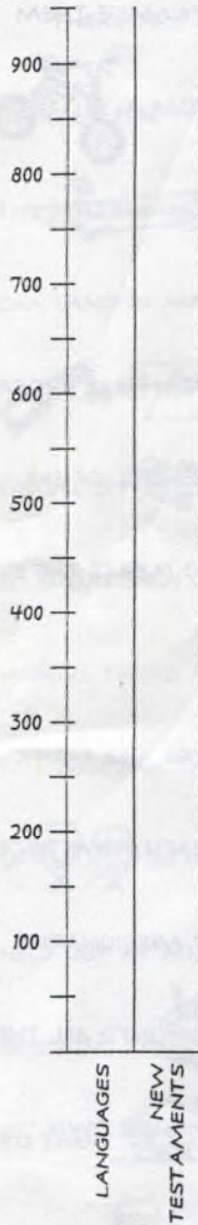
THE  OF  ARE FREE TO CHOOSE THEIR RELIGION. MOST OF THEM HAVE CHOSEN A FORM OF CHRISTIANITY, BUT TRADITIONAL BELIEFS KEEP MANY OF THEM FEARFUL OF EVIL SPIRITS. THEY TRY TO PLEASE GOD BECAUSE HE  THEM AND THEY TRY TO PLEASE THE EVIL SPIRITS BECAUSE THEY ARE STILL AFRAID OF THEM.

MISSIONARIES HAVE BEEN WORKING IN  FOR OVER 100 YEARS. THERE ARE MANY, MANY  ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. BUT WITHOUT THE  TO TEACH THEM ABOUT GOD, CHRISTIANITY BECOMES JUST A RELIGION OF STORIES. THERE ARE MANY MISSIONARIES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEANS WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSLATE* THE  INTO ALL THE LANGUAGES OF  SO THE  CAN READ IT AND LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE.

*TRANSLATE: CHANGING WORDS AND MEANING FROM ONE LANGUAGE INTO ANOTHER.

Papua New Guinea Map Page 1

COLOR IN THE NUMBER
OF LANGUAGES AND
THE NUMBER OF
COMPLETED NEW
TESTAMENTS IN PNG
ON THE GRAPH BELOW



PORT M



THE DRAWINGS ON THESE PAGES WERE DONE BY
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FUN FACTS!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

LAND SIZE: PNG = CALIFORNIA
NATIONAL LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
TRADE LANGUAGE: TOK PISIN & MOTU
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES:
862 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES
COMPLETED NEW TESTAMENTS: 102

VOLCANO



COCONUT
PLANTATIONS



CORAL REEFS



VILLAGES



PORT
DRESBY



CITIES



COLOR THE FLAG:
UPPER TRIANGLE - RED
LOWER TRIANGLE - BLACK
BIRD OF PARADISE - GOLD
STARS - WHITE



Elizabeth's Story

Hello. My name is Elizabeth and I am a 9-year-old Binandere girl living in Nindewari village. My family lives next door to the Wilson family. It is fun playing with the two Wilson girls. Sometimes we take Sarah and Jonita on a canoe ride to our sweet potato and banana gardens. They don't have a garden or a canoe of their own. At night Sarah and Jonita invite us to come bathing and swimming with them at the river. Since we don't have any of that good smelling shampoo or body soap they kindly share theirs with us. They are good swimmers and we have a good time splashing around. Sometimes an old raft comes floating down the river and we take rides on it.

Coming back from the garden on some days I leave a bundle of ferns or a hand of bananas on the Wilson's porch. They like to eat our type of village food. Their mom then sends Sarah or Jonita over to our house with a nice gift of salt or some cookies to thank us. Us village kids love Mrs. Wilson's bread rolls and chocolate cake and cookies. Our moms don't know how to bake those foods.

On some Sunday morning I take a hike down the river along with the Wilson family to the village church. They need help crossing the 7 skinny log bridges along the way. One rainy morning Mrs. Wilson slipped off the bridge and fell right into the river, string bag and all. Wow! Did I feel bad! She is a good swimmer thankfully, but she was all wet and had to hike back home instead of going to church that day.

My grandmother, Betty Rose, loves Jesus and she wants to have a copy of the Binandere New Testament someday. She prays often for the Wilson family to learn the language well and do a good job at translating God's Word. My grandmother sometimes visits Mrs. Wilson and helps her learn more Binandere language. Some afternoons Sarah, Jonita and their mom walk around the village visiting their friends. They often stop by our cook fire for a dhat. Sarah and Jonita don't cook their food over an open fire like we do so they really like giving us a hand. I like teaching them how to scrape coconuts and peel the sweet potatoes.

Mr. Wilson stays very busy along with our fathers doing translation of the Bible into our Binandere language. He is the only person in our village with a computer and printer. There is this strange thing called a solar panel on the roof of their house which is collecting the sun rays and powering their car battery, which then powers his computer.

You might wonder what we do with ourselves all day since we don't have TV or DVD players, or computers. Actually, we have lots of fun in the village. Our cousins and grandparents live next door and so we always have lots of friends around. Sometimes we play marbles or rubber band shooting in the dirt. We share a soccer ball with our cousins and have fun kicking it around. There are a lot of jobs we can do to help our parents, like helping in the garden, collecting fire wood, peeling sweet potatoes and bananas for supper, and washing our pots and laundry at the river. We also go to the community school in our village. I am in the 3rd grade. Our teachers don't give us much homework because they know we have lots of jobs to do at home. By 7:00 each night the kids start getting ready for bed because there are no lights in our houses. Even Sarah and Jonita are in bed early because they only have one light in their house.

When we are not in school or busy with chores we have lots of fun making sling shots or carving toys from wood. Sometimes our parents ask us to catch a chicken for supper. It is great fun chasing that poor chicken all over the village. Sometimes the boys go hunting with their dads out in the jungle. They hunt for opossum, wallabies, or wild pig. Us girls often go fishing with a stick, string and hook to help provide food for supper.

After a few months the Wilson family needs to go back to their mission. Everyone in the village, young and old come running to see the helicopter land on the soccer field. We wave good-bye to Sarah and Jonita and listen to the loud wop-wop-wop noise when it is taking off again. It is sad to see our friends go but we know they will be back in a few months.



Pilots in planes and helicopters
take translators to their villages. 5

Saltwater Crocodile

