

## Outreach International Papua New Guinea

Serving the Ap Ma People of PNG

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See: [www.oipng.com](http://www.oipng.com)



**Tree marked for canoe.**

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### **Digging a Canoe**

Four years ago we came to Tamo and found an



8-year-old dugout canoe someone was willing to part with for a mere 175 US dollars. We more than got our money's worth from that canoe! It only has two small leaks now. But time marches on and we need a canoe that is shorter (than the 60-foot variety) and wider so that we can carry more of the roofing iron and concrete needed for the new literacy center. So here we are again in Tamo; home of the biggest, baddest dug-out canoes you have ever

seen. Jesse was given his pick of three canoes (by that they mean standing trees). After two days of evaluation and preparation, our trusty 3-foot bar chainsaw (thanks GCC, IN) hacked into the 5 foot 11 inch diameter of a goimat (a kind of tree similar to a cedar). The tree is probably nearly 200 years old. (Sad, I know.) It will be a month or more before it is complete, but I will try to send pictures as the process continues.



**Samban's Head Man:  
Mukok & wife, Rona**

### **Second Box Arrives**

Well, sooner than expected our second

crate from the US has arrived in port. We will be traveling to the Highlands again to break down the box and get everything flown out to Samban. This box holds a new refrigerator for the clinic which will enable us to have basic vaccines on hand. We will also be able to have cold packs for burn victims, etc. We are expecting several boxes donated by FAME (Fellowship of Associates of Medical Evangelism, Indianapolis, IN) that will further equip our little clinic. Pray that the customs officers will be kind, and that flights are readily available for shipping these items and many more back to Samban.



**School desks newly built (by Jesse).**

### **School Starts**

Unlike American schools, we start our school year here in late January or early February. This year, January 26<sup>th</sup> marked the kick off of our school year. We have been working to support a small village elementary school for the past two years. This year we have 4 teachers for preschool classes, first and second grade, and we also have a floating vernacular teacher. After second grade they go on to "primary school" which is grades 3-6. There is a community primary school which has been there

a very long time, but they have not offered grade 1 in 5 years, so the smaller elementary school was established in Samban to offer the lower grades. We have a total of 155 students in these grades and turned away many, many more due to lack of teachers and resources. We are hopeful to have one or two

more teachers next year so that we may increase our enrollment. We have helped the school to mill timber and construct desks. We also went to Wewak to start the registration process with the PNG government. The government subsidizes all its schools so we are hoping to tap into that resource in order to upgrade our classrooms and get all children their own books and workbooks. Please pray for teachers and students and parents that all will work together to bring about quality education for these children.



**Hand-carved decorative posts for the Literacy & Worship Center**

### Cocoa Field Is Growing

Our long term plans to keep the clinic operational includes harvesting cocoa from our own orchard and selling the beans to offset costs. Jesse and some of the men have been working at clearing a field and last term planted about 350 cocoa seedlings and last month added 600+ to that number. We are hoping for a field of 2500 by this term's end and we have 400+ still in nursery. This field also includes 150+ coconut trees (for future production of bio diesel) and we have bananas that are providing shade for the seedlings and feed for ourselves and our hogs.



Hand-made dolls (by Karie) for Naleh and friend, Magi.

### Reaping a Harvest

The big addition to the Samban community in early 2009 has to be the **rice mill**. We purchased the rice mill from Project Support Services, an Australian group specializing in helping local farmers at the village level. The mill is a sturdy machine that produces good quality rice. The people are pleased with its output and to date we have milled more than 2000kg (which is about 4000lbs, of new rice). This coming month we will be working to train 4 men to oversee its operation in the village. We are charging a 10% commission on the milled rice to cover the diesel, the engine burns, any repair to the mill, and employee costs to operate the machine. This will encourage the people to make healthier food choices, and hopefully boost the nutrition level here in the village.



Naleh & pet parrot

### Three Musketeers

**Naleh** is counting the days until she gets her bike that is in the crate from the U.S. She feeds the chicks sorghum and rice millings and sometimes we cut ants' nests out of trees for them. **Elijah** enjoys reading in school. He particularly liked going to school when his mom was substitute teacher. What he loves most is a chance to use his slingshot or bow and arrows. **Judah** had fun playing in the river at Tamo and dunking down to get stones and sand to throw at his brother and sister. They aren't the only ones who love to swim!



Judah, age 3, Naleh, age 8, Elijah, age 6