

2010 MID-YEAR REPORT

First 2 quarter reports combined
Ap Ma Project- Jesse and Karie Pryor and Family
July 22, 2010

School Opening In April we received our official government registration number for Samban Central Elementary School. We have been in operation since 2008 and this registration will guarantee government assistance in training and paying our teachers and gives us student subsidies to pay for materials and classrooms. When Jesse was able to bring back the good news, the board immediately started planning an official grand opening. We scheduled it for July 2, 2010; it was the last day of Term 2 and we were already planning a field day that afternoon. As plans shaped up, we invited the Provincial Elementary Education Coordinator and the District Elementary Education trainer. As it happened, Jesse's parents and the Pioneer Bible Translator interns were also able to join us for this big event. The day started off with Sing-Sing groups (traditional dance/dress) welcoming the visitors in the old ways. The students in new uniforms marched to the new Center grounds, which will be the future sight of the classrooms. There was a flag raising ceremony, and the five classes each did a special song or finger play. There were speeches and an official ribbon cutting to signify the opening of the new school. Later in the afternoon the school board and teachers met with the visitors for a Q and A and we learned many new things about how to work better within the government school structure. The day ended well with a big screen projector Power Point presentation of the children's field day activities for the community to see. Thank you all for your prayers for the school and the teachers and children. We hope this is only the beginning.

Maso's Office Since June, Jesse and Maso, PBT national translator, have been working hard. They first milled the timber and brought in supplies then set posts in post holes filled with water. Now here we are totally dry and in the hot sun. They are finishing up gutters and walls, windows and screens. Maso's translation office is nearly complete. For many years now Maso has worked out of his thatch and bark house carefully trying to preserve books and papers with bits of plastic and tarp. Now he has a timber-frame office with iron roofing also which will keep his books and computers safe and dry. The office will also have solar panels and batteries to keep lights going at night when he can best work. Maso has 2 children in college now so he works at his garden and cocoa orchard most days to earn enough to live on and support his family. His translation work often happens at night when there are no other pressing obligations. Please pray for Maso as he continues to translate the New Testament. Praise the Lord for the printing of the book of James and the first check of Galatians.

Teacher Training This year has been busy and exciting since January. I have been in a rotational cycle with my teacher trainees. In January we held a 3-week training course and then the teachers went to work for a 10-week term. Then another week training and another 10-week term. Now we have just completed another week training and Monday was the start of their next 10-week term. It has been a joy to see them progress from cautious to confident teachers. Many have proven to be gifted teachers. All have a genuine love for the children. Our school charges small school fees of about \$20US a year per child. This money has to be divided into classroom maintenance, uniforms, teacher pay, and materials such as pencils, paper, etc. So you can guess that the salary isn't much. In fact this year these new teachers were teaching in pairs to boost their confidence and for each pair we were only able to give them about \$20 a month so \$10 each per month. And with this small pay, 4 of 7 teachers gave their wages up to pay for the fees of an

unfortunate child whose parents wouldn't send them to school. Pray that these teachers will be able to withstand the current hardships until we are able to receive government assistance.

Pen Pals For the past year we have been working on a pen pal program for the elementary kids. The grade two students eagerly look forward to getting an American pen pal to write. Many of the children have written multiple letters and sent small gifts back and forth across the ocean getting a glimpse of the world outside. We thank you for those participating in this program and for those wishing to participate. Many children are still waiting for pals. You can send a letter to a child at OIPNG, PO Box 319, Madang 511, PNG.

Interns This year we had the privilege to get to know six PBT interns. Their scheduled trip to Samban proved to be more eventful than even the planners anticipated. They were welcomed by Sing-sing groups and a welcome song from the Elementary School children and a bamboo band. While they were out trying to learn Pidgin, the trade language, they were able to try their hand at spear fishing, basket making, making string bags, weaving armbands decorated with shells and making the staple food, sago. These young people were subjected to many of PNG's hardships, water shortage in dry season, spiders in your bed and rats in the rafters at night, steaming hot days, odd foods and belly aches. There was a snake bite one night and a late night prayer vigil for the village woman and her family. Thankfully it turned out to be non-poisonous. They saw black faced men in angry disputes with knives, a father's rage for the unwonted solicitation of his daughter, the school opening, and a multi-village meeting to reconcile disputes. So much happened in just two weeks. We were blessed by their youth and vigor and renewed by their strength.

Government Approved for 3 years This was renewal year for OIPNG. Every three years we have to file forms with the PNG government outlining our intentions for the next three years. We also have to create job positions to be filled by national workers to show localization of the organization. Jesse took on this responsibility this year and it was a tough time. Due to the influx of Asian business houses in PNG, the laws regarding visas and organizations have changed, gotten stricter. They will no longer accept copies of documentation. All certificates, diplomas, licenses etc must be original, notarized copies. Judah was also up for a new passport this year. Plus Jesse had to renew his work permit. So after 6 months of diligent effort in filling out the forms and following up with agents etc., we are now approved for 3 more years in PNG!

Scholarship Participants This year we have two scholarship participants. Clementine Sau is in her last year at Kaindi Teacher's College. After graduation she plans to come to Samban to assist us in Grade 2 for 2 years. Alex Kamba is in his first year at Raihu Community Health Workers Training College. He will have one more year to finish his CHW training; then he hopes to continue his education and pursue his Nursing Officer's Status. At which time he will return to work in the Samban Clinic. A third applicant is awaiting acceptance into a program to upgrade marks in her grade 10 certificate where upon she plans to apply to Nursing school. A big thank you to those who continue to support these students.

Misc. Stuff Work continues in the cocoa orchard. This orchard is growing little by little. We have 60+ trees in nursery now to replace those that dried or drowned this past year. Pruning on some of the bigger trees has begun and it is a constant battle to keep the tall grass cut around them. There are more than 1100 trees in the orchard and nearly double that number of bananas and about 250 coconut trees and a dozen mango trees to care for. A new well has been dug at the center

site. We have hopes to turn it into a permanent well with a pump handle for use in strong dry seasons like this one. A new fence and small shelter area has been built at our place with the addition of our new guard dog Jack (shepherd mix). We needed the fencing to protect the village from the dog. He is great with us, not so friendly with the nationals.

Looking Ahead *In August*, we will be milling timber for Jill Reipe's house (PBT). While milling continues in Kambot, we will be going to Madang to finish up work on the Term 3 curriculum. Then we will be going up to Ukarumpa for Standard Achievement Tests for Naleh. *In September*, will be the Clinic Benefit soccer tournament. *In October* Jesse will be assisting with the construction of Jill's house. Then back to town to finish up term 4 of the curriculum. The first week *in December* will be school closing and carnival. And we are prayerfully considering a break for two weeks in December. August marks two years we have been in PNG and as we don't plan to return to the US until 2012, we are considering a two-week break in Cairns Australia.