

THE STUTZMANS:  
ROBERT & VERNA  
JASON & JEREMY



Box 497, S.I.L.  
Ukarumpa Via Lae  
Papua New Guinea

March 30, 1985

Dear Mom & Delores,

Thankyou so much for your letter and the stickers. We still have not received the Package, but we are all healthy and doing well.

This Past week we had an OPPortunity to go on a survey trip in search of a village allocation for us to come back to in two years. We believe we found it!

We drove to the village of Gain on Monday, where David and Barbie Hynum are ~~translating for the Numangang People.~~ To get there we had to ford several rivers, then Park our vehicle and hike in to their village for about an hour. The first Part of the hike is almost straight up over a landslide.

The next day, David and Carrie, the Hynum's 9-year old daughter, and Bob and I, left early in the morning to visit the language group next to theirs, the Nakama Group. We visited four different villages and took word lists in two of the villages to check out to see how similar this language is to Numangang. We just didn't feel right about this language group because the language seemed to be too similar to Numangang, and it would be a duplication of effort for us to learn this language since the Hynums could probably do a translation for this group without a lot of extra effort. So we headed back to Gain and the long hike to their village house - this time in the dark!

The next day the four of us left to visit the Nek and Nuk language groups which are next door to the Nakama group. This time we came to a river where the bridge had washed away the day before. We watched as a man waded through the river. The water came up to his waist Part of the time. We sat there for two hours, waiting for the water level to drop. It seemed like it had dropped a few inches so we decided to try crossing it. David has a 4 wheel drive Land Rover with a V-8 gasoline engine, and a 4 speed transmission with high and low range. Before we crossed we stopped and Prayed, asking the Lord to get us safely across. As David eased the truck down into the water, the water started coming up over the hood of the truck. It seemed as if the water just kept coming and coming, but about a foot away from the windshield, the water suddenly stopped just as if someone reached out with an unseen hand and stopped it. We reached the other side safely and went on rejoicing and Praising the Lord.

The first village we visited left us rather discouraged and it's hard to explain why. So we left for the last village that we could drive to. In fact they were putting in the road that very day. When I say 'road', of course, I do not mean 'road' as you would think of 'road', but a trail that the vehicle we were using, could inch it's way along. We got to a Place where there were tall trees Planted on each side in a row, with a hedge and our spirits lifted with joy. It was so beautiful!

THE STUBBINS  
ROBERT & VERA  
STUBBS & NOBLE

Just then we arrived at the village of Guombot and all the People were out watching the Caterpillar at work. They seemed excited to see us and we took some words lists again. The language seems different enough from the Numaneang language to warrant a translation team. The People were very helpful with the word lists and also expressed a desire to have a New Testament in their language. We are very excited about this village and this language group and believe that the Lord would have us go there after our linguistic training is completed. Thanks for your continued Prayer in this regard.

So we returned again to the Hynum's house for the night, crossing the river again without trouble. This time as we hiked in, Bob and I went ahead of David and Carrie. We were in such deep discussion about the exciting events of the day, that we paid no attention to the trail. Suddenly it seemed as if the landmarks along the trail were unfamiliar. At first we just thought that we couldn't remember what the trail should look like, since we had hiked on so many trails in the past few days and they were beginning to run together in our minds, so we kept on. Finally, we decided that we were definitely on the wrong trail. We began calling for David, but we heard no voices anywhere, so we decided to turn around and go back. After about ten or fifteen minutes of backtracking we met a group of local People. We could communicate with them in Tok Pisin, so we asked them how to get to David's house. They showed us a little trail that went almost straight down, and said that it would take us right to David's house. Since it was an unfamiliar trail to us and the sun was beginning to set, we tried to persuade them to guide us to the house, but they wouldn't do it. Later we found out that they are too afraid of demons to be out in the dark on the trails. If they would have helped us on the trail they would not have gotten to their village before dark. So Bob and I started out. Fortunately we each had a flashlight. But the trail was very narrow, and covered with grass so that it was hard to see just where it went. Part of the time the trail was a rocky stream bed. And I kept thinking about 'snakes'! I don't get along real well with snakes. After what seemed like a long time, we did arrive at the house, safely. Of course, the Hynums had been worried about us so when we got back David was out looking for us. I guess we just missed each other in the dark. Anyway he finally came home and all ended well.

The next day we left to go back to Ukarumpa. Of course, our boys were very happy to see us and we were very happy to be back, where we could nurse our aching joints. We had hiked between 20 - 25 miles in four days and it wasn't your average city Park road either.

Time to close, and do write. By the way, we are leaving PNG on May 20th.

In His Service,

*Verna*

Bob & Verna