

# ◆ Stutzman Summary ◆

Ukarumpa ◆ Papua New Guinea ◆ February 1994

## Excerpts from Verna's diary

January 7/94

I'm probably facing the biggest challenge of my life right now—that of leaving our oldest son, Jason, in North America as we return to PNG. Last Wednesday night we put Jason on the bus for Longview, Texas, and we have no reason to expect to see him for two and one-half years.

Last month it was ten years since we first left for the mission field. At that time, this day seemed an eternity away. Then as we watched other parents leave their college children in the home country, it seemed like something that couldn't touch us. Sometimes when parent-child relations were strained, I almost wished for this day. Now it's here - all too soon.

During the last few months with Jason in Texas and us here in Steinbach, Manitoba, there have been two different situations that have occasionally caused my tears to flow unceasingly; one has been in church services and the other has been while taking a shower. One can easily understand why my tears might flow in church as I remember the times past when we sat and worshipped together as a family, but why in the shower?

In Ukarumpa we heat our water



*Come for a cup of coffee and a good chat.*

with solar energy. So the water only heats when the sun shines. Our water tank is not very large. Jason invariably had early classes and so he got to the shower first. He was given to taking long showers and many times he would drain the tank of all the hot water and I was left with a cold shower. Sometimes I was furious at him and would switch off the water pump to encourage him to shorten his shower. The shower seemed to be the biggest area of conflict between us. I'm not really sure that explains why many times as I've showered in the last few months there has been as many teardrops going down the drain as drops of water. There was always plenty of hot water here.

The thing that is facing me as I go back to Papua New Guinea is Jason's room in Ukarumpa.

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## Current Plans

**W**e plan to go to Manus Island on March 4th for 4 weeks to help with a National Translators Course. The purpose of the course is to train Papua New Guineans to translate the scriptures from English and Pigin into their own vernacular language. Verna will be teaching the grammar part of the course. Robert will be a translation advisor at the course. We have invited several Lou speakers to apply to attend this course. We have not heard yet whether any of the Lou people will attend the course. During this time, Robert plans to go out to Lou Island to see the people and make plans for our future involvement in the Lou Translation project.

Currently, Robert is attending a translation workshop and continuing his training to be a translation consultant.

Jeremy is having a difficult time adjusting to being back. Since we left PNG last June, several of his best friends have left PNG permanently. Please pray that he will feel settled here soon.

## 'Excerpts' contd. from page 1

When we left last June, we just locked his door. His tools, unfinished projects, school papers, clothing, and other personal effects are strewn all over his room in the same messy way he always kept it. I will have to sort through everything. I keep having two recurring thoughts: One, he is 18. Hundreds and thousands of 18 year-olds before him have marched off to war. Some of them never to return. Somehow their mothers survived. This is better. Surely, I'll survive. The other thought is, "Lord, you have to help me through this. I can't do this on my own."

February 5/94

Today I called my mom in Manitoba and I started crying while talking to her. I have cried every day since we've been back. Will I ever feel happy again? Does God really want me to be in PNG?

February 7/94

This afternoon I started feeling happy again. Maybe God is really here. Maybe He does really care about me and how I feel. At any rate now I have hope again. 'For I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God.' Ps 42:11

**We arrived back in Ukarumpa on January 28th. after a very good flight and some relaxing times in Hawaii and Cairns. Australia. Thank you for praying for us and please don't stop praying. We will continue to pray that God meets all your needs as well. We'd love to hear from you!**

*Robert & Verna  
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