

September 1987

Dear

Praise the Lord! I'm glad that you had a good trip. Thanks for the letter. So far I've kept all your letters. I'm scared to throw them away, because sometimes I forget things and if I reread the letters later I can remember them better. (Verna)

We are thankful that POC(Jungle Camp) is over and we survived. No snake bites either! Just a stonefish bite which laid me up for 2 weeks and gave me an incredible amount of pain. I am fine now and my foot appears to be totally back to normal.

At the end of our 5 week village living phase the people in Goambot village(where we lived) presented us with several very old ancestral gifts such as, a bow and arrows and two necklaces made of dog teeth and shells. They also put on a "concert" which is a play that depicts how life was before the white man came. In this play they showed how the men would always have to guard their huts at night against raids from neighboring groups. Before going to bed at night the man would go around his hut and spit. This was supposed to form a hedge against the evil spirits. Now these people don't live in such fear since they are beginning to trust in God for their protection. This is due largely to the work that the Lutheran mission has done there.

We took a PMV(public motor vehicle) from the village to Lae on our return trip back to POC for our final week of Jungle Camp. From Lae we took a small freight ship to Madang where we were picked up by one of the POC staff. The trip by ship took 26 hours but it was very enjoyable even though at times the waves were quite high. The only disappointment we had on the trip was that our 35mm camera and all of our POC and village living pictures were stolen while we were sleeping. The insurance should cover the camera, however, the pictures can't be replaced but that is in the Lord's hands.

On Aug. 21 we left POC and returned to Ukarumpa where we are now. The boys are back in school here and we are making plans to go and spend several weeks with the Tauade people in the Central province. This group numbers 12,000 people and they live on mountains at 7,000 ft. elevation. The people are spread out over an area of 400-500 square miles. They still practice witchcraft and sorcery but there is a core of people that want someone to come and give them God's word in their own language. So we want to visit the people, then make a decision whether to allocate there on a permanent basis. At this point we feel that we probably will allocate there, but please pray with us about this.

We want to thank you again for your prayers and financial support which has gotten us through all of our training and will carry us on from here. We praise the Lord that we can now make definite plans in choosing a language group to translate the Bible for.

We love you,

Bob

Bob for the Stutzmans
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