

# Finding Joy in PNG

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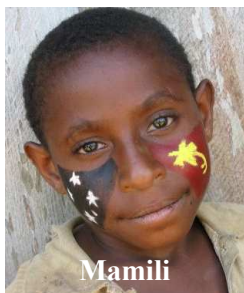
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Irenika



Mario



Mamili



Eti



Hamani



Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
extol him, all you peoples.  
For great is his love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord  
endures forever. Praise the Lord.  
-Psalm 117 NIV

Greetings Family and Friends!

The past 3 months have been an amazing whirlwind of activity and adventure. My trip to California was exhausting, but it was worth it. I am so glad that I was able to attend my best friend's wedding and thankful for all the opportunities I had to spend time with family and friends.

I arrived back in PNG on the 20th of August, celebrated my 25th birthday on the 21st, and then headed out to Walagu with Liz on the 25th. We had a wonderfully busy month, filled with literacy activities, scripture use, language learning and relationship building.

When I returned from Walagu, I booked flights and headed down to Madang for my STEP mentor visit with Betty. Although it was only a short visit, it was great to be able to see her work in action, get to know her better and to be able to meet some of the people whom she works with on a regular basis.



Beautiful Madang

Now I am back in Ukarumpa and STEP module 3 has begun. The focus this module is on Curriculum Development and The Principles of Teaching and Learning. In addition to my mentoring responsibilities, I will be teaching some of the lessons on Numeracy and Different Learning Situations.

PNG is a beautiful country with beautiful people. I am thankful for the opportunities I have to interact and work with Papua New Guineans all over the country. Thank you for your prayers and support that make my work in PNG possible.

Trusting in Him, who is faithful-  
*Joy Candee;-)*

## Did you know?

- PNG is about the size of California but has only half the population of Los Angeles.
- PNG has the language with the smallest alphabet– Rotokas has only 7 letters.
- PNG has over 800 local languages but the official language is English.
- There is no road connecting the capital city, Port Moresby, with any other major city in the country, travel is only by air, boat or foot.



Mara



Habuga



Haiga



Gerad



Ilini

The literacy rate in PNG has been estimated between 15-55%. This number is difficult to accurately assess nationwide because most of the country lives in rural areas and there is a large discrepancy in the literacy rate between the urban and rural populations. The STEP course (**S**trengthening **T**okples **E**ducation in **P**apua **N**ew **G**uinea) exists because, whether the literacy rate is 15% or 55%, literacy is still a huge need in PNG. STEP trains Papua New Guinean nationals to train other teachers, manage literacy classes and expand community based vernacular literacy programs. Since 1994, 212 men and women from 19 provinces and 122 languages have graduated from STEP.

This current course has 19 participants from 5 different provinces and 10 different languages. Betty works in Madang, promoting vernacular literacy in areas where Tok Pisin and English are being spoken at the expense of the vernacular.



Betty and me- in front of the roundhouse where we have our classes.

### PNG Flag Fact

The PNG flag was designed by a 15 year-old schoolgirl. In 1971, there was a nation-wide flag design contest. The Onobasulu translators, who were in grade school at the time, remember drawing their own designs for this contest.



Liz and I were out in Walagu on September 16th when Papua New Guinea celebrated 34 years of independence. We spent the day painting faces and (bellies!) with the PNG flag and sharing the Wordless Book. The Wordless Book uses the familiar colors from the PNG flag to help people learn about and remember the message of the gospel.

### Nigiligagalu – Darkness/Sin

**Yesune ibi– Jesus’ blood**

Galagololu– Cleansed and Pure

**Miliyolu miliyo– Eternal Life**

We gave out black, red, white and yellow balloons as well as temporary PNG flag tattoos if people could remember the spiritual significance of each color.



Liz reading the Wordless Book in Onobasulu. ↑

← Me, some kids and our painted faces.

### Contact Joy!

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