

GLOBAL MISSION'S

Frontline

Help
Us Say
Yes!

STORIES AND NEWS FROM OUR PIONEERS | **VOLUME 14 • NUMBER 5**

**Papua New
Guinea**



In 1901, missionaries sent by the London Missionary Society to Papua New Guinea (PNG) were cannibalized. Seven years later, traditional sorcerers murdered pioneer missionary Benisimani Tavodi as he knelt in prayer one Sabbath morning. Tavodi, a dedicated Fijian Seventh-day Adventist, was assisting Pastor Septimus Carr and his wife, Edith, in bringing the Adventist message to this unentered land.

One hundred years later the *Fiji Times* reported that members of the murdering tribe apologized to relatives of Tavodi: "In an emotional ceremony held last week, the descendants of the Taburi clan in the Koiari

district that first received the Adventist gospel in 1908, expressed remorse over the killing of missionary Tavodi by reconciling with his grand nephew, Pastor Mitieli Nakasamai."

Today nearly 1,000 Adventist churches and 3,000 companies have been established throughout all 20 provinces of PNG. A quarter of a million baptized Seventh-day Adventists touch millions of lives through local church activities, health ministry, education, community services, the media, and so much more. The church's influence extends from outlying islands to the highlands, from small jungle villages to cities, from local initiatives to the highest political offices in the land.

A father and daughter join the festivities to honor their rich Adventist heritage.





Between 12,000 and 15,000 people gathered in Goroka to celebrate 50 years of Adventist aviation in Papua New Guinea.

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So why is this edition of *Global Mission's Frontline*—which usually focuses on unentered people groups and territories—featuring a country with one of the highest member to population ratios in the world? First, despite the remarkable growth of the church in PNG, Global Mission pioneers are still planting new groups of believers in challenging areas. Second, it reminds us that mission and church growth doesn't happen

by accident. In 1908 PNG was an unentered country with hundreds of unreached people groups. It took the sacrifice and commitment of pioneer missionaries such as the Carrs and Tavodi to start the church in PNG.

But more than that, it took the prayers and financial support of the world church to support the missionaries in this area of the world. The church in Australia devoted the third quarter Sabbath School offerings in 1906 to help begin the mission work there. And Adventist youth groups raised funds to provide a basic stipend for Tavodi.

Today, the Adventist mission work moves forward in the same exciting way. Church members and leaders catch a vision. People pray. Plans are made. Resources are mobilized. Frontline mission work begins. New congregations are planted.

Thank you for your continuing prayerful and financial support of Global Mission around the world.



Pioneering Adventist aviators in Papua New Guinea Colin Winch (left) and Len Barnard thrilled the crowd as they recalled, in native language, exciting stories of God's leading in their ministry.



The Asaro Mudmen from just outside Goroka, in the highlands of PNG, hark back to a time before Christianity arrived. Today many of these mudmen are Adventist church members, deacons, and elders.

Dear Friend,



How inspiring it was earlier this year to help celebrate 50 years of Adventist aviation in Papua New Guinea (PNG). As a child in New Zealand and Australia, I would pray with my family every day for the missionaries in the islands of the south pacific. At camp meetings I would sit on the edge of my seat listening to amazing stories from “real-life” missionaries Len Barnard and Colin Winch. These men pioneered Adventist aviation in PNG, and with their small planes, they were able to quickly take the gospel to villages it would have taken weeks to reach on foot.

Now, many years later, I was privileged once again to meet these men of God in the very country where their dedicated service has brought help and healing to thousands.

In 1962, Pastor Barnard, his friend and filmmaker Eric Were, and 35 other men carrying equipment, medicine, and other supplies, took a 40-day trek into Karimui—the site of tree-dwelling cannibals. “The filth, degradation and their dejected stare of hopelessness defied description,” he later wrote. In his book *Banish the Night*, he describes the visit: “Besides the ever-present mud and rotting rubbish we smelled the sickly sweet odor of human flesh of the dead drying in the sun.” Talk about unentered areas! Today mission planes make the trip in 30 minutes and thousands of believers find hope and joy in their Christian faith.

Of course, aviation is not without its risks. Many prayers have been offered in planes landing in some of the remote mountain airstrips in PNG, which test the most seasoned of pilots. Unexpected equipment

failures, bad weather—any number of variables add to the risks of flying.

It was a pleasure to meet Mary Lane Anderson at the celebrations. She and her husband, Les, served as American missionaries in PNG, and Les headed up Adventist Aviation Services. Tragically, on May 3, 2002, his plane crashed about 20 miles south of Goroka on a routine flight from Karimui—the place that Pastor Barnard trekked to so many years before. Despite this catastrophe and other bitter experiences, Mrs. Anderson returned for the 50th year commemorations, during which she sang a beautiful song of praise.

When I encounter people such as Mrs. Anderson and Pastors Barnard and Winch, I am humbled—humbled by their sacrifice, humbled by their rich spiritual walk with God, and humbled by the impact of their lives in mission service.

Thank you for your continuing prayerful support of Global Mission around the world. At times the challenge looks too great, the obstacles too tall, and our resources too little. But we serve a great God who longs to see the good news of salvation spread to all corners of the globe.

In Christ,

Gary Krause

Director, Office of Adventist Mission

P.S. Every dollar given to Global Mission goes directly to the front lines of mission.

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GLOBAL MISSION'S ANNUAL SACRIFICE OFFERING

NOVEMBER 8

Every dollar given to the Annual Sacrifice Offering goes directly to the front lines of mission, reaching people who are still waiting to know Jesus. Thanks to your support, they will.

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- Give at www.global-mission.org
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