

**A place to work!***I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go Psalm 32v8*

Dear friends, since we last wrote a lot of water has gone under the bridge. Firstly we are thrilled to say that we have finally found a place to work with tribal people here in PNG!

During the last few months we have struggled to know what direction God wanted us to go in. We were interested in going to North Wahgi in the Western Highlands of PNG. Andrew, Ryan and I surveyed the area quite extensively and came back to Goroka excited about working there. During this time thinking of Rachel's back problem we feared that we would not be able to work in North Wahgi after all because of the poor condition of the roads. As a team we talked and prayed about this and we agreed that if necessary we would be able to fly Rachel to a nearby airstrip and pick her up from there and take her to our village. Just as it seemed that we were finally agreed upon a place to work, we received a letter of opposition from a community leader in North Wahgi. We were at a loss to know what to do because as a mission we do not go where we are not invited. We decided to go back to the area and try to find the leader who had written the letter so that we could understand more clearly his reasons for not wanting us there. When we finally found the man concerned, it turned out that he had not written the letter after all but his teenage son had written the letter posing as his father. The son was clearly embarrassed and denied that he had written the letter. The conclusion was that what looked like opposition was really a silly prank! So we praised God that the road was now open for us to go and work in North Wahgi!

**Our team vehicle!****Getting ready to fell the trees****House Building begins**

A few weeks after we went back into one of the villages that we had been invited to and we sat down with the village leaders to tell them that we had decided to live in their village. It was a hard decision to make as we had had invitations from many different villages in North Wahgi. Our desire though is not to stay in one village and work but that the work will spread to all parts of North Wahgi.

Some time later the men went back to the village to discuss with the people where we could build. One of the old men said that he would be willing to give us his ground for free! We know by now that nothing is free in PNG! Basically anything on his ground of value such as coffee trees, crops, etc. we would be expected to pay for. We discussed at length what price we would pay for the crops and when we were finally agreed they asked us what kind of houses we would like to build. We were happy to hear what they would recommend. They told us that it would be better to use corrugated iron on the roof so that we can collect drinking water and to use sawn timber for the house.

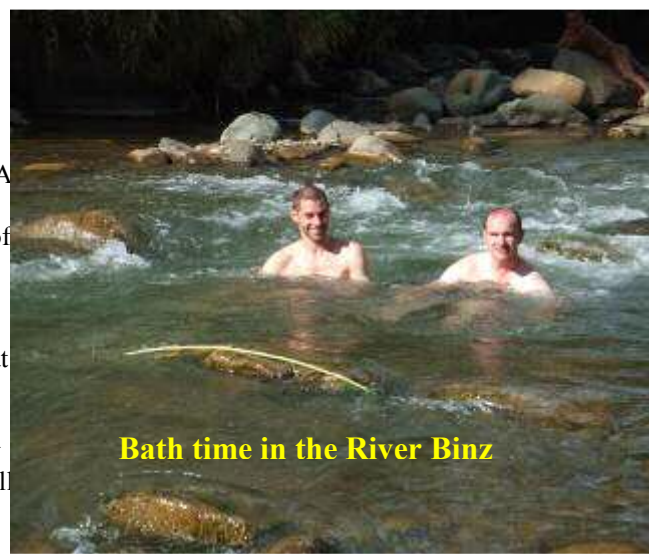
Last week we went back up with a couple of other men from Goroka to cut down the trees and get the ground ready for building the houses. We spent the week cutting the trees into logs and piling them up on one corner of the ground. We had to remove all the coffee trees and crops and fill all the ditches in. Then we dug the basement for Ryan's house and finished off by levelling the ground with rakes. The people were very helpful and got stuck into the work with us.

**Digging out the house foundation**

# Our Village

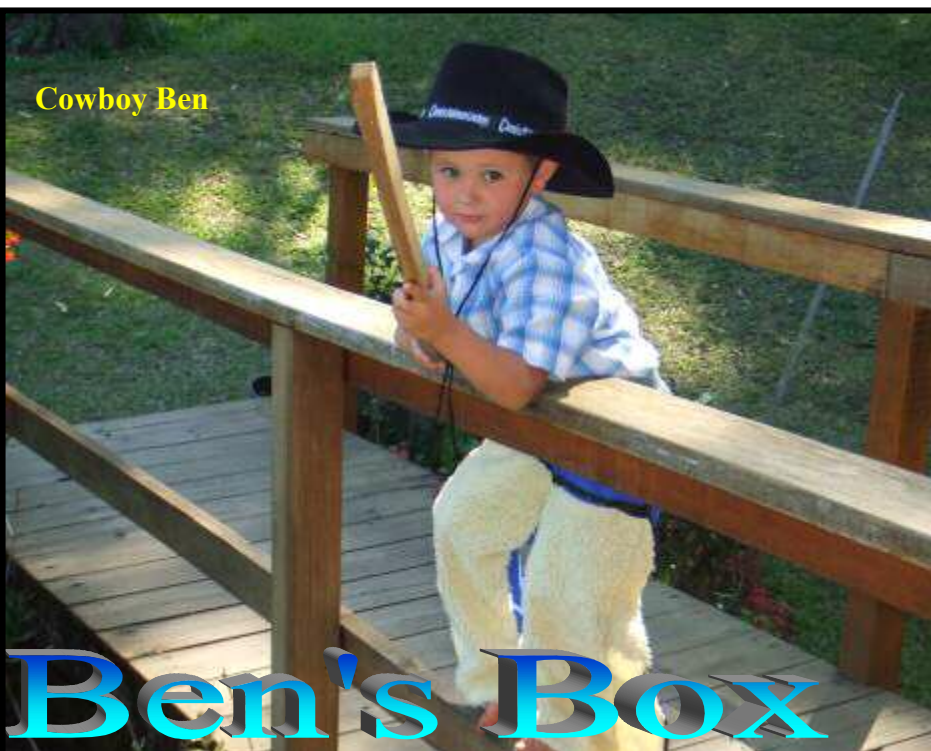
Our village has about 6000 people living in it and has good road access. It is situated in the Wahgi Valley and has a beautiful river running along side it. There are already a number of churches in the village including a Catholic, Lutheran, SDA and several others. The Jehovah's Witnesses are also present in the area. What we have discovered as we have talked to people living in the area is that there is a lot of misunderstanding when it comes to the truth of the Gospel. People also habitually change from one church to another as they feel the need to. There are definitely strong ancestral beliefs still amongst the population so we will have to not only learn about the traditional cultural beliefs but also study the "church culture" so that when we teach God's word we will be able to tackle the misunderstandings.

It feels a little strange to be finally part of a community here. Whenever we go to town from now on we will always have a few people with us. Community life here is very reciprocal so whatever we receive by way of help or "gifts", we will have to give it back some time in the future. It's good to be a part of the "family" because when problems arise we have folks on our side. One man was angry because one of the trees fell on his garden and destroyed some bananas, but our land owner and his family came to our aid and took the matter out of our hands. There are responsibilities though. One man who helped us to move the heavy logs hurt his back so we were expected to take him to the hospital and pay for his medicine.



Bath time in the River Binz

## Just Georgia



Cowboy Ben

Did you know that I am now four? I had a jungle party for my birthday and had great fun. I am also really into cowboy stuff too and won a competition for the best costume. I often get up and dress myself as a cowboy, knight, policeman, soldier or even Batman! I really get into character too and go and pretend to shoot people off my porch. My Pidgin English has improved so I can tell the nationals that I am pretending to shoot them too! I also like to climb trees, especially if I can find guavas or mulberries while I am up there! I don't need anyone to push me on the swing anymore as I can do it all by myself. Sometimes my Dad and I climb up to the tree house (made of rope!) and we lie down and he tells me stories. Talking of stories, I still can't get enough of Bible stories which my Mam says is a good thing. BYE!



Well here I am in my bath looking cute! I love it in here and kick like crazy. Daddy says my water is much warmer than the river! When I'm not in the bath I keep active with my commando style crawling which speeds up every time I see one of my brother's toys which I am not allowed! You can often find me under a chair straining to reach a ball or the like.

I am getting well into my food too (although not as bad as my brother!). Some of my favourites are sweet potato, papaya and bananas. Mmm!

- **Praise** God that God has opened the door for us to work in North Wahgi.
- **Praise** and continue to **Pray** for safety in travel for Dan, Andrew and Ryan during the many trips into the village.
- **Praise** for God's provision for a team vehicle
- **Pray** for Rachel, Nelli and Rebecca during the weeks when the men will be away house building.
- **Pray** for good relationships to be built with the folks from our village and that we will reflect the Lord in all that we do so that the Gospel may not be hindered.



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