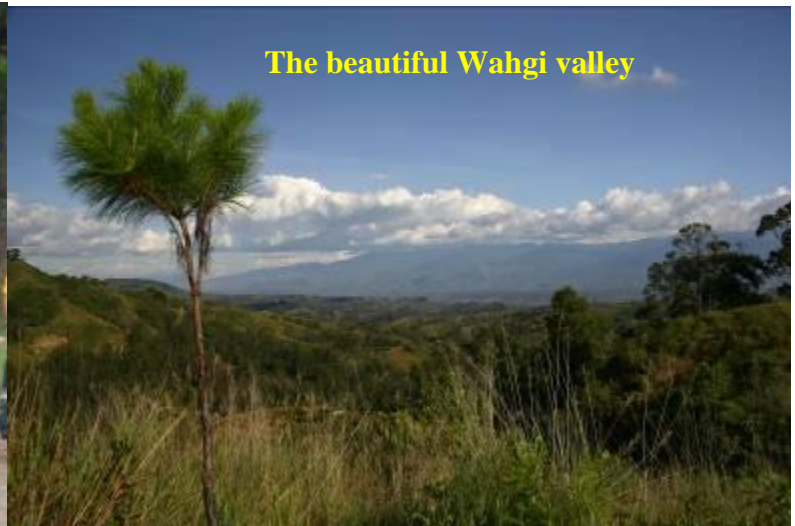


Come and have a tour round our village with us. We live in the beautiful Wahgi valley at an elevation of about 5500ft. On both sides of the valley there are high mountains covered with forests. There are also many rivers that flow down the mountains and the water is lovely and cool to dip in on a warm day. There are about 40-50 thousand people that live in North Wahgi and about 5000 of those are people within our own clan. Our village is accessed by a dirt road that leaves the lower valley and winds up the hill side. You'll see our houses by the road side as you get into the village. Around us there are traditional grass hut houses and on the other side of the road there is a primary school with a sizeable field.

We are making some good friends here. I Dan spend Monday through Friday getting out among the people to learn about their language and culture. Rach home schools Ben in the mornings and she goes out with the people in the later afternoon. During the month of July we had some of NTM's language and culture consultants come and spend a few days with us preparing us for the long haul of CLA (Culture and Language Acquisition). One of the most challenging aspects of CLA is making sure that we are not just learning language from the people but actually getting to know them and becoming their friends. Andrew and I make sure that every week we go to a different place in the community to get acquainted with as many people as possible. Sometimes we go fishing with some of the men or go to help them pick their coffee. Whatever we do we know that we are building a foundation for our work of discipleship when we are able to teach them in their heart language.



One of our local buses



The beautiful Wahgi valley

**The Fight!** Life in a clan can have its ups and downs!! We live right on the border between two clans. We have been adopted into the Sanglap clan and just over the small mountain live the Dange. They are both part of the same language group and we hope in time to reach out to both of these clans. Warfare between the two clans goes back a long time so even though there is supposedly peace, it's quite tenuous. A few weeks ago some of our young people were drunk and stopped a vehicle on the road belonging to the Dange. They stole some coffee bags and badly injured two of the Dange men. When we got up in the morning our whole village was in a state of shock. Many of the people were afraid of repercussions from the Dange people and when Andrew and I went out to see what all the excitement was about we saw a group of Dange people up on top of the mountain shouting down to the folks in our village. Further down the road a group of about 100 men came into our village armed with the usual assortment of weapons. We were praying that this situation would not result in a tribal fight as we were told that about 15 people died in the last fight about 15 years ago. Thankfully our village magistrate explained that it would be best to sort out the dispute by paying the Dange people compensation. So the men went back and the word spread throughout our tribe that we all had to contribute 5 kina (£1) to pay off the Dange people. However a couple of nights later we heard that one of the Dange men that had been attacked had died so that night all the folks in our village got their pigs and livestock and moved them to safer places and didn't sleep the whole night long. They told us that if the man really had died then a fight was imminent and if the men from Dange did come and fight, we'd be the first place they would attack. During an attack the enemy usually burn the houses down and kill all the livestock and destroy what crops they can. Thankfully, the information that the Dange man had died turned out to be false so it looks like there will be no reprisals. I thought it was amusing when I was out the other day talking with some of our people and they asked us if we can buy a gun as a deterrent for the Dange people. I thought how it would look to send an email back to our supporters saying "we need to buy a gun, please can you pray that the Lord will supply our needs" !!



Rachel and Nelli doing language study



Picking coffee



Local culture group

# The people

If you find your days a blur you need to take a leaf out of these peoples book! Their days are spent working in the gardens and bush, planting, cultivating or collecting materials for building houses or pig enclosures. The afternoons are spent resting or playing cards at the market place. They love being together and thrive as a community. Problems are not solved on an individual basis. If someone is taken to a village court for a settlement, the person's clan will all help out by contributing money. Because we live near to a small town many people like to get on a "bus" and take a trip to town even if it's just for the ride.

You cannot pass a person on the road without having to stop and give a handshake and a greeting. It can be quite frustrating if you're in a hurry, but it has to be done because to rush the greeting process is to tell the person that you are not interested in them. They love it when we take an interest in their lives especially when we join in one of their activities. They seem to have the impression that white people are always busy and only want to talk when it suits them. We hope that we do not leave that impression on them. They have really accepted us as a part of the community and like everyone else we have to help in the community problems. Recently we had a pair of shoes stolen and someone tried to steal Ben's bike. When the people found out they were furious and tried their best to find the culprit. It makes for an exciting life!!



Sharing a meal with friends

God is our refuge and strength a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore we will not fear

Ps 46v 1-2



## Ben's Box

I really enjoy school and have started reading a little – I read my first book last month which I was very pleased about. I can write all my numbers and letters now too. I still like science the best though, especially if it's about animals. We have started looking at different clothes and houses from history and I enjoy best finding out about the Romans, Vikings and Indians. Me and my Dad are enjoying 'Charlie and the chocolate factory' right now too.

We had a short break back in Sobega when I got to meet up with my friends again and I loved it. We boys were out playing army games all the time. We also got to go to the PNG Independence Day celebration at the school at Lapilo which was great fun. They had a parade and then lots of fun stalls where you could win different things. I won the 'guessing jar' game (with a little help from my Dad) and so we got to share a big bar of chocolate! I had a go on a big trampoline too.

I am so looking forward to my Mamgu visiting us for 6 weeks; I am counting down to the big day!

## Just Georgia

I am now running around and climbing onto and into anything I can find. I love to be outside exploring and keep mama on her toes when I run off in various directions. I love to play in the mud when I can get away with it! I like to go and visit my friend Bill who lives close by. I go to his house and look inside saying 'Bi' and am sad if he is not home. We like to shake hands with each other. I am very good at holding on a swing now and say 'da' which means down when I have finished. Like my brother, I love my food especially sweet potato, avocado and 'bi-apple' (pineapple) too. I say 'Amo' before food which is my way of saying 'amen' and 'more' in one!

- **Praise** for safety during election time
- **Praise** for the way our people help us and look after us as one of their own
- **Praise** for a good start to language and culture learning and growing relationships
- **Pray** for Rach's mother as she visits us later this month – she's never flown before!
- **Pray** for a third couple to join us here at Wahgi

**\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE\*** →  
(Cheques still to NTM North Cotes, Grimsby, DN36 5XU)



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