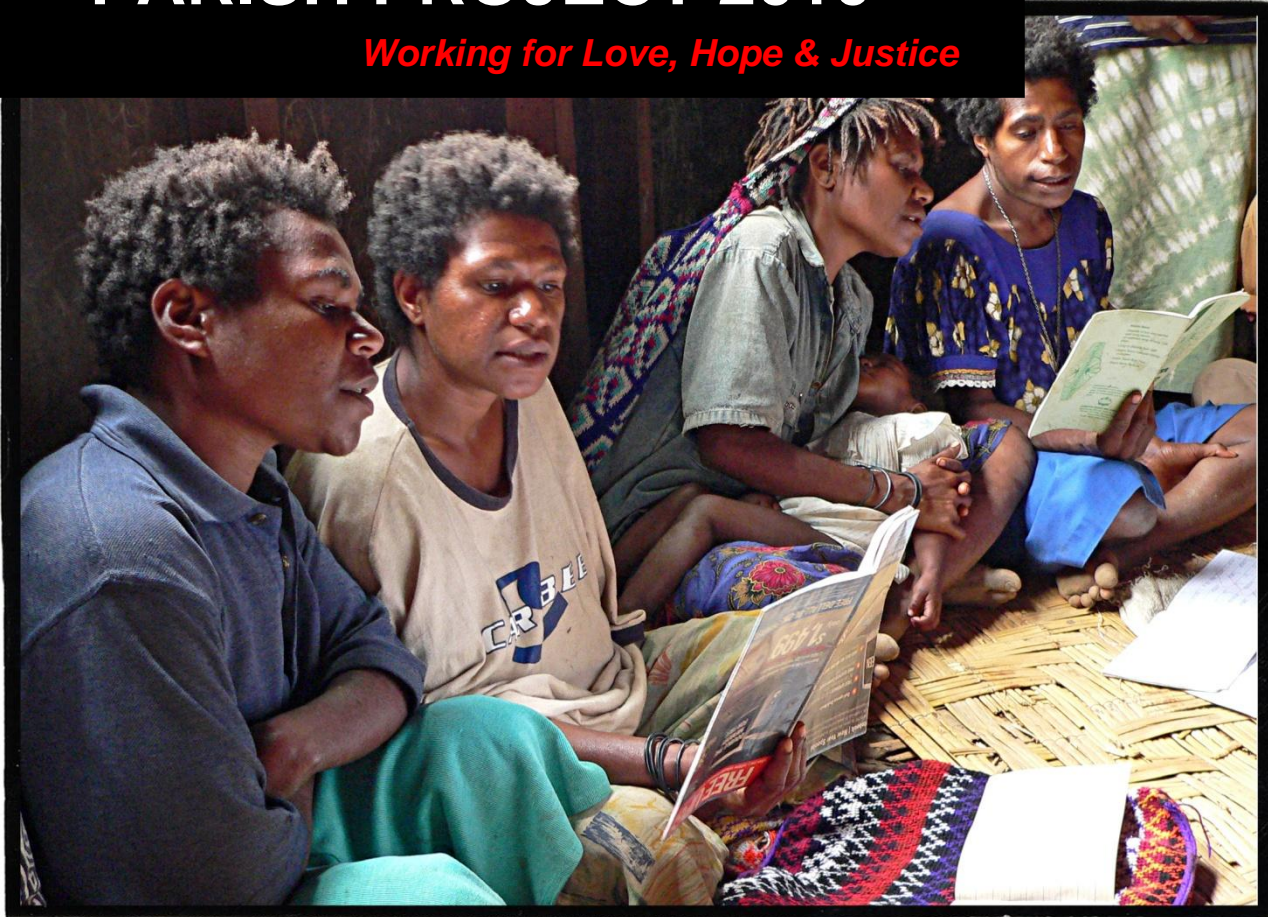


# PARISH PROJECT 2010

*Working for Love, Hope & Justice*



*A literacy class in Simbai. © Lisa McMurray/ABM2005*

## Education in Papua New Guinea

**Target: \$50,000 in 2010**

ABM's Literacy Program in Papua New Guinea covers remote areas such as Simbai, the Jimi Valley, Dogura and Popondetta.

In these rural areas, communities are often isolated by rugged terrain and lack of good roads. Illiteracy is high especially among women and girls. Other obstacles to basic education include lack of funds, inadequate learning materials, classrooms and teachers. It is difficult to attract fully trained teachers from urban areas to settle into remote communities.

*Tok Pisin is a form of Melanesian Pidgin English that was developed in the early 1800's as a result of increased travel and economic activity between the Melanesians and Europeans, and is still used today as one of the most dominant and universal languages in the country of Papua New Guinea.*

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (ACPNG) renovates schools and training centres under a maintenance program. Courses are run for senior school staff members who aim to improve their management skills.

Classes are conducted in Tok Pisin, one of the official languages of PNG. Teachers are volunteers who receive a regular stipend. They are often able to find paid work after they have been teaching in the program. The gap left is filled by former students, who then become tutors. In this way, the literacy program not only helps people to read, write and count, but is also a training program.

Basic literacy skills can improve lives by making people more employable, enhancing their ability to communicate and manage their households. They can read information on issues affecting their community. Education can provide a way out of poverty for many in this developing pacific nation.

**What your gift can do:**

- **\$0** is the cost of a classroom built by the local community
- **\$100** pays the weekly salary of a project officer on the literacy program

**Prayer Points:**

- Pray for the teachers and student teachers who are striving to provide education to people in rural communities
- Pray for all children in Papua New Guinea to have access to education
- Give thanks for the work of the Anglican Church of PNG

**Richard Rabiagi** is the first PNG national appointed to the position of General Secretary in ACPNG.



Richard began working with ABM in 2004 on education projects. He says that working for education institutions gave him the background to work as education officer for the Church.

One of the challenges he face in his role is going to very remote places.

“First we’re starting off with Simbai and the Jimi areas because they have schools going on already in those areas. We just want to continue those classes as we start.”

“As we go on, we will gradually move to Dogura. Dogura Diocese have their adult literacy classes established. Then to New Guinea Islands, and then we come back to Popondetta Diocese.”

**Papua New Guinea Facts:**



**Location:** Oceania, group of islands including the eastern half of the island of New Guinea between the Coral Sea and the South Pacific Ocean, east of Indonesia

**Population:** 6,057,263 (July 2009 est.)

**Languages:** Tok Pisin, English, and Hiri Motu are official languages; some 860 indigenous languages spoken (over one-tenth of the world’s total)

**Religions:** Roman Catholic 27%, Evangelical Lutheran 19.5%, United Church 11.5%, Seventh-Day Adventist 10%, Pentecostal 8.6%, Evangelical Alliance 5.2%, Anglican 3.2%, Baptist 2.5%, other Protestant 8.9%, Bahai 0.3%, indigenous beliefs and other 3.3% (2000 census)

**(CIA-The World Factbook)**



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**OUR VISION** ABM wants to see people everywhere experience the wholeness of life God offers in Jesus Christ, and to this end support our partners as they participate in God’s mission.  
**OUR PROFILE** ABM is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia.  
 We work with Anglican Church Partners to develop and provide for the spiritual, social and material needs of people, both overseas and within Indigenous communities in Australia. We help the Anglican Church and the wider community realise and respond to the call for each of us to be a part of God’s hope for the world.