

## *Teaching at the STEP Course*

Translated from PNG Pidgin, the trade language here: “All right, guys”, I said. “You all know that these are strong, able bodied men right? If I truly believe they are quite capable of taking care of me...” And with that said – and to the utter shock and dismay of my student friends – I leaped into the air towards the men in a complete free fall. They instinctively reached out and caught my falling body – preventing physical harm from the hard cement floor below.

Did I get the class’s attention? You bet! They loved it. I was teaching what it means to have “true faith” and also that we have an “object” to our faith. For the Christian that would be our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. But more than that, when we “stand” in the promises that He gives as found in His Word, then it will definitely affect our behavior in this life. We can “leap” into the arms of Someone who is utterly trustworthy. Such is the confidence we have in Christ as Christians.

This was the STEP Course (Strengthening Tokples Education in Papua New Guinea). A group of men and women from around the country and from different regions and different languages, all convening together with a purpose: To learn practical skills to teach and train literacy teachers in their unique vernacular language. This SIL equipped training school has been quite successful over the years in producing a small army of teacher/ trainers that promote one of our major goals: Vernacular Literacy. It does little good to produce the Scriptures in another language, if people are unable to read or write their language. People need to be prepared in advance to receive God’s life-giving message to mankind.

This was the first “module” for the next intake of students. There are five modules altogether and the students take breaks between modules and practice what they have learned in the village context. Then they come back to our Ukarumpa Center for more training. This present intake is a very good group and they work well together as a team, even though they are from different parts of the country.

Why am I teaching the Bible to this group? Because I was once lamenting the fact that I was not exercising my gifts in the context of where I am living, and then suddenly I realized that instead of traveling and reaching out around the country (a difficult task at best), rather, I should be making the most of a discipling opportunity that is right at my doorstep. Here are some of the best people coming from all over the country to train among us. What an opportunity!

*“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.” – Psalms 86:11*

*“So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.”  
– Psalms 90:12*

At the end of the first module (5 weeks) we all had a celebration and going away party. Praise God – one student even thanked me for taking her deeper in her faith than ever before. Helen and Hannah came to participate and we shared a feast together. It was a blast . We even participated in traditional style dances (well maybe) and they thought that was absolutely hilarious. And it was.....

Joyfully in Service to Him,





Great music by talented musicians. They prefer interactive songs.

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Funny skits with traditional themes, often with a Spiritual message of some kind.

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The great men's STEP soccer team takes on all challengers.

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Men and women showed us their traditional dances. Each region is different and distinctive.



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