

# Introduction

## Papua New guinea

In 1961 Wesleyan missionaries were first allowed into the wild remote mountain areas of the Southern Highlands Province. There are now over 80 churches which are being pastored by Papua New Guineans. There churches in many provinces. The church has two bible schools which are operated in English in Mt. Hagen and Bougainville. Missionaries and Papua New Guineans work together to teach and oversee them. The current National Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church of Papua New Guinea is Rev. Roy Mung elected in 2010.

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One of the few countries still producing copra—dried coconut used to make coconut oil

Religion  
Christianity  
Traditional religion



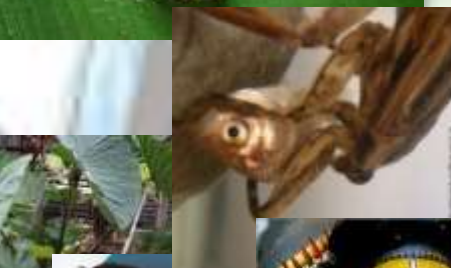
Large amounts of gold, silver and copper are mined in the country



Second largest island in the world  
Largest number of languages in the world—700 different tribes and languages  
Three different races of people—Negritos, Melanesians, Polynesians



Traditional foods are sago (extracted from a palm tree), kaukau (a type of sweet potato), taro (a root that grows like a carrot under the plant)



Papua New Guineans love to decorate themselves for special occasions. One of the events where you can see them is at a **Singsing**.

It is an annual cultural event where the tribes dress up and perform traditional dances.



Money - Kina—originally the people used special shells called kina for their money. It is also the name of the money used today.

3 Kina = \$1



The national bird is the bird of paradise. It is very colorful and appears on the flag



There are many unique animals and insects  
Emu—similar to an ostrich  
Tree kangaroo  
Birdwing butterfly—almost a foot across  
Walking stick—12 inches long  
Rhinoceros beetle—almost one foot long  
Giant water bugs—shown eating a fish  
Bird catching spider—6 inches across  
Can you find them?



# Children's Story

## HOPOLE

To a boy in the mountain forests of Papua New Guinea, hunting is a very important thing to learn and lots of fun to do. The men hunt wild pigs, possum, and small kangaroos for meat and fur. They hunt birds such as cassowary and bird of paradise for meat and use the beautiful feathers for head-dresses.

One day 10-year-old Hopole decided to take his dog Biango and go hunt possum. He gathered his bow and his bamboo arrows, and tied his woven string bag around his neck to hang under an arm. In it was his lunch—a sweet potato baked in the ashes of the fire pit in the dirt floor of his family's home, a banana, and a short length of bamboo with drinking water. His bag also held a few prized possessions: his bamboo comb, a small piece of broken mirror, and a small knife given to him by his father.

Hopole called to his dog and took off down the forest trail. His father had already walked to town for a meeting with other men. His mother was already hard at work in the family sweet potato gardens up on a mountain-side. So - no one saw him go.

The kind of possum hunted in Papua New Guinea is called a cuscus. It feeds at night and sleeps hanging from trees by day. At first Hopole walked on a well-worn footpath through tall spiky grass alongside a wide valley where his older sister took his family's pigs each day to eat roots, grubs, and earthworms. Then he veered off and began climbing higher and higher up a mountain into the deep dark forest where he had gone before on a hunting trip with his men relatives. Soon he was surrounded by tall moss-covered trees. The tops of the trees reached into the low-hanging clouds and dripped condensation onto the narrow path making it slippery. The thick cloud cover made it foggy and gloomy. Here and there huge limestone rocks eerily protruded from the mist.

Hopole tried to walk slowly and silently so as not to frighten the wild creatures. He kept his head tilted back so he would be sure to see any possum high up in a tree. But as he stepped around the edge of a large rock in his path, all of a sudden he felt himself falling. Thud! He landed at the bottom of a deep hole—a limestone cave. He could see the top of the cave far above his head. The sides were too wet and slippery for him to climb out. It seemed like it was already night because barely any light shining into the hole. Then

# Children's Story

fear gripped him at the thought that no one knew where he was. As he wondered what to do, he remembered a Bible verse he had learned in Sunday school: "When I am afraid I will trust in you," Psalm 56:3. "Oh, Jesus," he prayed. "Please help me get out of this hole. You've already saved me. I will give you my life. I will do whatever you want me to do. I will go wherever you want me to go. I will be whatever you want me to be."

Remember Biango, his dog? The little dog barked and barked, but saw that Hopole was not coming out of the deep dark hole. So the dog ran all the way back to Hopole's house. When Hopole's father returned home, he saw the dog but no Hopole. The dog kept barking and barking. His father glanced toward the mountain forest and thought, "Hopole must be in trouble." Night was coming on, so he lit a bamboo torch, and with some neighbor men to help, Hopole's father followed the little dog up into the mountain forest. The dog led them straight to the deep cave. Hopole's father took the axe he always carried tucked in his belt and chopped down a long sapling. He let the sapling down into the cave for Hopole to climb out on. Hopole thanked the Lord for sending his father to rescue him.

After that Hopole became known for his gentleness and love for others. He graduated from Bible school and became a faithful witness in the community and served as an ambulance driver for the church clinic.

# Memory Verse

Psalms 56:3

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you*

This verse is pertinent to the attached story of Hopole. It is also pertinent when summoning up courage to witness to others. Using heavy construction paper or cardboard have the children draw and cut out 10 feathers. Write on each feather one of the words of the scripture verse. Then cut a piece of paper in a long strip two inches wide and long enough to make a headband. Repeat the verse several times. Each time the verse is repeated glue or tape a feather to the headband in the correct order. When the headband is done place it on each child's head. Then march in a circle repeating the verse several times.

# Bible Lesson

## God our Protector

Acts: 16:22-34

Some people did not want to hear Paul and Silas talk about Jesus so they were severely hurt and put in prison. Paul and Silas were probably scared, but God used this experience to save a lot of people.

Copy the questions below. Give the question sheet to each child, or to a group of two or three children. Have them read the story of Paul and Silas from Acts 16:22-34 and then fill out the worksheet with simple one or two word answers. Then ask them to retell the story of what happened to Paul and Silas that night in prison.

1. Who attacked Paul and Silas?
2. Who ordered that Paul and Silas be beaten?
3. After they were beaten, where were they placed?
4. What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight?
5. **Who was listening to Paul and Silas's singing?**
6. What made the prison shake?
7. Who thought that the prisoners had escaped when the prison doors were open?
8. Who believed in the Lord and was baptized that night?

Questions to ask the children?

1. Do you think that Paul and Silas were scared?
2. How would you have felt if you were with Paul and Silas?
3. Can you think of a time when you were scared but God helped you? Tell us about it.



## Jack Stones

### Number of Players

2, 3, or 4 players

### Equipment

5 to 10 stones (a definite number) each stone about a third the size of a marble.

### How to play

1. Throw out the prescribed number of stones on the ground. Each child may have his own collection of stones, or a collection of stones may be divided evenly among the players.
2. Pick one of the stones up.
3. With the same hand toss the stone in the air and then pick up one of the stones on the ground and then catch the one coming down from the toss. Put the stone aside which you picked up, and continue until you have picked up all the stones and set them aside. If the child is not able to pick up the stone his/her turn is over and another child plays.
4. Repeat steps 1 through 3 only this time pick up two stones at one time and set them aside. Repeat this, picking up 3 stones at a time and then 4 stones, etc.
5. After each round (i.e., one stone, two stones, etc.) the first person with all the stones is the winner - or - the person able to catch and hold the most stones in one hand wins.

Game  
Time

# Time for Prayer

1. That God would continue to call young men and women to commit themselves to full-time Christian service in the church as pastors, youth leaders, women's leaders, and children's leaders.
2. That God would give his pastors and leaders special anointing for his work as they strive to walk closely with him day by day.
3. That God would help new missionaries readily learn the language and fit easily into the roles God has called them to do.
4. That God would keep his hand on the national church leadership and work out his best plan as they learn to trust and obey him more and more.



# Activity

