

The Pagi of Papua New Guinea

The Pagi live in the wooded, hilly plains north of the Bewani Mountains, in the northwestern corner of the mainland of Papua New Guinea. Five villages of the western dialect are located forty-five kilometers south of Vanimo within an hour's walk of Bewani Station, the local center of government services. Bewani Station includes an airstrip, a health center and a primary school. The three villages of the eastern dialect are located about twenty-five to thirty kilometers east-northeast of Bewani, in an area mostly covered by dense bush.

The Pagi still rely on traditional foods, subsisting mainly on sago starch, which is strained from the pulp of the sago palm. They also hunt wild pigs with their traditional bows and arrows; however, they have mostly traded their traditional dress for Western type clothing.

Most dwellings are constructed of bush material. Half of the house is normally an open veranda. The walls of the other half, where people sleep, are built only partway up the side with an opening along the top. A house is used for one or two families, sometimes three.

There are very strict rules governing relationships between the clans.

Cassette radios are used in most villages. They listen to the news on Radio Sandaun.

The Pagi have a strong presence of both Catholic and Seventh Day Adventist churches in their villages, but they do not have the Bible in their own language. They have asked for a translation. Local pastors/priests are confident that if a good translation was made available to them, then they would use it in their services as well as outside the church. A team is needed to translate and also to help the people start pre-schools in their language.

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

10%

Churches:

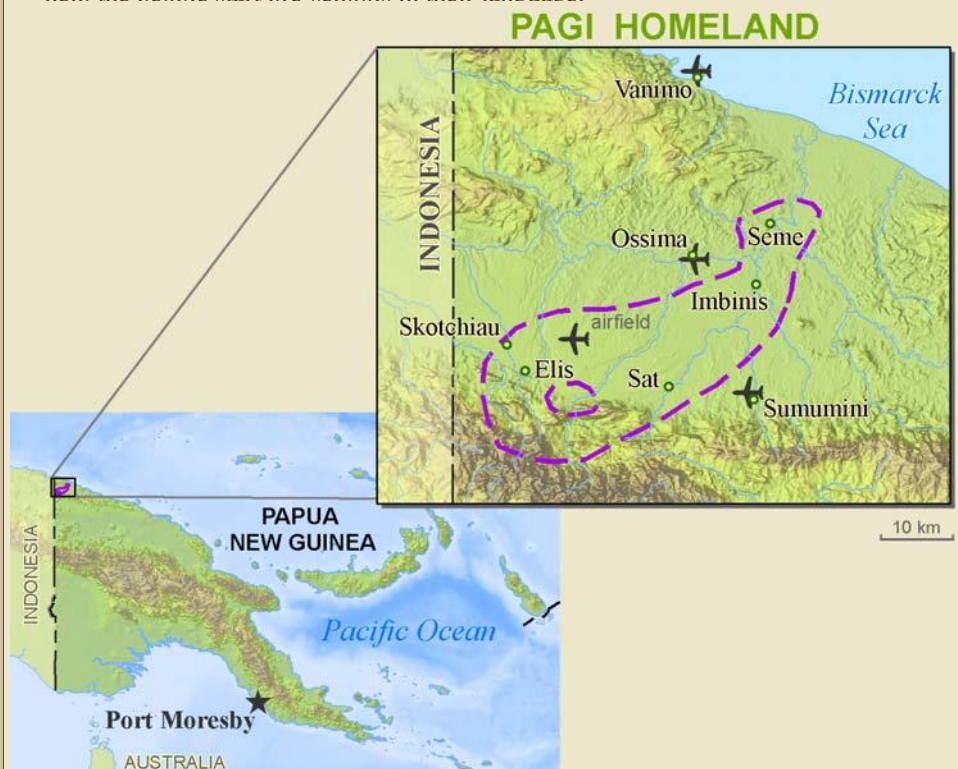
8-16

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

No vernacular scripture

Population (date):

2,000 (2000)



The Pagi of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	90 %	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	10%	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	Approximately	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	90%	
Number Of Pastors	20	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	Estimated number of missionaries (2)	
Response To The Gospel	Most of the people seem to identify themselves as either Catholic or Seventh Day Adventist, but "singsings" (traditional religious celebrations) are still held in the villages. While they no longer use the term haus tambaran (a place for traditional religious practices), some villages have built a haus boi that follows some of the same patterns and rules as the haus tambaran.	
Number Of Communities	8 villages	
Number Of Churches	8-16	
Comment (Churches)	one or two per village	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No, at this time the Pagi do not have the Scriptures in their own language.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Currently, there is not a translation of the Scriptures in the Pagi language. The people have expressed significant interest in having vernacular Scriptures and education seems to be important to the people. It is probable that there would be few hindrances to distribution if a Pagi translation was made available.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Recordings: No Literature: Tok Pisin Films/videos: No Radio: Tok Pisin	
	The catholic liturgy is published in Tok Pisin. The Seventh Day Adventist church uses English literature. Radio Sandaun broadcasts religious programs in Tok Pisin.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	The Pagi want to have the Scriptures translated into their heart language. They also have interest in starting prep schools in their mother tongue. In order to have this happen they will need outside assistance.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	2,000	
World Population (Date)	2000	
Comment (World Population)	population from census	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Papua New Guinea	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Plains	
Climate	Warm and humid. Cool in the evenings.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Primary Language	PAGI	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Comments (Related Languages)	Brewani	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	35% (2000 Census)	
Percent Literate For Men	43% (2000 Census)	
Percent Literate For Women	27% (2000 Census)	

The Pagi of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Hunter-gatherers	
Community Development		Group Description
Transportation	Road and air	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Social Habits/Groupings	Clans	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	2	
Comment (Primary Schools)	One is Catholic. The other is a government school.	
Comment (Language Of Instruction)	A local language education program has never existed; however, the provincial government strongly encourages preparatory schools and elementary schools to incorporate such a program.	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Reached	
Reached Classification	Evangelized	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Items For Prayer	Pray for a potential translation program. Later on a group of Grade 10 graduates could be trained as national translators.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Available Scripture	None	
Form Of Scripture Available	None	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church	
Organization Name	Seventh Day Adventists	