

Kaths Assigned to the Paiela

The Evangelism Committee met in May of 1965 to assign new missionaries. Our assignment was to the Paiela.

We completed Enga language study at Irelya, and then on July 1, 1965 we moved to a small house at the airstrip in the Porgera to study the Ipili language. Harvey worked with Wet Marliwa who was proficient in Enga, Ipili, and Pidgin English. We lived in the Porgera until May 23, 1966.

During our time in the Porgera Harvey made many walks to the Paiela. He met with the Evangelists working in the Paiela, worked on the house, and began gathering information to begin work on the airstrip. We moved to the Paiela on May 23, 1966 via helicopter.



There were 11 preaching stations established in the Paiela. Harvey met with the evangelists every two weeks and visited each station once a month. He had to walk 1-2 days and would be gone for a week. In 1969, Harvey completed a patrol to the Hewa as the first unarmed white person to travel to that area to assess and initiate the possibility of mission expansion in the Hewa.

The most challenging task of being in the Paiela was supervising the construction of the airstrip. Harvey began the work in 1966. The government and Bob Holst had surveyed the area prior to this to determine

the layout of the airstrip. Harvey established a work schedule with surrounding tribes and organized and managed the construction process. All work was done by hand with picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows. In March 1968 the mission assigned Roy Schache to the Paiela to assist in the completion of the airstrip. A singing was held to celebrate the completion of the airstrip.

Each week we would send carriers to the Heidorns in the Porgera for our weekly freezer order and the mail. When the airstrip was open John Johnson, MAF pilot would deliver these

things to our door and have lunch with us. Since we did not have a lot of visitors this was a special occasion for us to have John spend some time with us.

I did not "climb the mountain" many times to leave the Paiela. However, Harvey served on various committees, and would walk out and back in for conferences and meetings. I think he always said he made that trip 27 times. It was a very challenging 2 day walk!!!



We celebrated six or seven baptisms in the Paiela.
(Harvey would remember all those statistics!!!!)

In reading letters we sent to our parents (both sets of parents kept the letters we sent to them) and returning in 1998, I look through the lens of my 80+ years and wonder: "did we really do that???"
How did we do that???"

Living at Korumbi was the easy part. We lived among beautiful people in the most beautiful place in the mission. The challenge was traveling in and out. Through all the highs and lows of being in a remote area, we were blessed with good health, no medical emergencies, etc. God is good, God is faithful. Only by His grace were we able to do His work.

