

The Kilmeri of Papua New Guinea

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The Kilmeri people live in the Sandaun Province in the northwestern portion of Papua New Guinea. There are about 2,823 people in the 15 villages which spread over the 400 square kilometers of dense tropical bush.

Agriculture is the Kilmeri's main means of subsistence. Pigs are the biggest commodity, though the people also raise crocodiles, and grow crops such as coffee and cocoa. Sago, a traditional food item made from the pulp of the sago palm, is an important part of their daily diet.

The dwellings of the Kilmeri are constructed out of traditional materials from the jungle. Half of the house is normally an open veranda and the walls for the sleeping area do not extend all the way to the roof. These houses are usually occupied by one to three families at a time.

Kilmeri society is centered around clan ties. Singsings, traditional song and dance ceremonies, are used for healing and to ensure good hunting. Brideprice is still practiced and young men take part in the practices of the traditional men's house.

The Kilmeri people have churches in their area, but they do not yet have the Bible in the Kilmeri language. Several primary schools are available to them, and many of the children are going to school, learning to read and write. The Kilmeri children are no longer learning the Kilmeri language, but are only using Tok Pisin, a trade language of Papua New Guinea. It appears that the Kilmeri language is dying out and there is no need for a Bible translation into the Kilmeri language.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

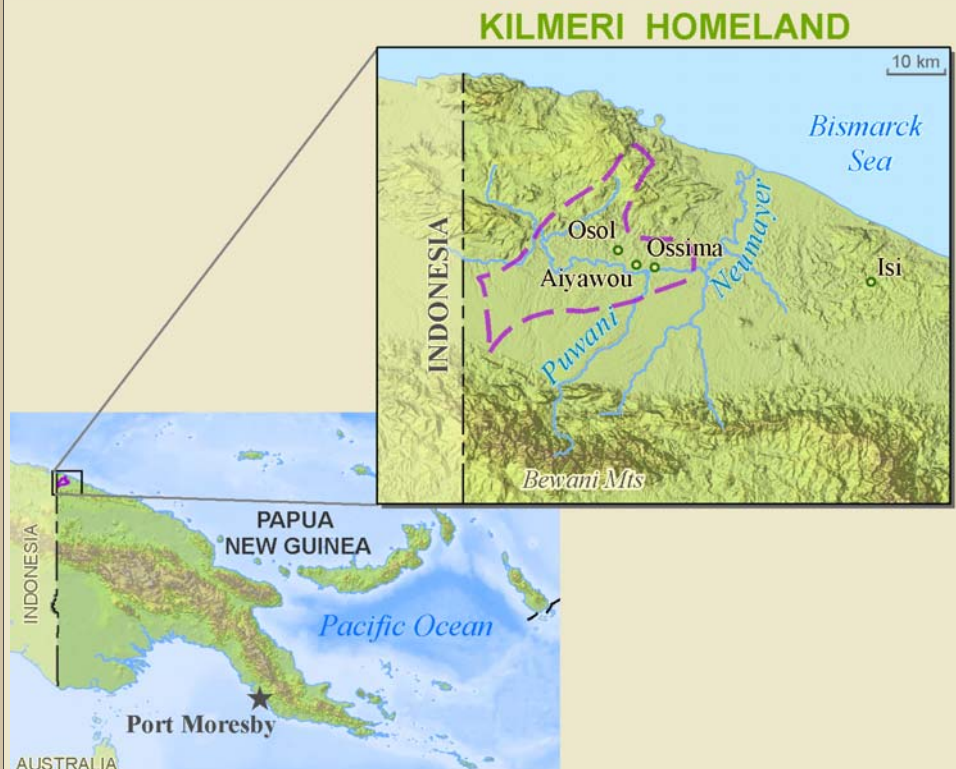
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Adequately bilingual

Population (date):

2,823 (2003)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	It is unknown how many of the people are believers, but many attend church.	
Number Of Pastors	3	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	based on ratio of 1 missionary to 1000 people	
Response To The Gospel	The people are involved in the church, but some traditional practices are still followed. For example, they still have singsings for healing illnesses and to bring good hunting.	
Number Of Communities	15	
Comment (Number Communities)	15 villages	
Number Of Churches	11	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No, speakers are primarily using Tok Pisin.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Illiteracy	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	2,823	
World Population (Date)	2003	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Papua New Guinea	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Sandaun Province, Bewan sub-district, Sepik Region, Papua New Guinea	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Hilly	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	approximately 525 feet above sea level	
Climate	warm and humid with cool evenings	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	plains with hills	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Primary Language	Kilmeri	
Comment (Language)	Tok Pisin is the primary language used amongst the Kilmeri.	
Comment (Alternate Names)	Kilmera	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Indifferent	
Second Languages	Tok Pisin	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Children are learning Tok Pisin as their first language.	
Comments (Related Languages)	Ningera, Manem, Pagi	
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	Fas, Ningera, Manem, Pagi	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	34%	
Comment (Attitude to literacy)	positive	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Publications In Vernacular	Portions of Bible (published around 1880)	
Comment (Literacy)	34 % literacy rate (based on 12 of 15 villages)	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Comment (Subsistence Type)	Swidden Agriculturalists	

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Item Name	Item Note
Occupation	Farming
Income Sources	Pig farming, crocodile farming, coffee, cocoa, bananas, pineapple, and butterfly farming
Products / Crafts	Bows and arrows, bilums, sago

Community Development

Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	Fair
Water (Quality)	Poor
Shelter Description	fair
Clothing	Few in traditional dress or adornment. Most prefer western style clothing.
Transportation	Walking. An airstrip is located at Ossima in Kilmeri territory. There are also relatively good roads in the area, but no PMVs.
Comment (Community Development)	aidposts at Ossima and Ilap; health center at Bewani

Society & Culture

Group Description

Social Habits/Groupings	Orderly, well behaved
Recreations	Storytelling
Media	Cassette radios

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	3
Primary School Enrollment	200
Secondary School Enrollment	5
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	75%
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1:40
Language Of Instruction Early Years	English
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English
Comment (Education)	There is a high school nearby in Vanimo; Some students go on to the Agricultural Vocational School at Ossima for further training. Teachers in the elementary schools have expressed interest in starting vernacular prep schools.

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Lay Leaders	2
Bible Schools	0
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0
Christian Literacy Centers	0
Comment (Church Growth)	The Catholic Mission is running an agricultural school.

Religion & Response

Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Singsings are still held for healing and good hunting. It was reported that some still practice garden magic, but prayer is also commonly used. Some still perform male initiations.
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History Of Christianity In Group

Status of Christianity

Year Began	1951
By Whom	Catholic Mission

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Comment (Form of Scripture Available)	None in Kilmeri, but the Tok Pisin Bible is available.
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	yes

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

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Item Name	Item Note
Organization Name	Assemblies of God
Number Of Congregations	1
Number Of Local Workers	1
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church
Number Of Congregations	9
Number Of Local Workers	3
Organization Name	Seventh-day Adventists
Number Of Congregations	1
Number Of Local Workers	1