

Twin Radio Stations Added To Radio Network in Papua New Guinea!

Gerald Bustin

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Dear Friend of Life Radio Ministries and NewLife FM,

I just got back from an exciting few days in Papua New Guinea. It was exciting because we are seeing the fruit of many years of labor paying off in some incredible ways.

This trip grew out of something that happened back in February of this year when the National Religious Broadcasters Association, here in the United States, chose ***Wantok Radio Light*** as the radio ministry to receive the INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY OF THE YEAR AWARD. During the annual NRB convention in Orlando, Florida where the award was given, an offering was also given by the religious broadcasters attending the convention and the decision was made to use that to start another radio station for *Wantok Radio Light*.



Dr. Ron Cline, Former president and chairman of HCJB World Radio, also raised enough money to add another new radio station to *Wantok Radio Light's* growing network! Then he, along with Dr. Frank Wright, President of the NRB and Dr. Ron Harris, Chairman of the NRB decided to join Ron Cline in going to Papua New Guinea to attend the launching of the two new stations and I knew I had to go along to help host them there.

(L to R) Gerald Bustin; HCJB Chairman Ron Cline; Ron Harris, NRB Chairman and Frank Wright, President of NRB arrive in PNG to dedicate the two new radio stations.

The two sites chosen for the additional radio stations were Kimbe in West New Britain and Buka Island, one of the islands connected to Bougainville, near the North Solomon Islands.

We arrived in Port Moresby on September 22nd to a great welcome with singing and flower leis placed around our necks. The very next day we flew to the Hoskins Airport and was met by a local church choir singing a welcome song to our group. Then we boarded vehicles for a 30 minute drive to Kimbe where the equipment for the new radio station had just been installed. Both Hoskins and Kimbe are towns in the PNG Province (State) of West New Britain. As we left the Hoskins airport we saw a big Billboard Sign on the Airport property that loudly proclaimed, "*JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OVER WEST NEW BRITAIN.*"



Our American visitors commented that the sign would not be allowed on state property here in the USA but there in PNG it stood unchallenged!

After we arrived in Kimbe and checked into our hotel, we left right away for the open air meeting where the launching of *Wantok Radio Light Kimbe* would take place. Thousands attended that service and we all had a chance to speak to the crowd. Present were several government dignitaries who offered their total support for the new Christian radio station.

The next day, Monday, the 24th of September, we were given a grand tour of Kimbe and that part of West New Britain and then in the evening formally Launched the 2007 Share-a-thon to raise funds for the radio network. Their goal was to raise K1,500,000 "Kina" this year. That is at least half a million in US dollars!

After the other guests spoke it was my turn to speak and begin the fundraising. Once we started, the fund raising just would not quit there in Kimbe. The local people were absolutely thrilled to finally have Christian radio in their area! Through the miracle of technology, we were broadcasting live from our new station in Kimbe to the whole nation! People were calling the station back in the capitol city of Port Moresby and making their pledges while the people in Kimbe lined up behind the microphone and made their pledges live on radio!

We exceeded all records for the first night of Share-a-thon and by 12:30 a.m., when we finally had to close that service, we had raised K120,000 Kina! That's about \$40,000 US dollars!! The people of Kimbe were on fire with gratitude for their new station and they gave and gave and gave!

The next day we headed over to the Island of Buka. Buka is one of the Islands of Bougainville and as far east as Papua New Guinea territories go. They have been granted an autonomous government which is linked to the Government of Papua New Guinea but has its own President and House of Representatives.

In Buka, when we landed, the Flight Attendant asked all the passengers to remain seated while the *Wantok Radio Light* delegation disembarked. We were greeted by a huge crowd dancing and singing traditional songs of welcome to *Wantok Radio Light*. We were immediately taken into the V.I.P. Lounge where we were served refreshments and met our hosts. The chairman of the Christian Council of Churches was our host on the churches side. Government officials also co-hosted us. We were taken to our hotel to unload our things then immediately were taken to pay an official visit to the Honorable President Joseph Kabui. He received us in his office where we visited and then held hands in a circle while I had the opportunity to pray for him and his country.



The President of Buka, Joseph Kabui being presented with a solar powered radio by Mondopa Mini, Chairman of Wantok Radio Light

Then we proceeded to the grand opening of *Wantok Radio Light, Buka*. The service was attended by several hundred people. Several of our group spoke along with the President who came to attend the service. I closed in a prayer for the people of Buka and its government.

That night we had another ceremony with visiting dignitaries and church and government representatives. The Vice President of Buka and Bougainville sat at our table and was very warm and supportive of the new Christian Radio Station.

The next morning we did a little sight seeing and then caught a plane back to the capital city of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby. That evening, Wednesday, I went to the Radio Studio in downtown Port Moresby and assisted in the Share-a-thon until midnight.

Thursday I spent most of the day in the studio, first interviewing our American guests, and then taking calls and pledges from all over the nation. Then Thursday night we had the official dinner of the Share-a-thon in Port Moresby. 400 diner tickets had been sold at K120 Kina each, about \$40.00 in US dollars. Several members of National Parliament attended the dinner and gave pledges. We learned from some members of Parliament that this past election brought in a number of new Christians, bringing to a total, 51 committed Christians in parliament out of a total of 109. (All would profess to be Christians but we are talking of 51 who have a serious testimony of a personal experience with Jesus Christ.)

On Friday we paid an official visit to the Acting Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. The Prime Minister was away attending the United Nations Conference in New York so we met with the Deputy Prime Minister who was the acting Prime Minister. He warmly received us and when we asked, gave a very heart felt testimony of his personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Through short wave radio we are covering the entire country. But we also now have 12 FM Stations which offer the Gospel of Jesus Christ 24 hours per day seven days every week in high quality FM audio! We intend to increase our network of FM stations to 40 which will cover all the main population centers in the nation. God is doing something wonderful in that country through Christian Radio and we are very much a part of that. Praise God!



In Christian Love,

Gerald Bustin

President of EBM International, and Board Member for Life Radio Ministries, Inc., the parent ministry for *NewLife FM*.