

# PNG and NTMA

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea, a developing Pacific Island nation located just north of Australia, gained her independence from Australia on Sept. 16, 1975. She is a member of the British Commonwealth with a prime minister and a parliamentary type of government. The capital city is Port Moresby. The headquarters of New Tribes Mission is located near the Highlands town of Goroka.

With a land area a little larger than California, Papua New Guinea has a population of about four million people, speaking over 800 different languages. English is the official national language; however, the language of the people for trade and other purposes is Melanesian Pidgin. The rugged terrain of Papua New Guinea has not only insulated its people from the outside world, but it has also isolated them from each other. Each of the 800 languages has its own distinct culture. Primitive tribal traditions are still practiced in many secluded valleys and bush locations.

## NEW TRIBES MISSION AVIATION

NTM Aviation first became “airborne” in PNG in 1976 utilizing a Cessna 185. At present, we maintain 5 Cessna 206’s, 1 Twin engine Piper Navajo Chieftain and 1 Bell 206 Jet Ranger helicopter. There are currently 18 families and 1 single man involved in the NTMA program in PNG including pilots, mechanics, a flight coordinator, an avionics man, and a business manager.

There are approximately 279 airstrips in PNG, of which our pilots use 50, with missionaries in 25 of them. NTMA carries around 8,500 passengers and over 2 million pounds of cargo a year while flying over 2,500 hours in a year.

In pursuing our objective of reaching the last tribe with the Gospel message, we have found the aircraft to be an effective, time-saving tool. Trips that once required days by land or sea are now accomplished in minutes with air travel, often at less cost, freeing the missionary to be more effective in his tribal ministry.