Dedicated to the glory of God and to honour the many missionaries who sacrificially travelled to Papua New Guinea following in the footsteps of Pastor H. S. G. Davidson and Pastor Don Westbrook (and their wives and families) – pioneers of Pentecost in the nation. And to the Assemblies of God missionaries from Papua New Guinea who have gone to other nations with the Good News.
Don Westbrook
Diary of a Papua New Guinea Pioneer
My special thanks to Pastor Cyril Westbrook who shared his father’s diary with me to assist in the writing of this story.

Denis V Smith
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Habitations of Cruelty

"... for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty." Psalm 74:20

In one of the early waves of human migration, the descendants of migrants from the Middle East and Africa came into the land we now know as Papua New Guinea. (O’Connell, J. F., and J. Allen. “Pre-LGM Sahul (Australia-New Guinea) and the archaeology of early modern humans,” Rethinking the human revolution: new behavioural and biological perspectives on the origin and dispersal of modern humans (2007): 395–410.) Those people developed agriculture and lived in houses made from materials gathered from the forests. The introduction of pottery, pigs, and certain fishing techniques by a major migration of Austronesian-speaking peoples to coastal regions of New Guinea took place around 500 BC. The people settled into isolated tribes and maintained their unique language groups.
Dom Jorge de Menezes and Yñigo Ortiz de Retez, Portuguese and Spanish explorers encountered the country as early as the 16th century. In the 18th century, Portuguese traders brought sweet potatoes to New Guinea, where they became part of the staple diet of the people who lived on native animals and plants such as taro.

The people adopted an animistic relationship to the world around them and strongly protected their land, engaging in tribal warfare with headhunting and cannibalism as part of that lifestyle.

It was during the 19th century, traders from Southeast Asia visited New Guinea to collect bird-of-paradise plumes.

The country’s dual name results from its complex administrative history before independence. The word papua is derived from an old local term of uncertain origin. “New Guinea” (Nueva Guinea) was the name coined by the Spanish explorer Yñigo Ortiz de Retez who in 1545, noted the resemblance of the people to those he had seen earlier along the Guinea coast of Africa.

In 1901, on Goaribari Island in the Gulf of Papua, missionary Harry Dauncey found 10,000 skulls in the island’s long houses which was a demonstration of their past practices.

Although there were reports of these occurrences in the ’1950s and ‘1960s, government laws were aimed at the prohibition of the continuing of these practices.

In the 19th century, Germany ruled the northern half of the country for some decades, beginning in 1884, as a colony named German New Guinea. In 1914 after the outbreak of World War I, Australian forces landed and captured German New Guinea in a small military campaign and occupied it throughout the war. After the war, in which Germany and the Central Powers were defeated, the League of Nations authorised Australia to administer this area as a League of Nations mandate territory.

The southern half of the country had been colonised in 1884 by the United Kingdom as British New Guinea. With the Papua Act 1905, the United Kingdom transferred this territory to the newly formed Commonwealth of Australia, which took on its administration. Additionally, from 1905, British New Guinea was renamed as the Territory of Papua.

In contrast to establishing an Australian mandate in former German New Guinea, the League of Nations determined that Papua was an External Territory of the Australian Commonwealth; as a matter of law it remained a British possession. The difference in legal status meant that until 1949, Papua and New Guinea had entirely separate administrations, both controlled by Australia and influenced by the United League of Nations.
These conditions contributed to the complexity of organising the country’s post-independence legal system.

During World War II, the New Guinea campaign (1942–1945) was one of the major military campaigns and conflicts between Japan and the Allies. Approximately 216,000 Japanese, Australian, and USA servicemen died.

After World War II and the victory of the Allies, the two territories were combined into the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. This was later referred to as "Papua New Guinea."

The people appealed to the United Nations for oversight and independence. The nation established its independence from Australia on the 16th September 1975, becoming a Commonwealth realm, continuing to share Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state.

The nation maintains close ties with Australia, which continues to be its largest aid donor. Papua New Guinea was admitted to membership in the United Nations on 10th October 1975.
Preparation of a Pioneer

Donald Westbrook was the third child of Edward and Edith Westbrook of Hampshire, England. The family had been established as builders in the area around Southampton since at least 1827.

In 1914 Edward Westbrook decided to join his two brothers and a sister (George, Herbert and Lydia) who had been living in Queensland for many years.

They arrived in Brisbane on the 10th May 1914 and took the long road into the Queensland hinterland to Wahpunga, near Kin Kin, where George Westbrook was farming. The family soon settled in the Cooroy District. With a background in the Church of England, the family found the Methodist church in Australia more to their liking.

Mr and Mrs Pitt, who used to live in Brisbane had shifted to Cooroy. Mr Pitt had travelled down to Fortitude Valley to hear William Booth-Clibborn who was conducting a tent crusade in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. He invited him to Cooroy for ministry.
A Mrs Lack also wrote a letter to Pastor William Booth-Clibborn. She requested someone to come up and hold meetings and to give some *teaching on the revival*. William Booth-Clibborn sent Alec and Leila Buchanan up to Cooroy to answer that request.
In 1931, Pastor and Mrs W. A. Buchanan held their first meetings in Cooroy where they stayed for a time. Later, they set up their home in Gympie and from there supervised and visited Cooroy and Woombye.

The first meetings were arranged in Mr and Mrs Knowles’ place. The Knowles invited two families from the Methodist church, Les and Don Westbrook who lived in the same street. They also held a meeting in the Cooroy house of Les and Don Westbrook’s neighbour, Mr Jeeves, the Cooroy postmaster who lived a few houses down the street.

Don had been invited a number of times, but he responded by saying that “work had him busy and he still had a loan to pay.” His son Cyril Westbrook remembers going there for some meetings which were later moved to the Westbrook home.

Although Don had been Sunday School Superintendent in the Methodist church for around seven years, he testified that he was spiritually “perishing and what is more, he knew it!” At that time, he was hungering for deeper truths from God’s Word and regretfully found no help inside his church.

Cyril Westbrook would remember his father often saying “Thirty-two years in the Church and not saved!” Don and Mary Westbrook both came to a saving knowledge of Christ in those meetings in the Hinterland of Queensland.

Many were blessed and responded to the Holy Spirit in Cooroy, Belli Park, Kenilworth, Eumundi and other places where revival meetings were occurring when Don and Mary Westbrook joined them.

Throughout the week, the meetings continued at the Pitt’s farm, around 10 kilometres out of town.

Don and Mary Westbrook visited the rest of their family and reported, “This fellow has got the goods, come and hear him.” As a result, meetings were then held in Don’s place at Cooroy for approximately two years.

This was where Norm and Bert Westbrook committed their lives to Christ – actually most of the family got saved!

When the Buchanans moved to Gympie, Don Westbrook essentially became the “ruling elder” in the local assembly and responded to the many people emerging from mainline churches in response to this “new move” in the area. Their house would become a “guest residence” not only for the Buchanans, but for Rev Howard Carter and Rev Lester Sumrall when they ministered in the Hinterland area. Later, Henry E. Wiggins also visited and stayed with them.

The Willersdorf family, who lived in Woombye, were saved at this time.
In 1938, the Westbrook family left Cooroy when Don Westbrook purchased a farm at Palmwoods, the family linking in with the church fellowship in Woombye.

A large number of people were touched by God. At this time the great Australian Depression was really hurting families and many were from other small towns further away. Many people did not have motor cars – it was the “horse and sulky” era. Meetings continued in the Lack’s home, as Don Westbrook had a vehicle and could get there, helping others attend meetings.

At a meeting in Tom Kuskopf’s house, Don, Norm and Bert Westbrook, Mr Schultz and Mr Hooper agreed to establish the emerging work more formally. The Willersdorf and Mayers families were also foundation families at Woombye.

The local Assembly met in the School of Arts Hall in Woombye where they established “The Pentecostal Church.” Local leaders preached and evangelised under W. A. Buchanan’s supervision and leadership, and they welcomed Don Westbrook into their team.

Later, Don Westbrook received an invitation to become the Pastor at Gympie, and after much prayer and seeking God, he sold the farm and the family moved to Gympie in 1944 to answer this call. The church had their own property but the building was very old. The new Assembly of God church was opened on the 4th May, 1946.

Woombye opened their new church on 7th August 1948
Gympie Assemblies of God church Opening

Woombye Assembly of God
Commitment to a Vision

It was late 1940 when Hugh and Agnes Davidson together with three children, left Toowoomba for Daintree in the far north of Queensland. They drove an old Buick car as they travelled north to take up the work among a group of Australian Aborigines.

The journey went quite well to Mackay but the monsoonal wet season had arrived. In January 1941, they journeyed on to the O’Connell River which was in flood with the Northern and Southern branches of the river crossing over the road.

They crossed the first one, then coming to the second crossing found that it was too deep and rising. What should they do?

Go back to Mackay where they had friends and relations? They couldn’t, because more water had come down from the mountains and the first crossing was now too deep and uncrossable.
However, they discovered that they were not alone. Another vehicle was also stranded there. In the other vehicle they met a surveyor who was in a similar predicament. The Lord had planned that among these travellers waiting to cross the flooded river, was this particular surveyor who had seen service in the Sepik District of New Guinea as an officer of the Government Administration. This young man had been touched by the needs of the people he had witnessed there.

When the surveyor discovered that the Davidsons were missionaries, in his initial opinion they were a disgrace. As far as he was concerned, they were going to the Aborigines to ‘rob them.’ He let his disapproval be heard loud and clear. “I know too much about missionaries,” he said. The Davidsons didn’t respond. In the evening they got into their car for family worship, then stretched out wherever they could for a little sleep.

Things were very unpleasant for quite a time. Then Agnes saw the surveyor talking to Hugh on the third day. He sat with him and began talking quietly. Agnes overheard the conversation. “I can see you won’t rob the native people,” he remarked. He told the Davidsons of large populations of people without one Protestant missionary among them and of their Tambaran cult and the fierce heathen practices the people engaged in.

He continued to tell them about the work he had been involved in New Guinea. “That’s where you should go Mr Davidson. You could do a great work there, where there are thousands of people.” (Memoirs: Alan and John Davidson). Alan Davidson recalls the many times he heard his mother tell and retell this story as he was only a young boy around five years of age. The memories stayed with him. (Memoirs: Alan Davidson). However, they were committed to their calling to travel to Daintree in Queensland’s far north and when the road was open, they continued their long journey to the north.
They eventually arrived at Daintree where they put a large map of Papua New Guinea on their dining room wall and prayed for this country for the five years that they worked there.
At each National Executive meeting of the Assemblies of God in Australia,
Hugh would bring up the needs within the country of Papua New Guinea.

Eventually in 1947, the Executive commissioned Pastor Hugh S. G. Davidson to fly to New Guinea and make the necessary investigations preparatory to establishing a mission work in the country.

Late that year the news that he had been appointed to fly to New Guinea, was welcomed with great rejoicing by Mr. Davidson’s wife and family. He was to undertake a survey of mission work in New Guinea in order to find a suitable mission field for the Assemblies of God in Australia.

The Sepik District was already in his thoughts. Hugh introduced himself to the Administrator and appropriate authorities, explaining the purpose of his visit. The administration officers in Port Moresby and Maprik encouraged the establishment of the Mission at Maprik in the East Sepik District. He was given different areas of need in the country and was invited to investigate the possibilities.

Following his contacts with officials and general clearance to establish a mission in the country, Pastor Hugh Davidson returned to Queensland early in 1948 and in that year, he talked to many Pastors and shared with many churches the imminent launch of a Mission to New Guinea as it was known at that time.

He had finally decided on somewhere in Maprik, in the East Sepik Province to be the place to establish the first Assemblies of God Mission.

At that time, he had no idea of the exact location of the Mission Station. He departed in October, 1948 for the Maprik area of the Sepik Province. He prayerfully trusted God to lead him and open doors so they would establish a base of operations in the right place.

No one in Australia had volunteered to accompany Pastor Davidson as a missionary-partner or to go and build the Mission house. 50-year-old G. G. (Don) Westbrook who was the Pastor of the Assembly of God, Gympie, had been challenged by the Lord to be available to assist Hugh Davidson.

Don Westbrook felt that God was speaking to him to offer his abilities to make this venture a success. He had been a builder for many years before following the call of God into full time ministry. Cyril asked his step-mother, Winnie Westbrook, in her later years, to relate the story of his father’s going to New Guinea.

She said that one day he came from his study and said “Let’s have a cuppa and a chat together.” She said “I told him there is no need as God has already talked to me, and it is okay.” She released him to make himself available to be Hugh Davidson’s helper and companion in launching the New Guinea Mission.

The Gympie Assembly released him for six months to fulfil this calling.
Pastor C. L. Greenwood, the pastor of Richmond Temple in Melbourne and the Foreign Missions Secretary and Treasurer of the early Assemblies of God in Australia wrote of this significant event in early days of the new Fellowship.

This was a momentous time in the Assemblies of God Fellowship. In Sydney, this small band of leaders had formulated their United Constitution, which was the basis of a co-operative fellowship of autonomous churches, joining together to fulfil the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in Australia and overseas.

They made a commitment to God-ordained leadership, the autonomy of churches, a world mission’s vision, a Bible school and an official magazine called, “The Australian Evangel and Glad Tidings Messenger” in their first Constitution.

**INTO THE HARVEST FIELD THE MISSIONARY CALL TO NEW GUINEA ANSWERED.**

Another step forward for God was taken when backed by the prayers and support of missionary minded believers all over the Commonwealth. These two faithful gospel warriors, Pastors H. Davidson and G. G. Westbrook, fulfilling the royal Gospel commission, embarked for New Guinea.

We have often had rich fellowship with both of these brethren, privilege of hearing Pastor Davidson and only recently enjoyed his pre-embarkation message when he preached at Richmond Temple at the Sunday morning breaking of bread service.

May God awaken more men women to accept the missionary challenge as these precious servants of God have responded.

I believe that these will be the forerunners of many more who will “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel unto every creature”.

We solicit the prayer of all our readers on behalf of this new missionary move.

C. L. Greenwood, Sec-Treas.

(Harvest Grain November 1948, p28)
Entries in the personal diary of Don Westbrook tell in simple and graphic terms, the experiences of these two men of God as they travelled from Australia to the northern region of this challenging new field.

Later, Hugh received survey plans of the Maprik station when the transaction was proceeding for the purchase of the Ilingita block. He saw Mr Sheldon’s name on the plans, the man they met on the way to Daintree in January 1941. (Recollections: Alan Davidson)

The vision to plant a Pentecostal church in this country was birthed in the heart of this godly couple as they served God among Australian Aborigines in the far north of Australia. God prepared them as well as others, to go in His timing to preach his word and found the first Assembly of God church in Papua New Guinea. (See also A Church on Fire by George Forbes and Follow Me by Kevin Hovey)
The following is a record from the Diary of Don Westbrook of his boat trip with Hugh Davidson on the MV *Malaita* from Brisbane, Queensland to Madang in New Guinea, and then on to Wewak. This Australian passenger vessel was earlier escorted by the destroyer HMAS *Arunta*, torpedoed and damaged by the Japanese submarine RO-33 near Port Moresby on the 29th August 1942.

By August 31st, HMS *Malaita* had moved to a safe anchorage and the crew had started to make repairs and patch up as much as possible areas of the damage. In addition, the engineers had worked hard to restore the ships power and she was fully operational again.

On the 15th September she departed under her own power. Sailing at a reduced speed, she proceeded to Cairns Australia where she arrived on September 20th at an average speed of 7 knots. In Cairns her hull was reinforced and she then sailed south to Sydney where she arrived on the 13th November 1942.

Having inspected the damage it was decided that it was too severe for repairs to be made at that time and nothing was done until October 1945. They were then undertaken and completed in April 1947 when she was ready again for commercial service and returned to Burns Philp where she resumed trade to New Guinea.

The Diary notes include the finding of land at Maprik for the Mission and the erection of the first buildings, concluding with the arrival of Mrs Davidson and their four children at Maprik.
Departing from Gympie to board the M.V. Malaita in Brisbane.

19th October. Tuesday. Left Gympie about 2:20 pm for Nambour. I had a small celebration at my brother Norm’s place. Then I travelled to Brisbane and stayed with my brother, Les. (Cyril Westbrook commented, “As Dad passed through Nambour, he called at the Moreton Sugar Mill and said good-bye to me.”)

20th October. Wednesday. Went to Hugh Davidson at Mrs Anderson’s place, (Mrs Davidson’s sister), to pack boxes and then took them to the wharf. Then we both worked on other preparations for our trip.

21st October. Thurs. Through the day received a message to have our room luggage on board by 4:30 pm. I hurried home and prepared, went over to Hugh’s place and then we went into the wharf.

22nd October. Friday. Had lunch at Cliff Morton’s place, then met Hugh at the Gospel Book Depot, completed shopping and then down to the boat.

There were only a few people there to see us off. They were family connections for Hugh and self as well as Pastors Palmer and Buchanan along with Cliff Morton and his wife. We departed from Brisbane at 5:00 pm. on the M.V. Malaita.

At 9 o’clock that night there were two men standing on the upper deck looking into the night and watching the Lights of Caloundra, and then as we turned to the open sea they soon slipped away. We lifted our hearts to God as we sailed into the unknown.
26th October. Tuesday. Sighted land around lunch time. During the afternoon the ranges of Papua became clear. We anchored at Samarai at 5:45 pm. (Samarai is a small island on the tip of New Guinea, across from Milne Bay. It was the centre for District Administration at that time.

27th October. Wednesday. We saw the District Officer and he arranged for us to visit Kwato Mission on a nearby island. Later that day we walked around the island of Samarai, where our ship was anchored.

28th October. Thursday. We used the day watching the natives working hard at unloading the ship and with reading and writing. That night I woke at 11:30 pm, dressed and went on deck, and saw them closing the hatches down. At midnight the whistle blew and we were on our way. Praise God, the work ahead is calling, “I long to be there to begin to feel the requirements of such a project.”

29th October. Friday. We lift our hearts to God in thankfulness for being on our way. “O God, give us a harvest of truly born-again men and women and children from this very intriguing race.”

30th October. Saturday. Up early, had a bath, dressed and had our quiet time. Had lunch and then watched as we pulled into Lae, arriving at 2:00 pm. We went to the Post Office. There Hugh found out that the Administrator would be in Lae on Tuesday and then into Madang on Wednesday.

31st October. Sunday. Walked along the beach to the Markham River and back. Had lunch and then enjoyed some reading and writing. After tea we had a good talk to some crew at the back of the ship, and then went to bed a bit late.
1st November. Monday. We visited the Lutheran Mission and met Pastor and Mrs Pietz. They kindly had us with them for lunch and then he drove us back into town. We stayed up till 11 pm, but saw the ship was not ready to pull out.

2nd November. Tuesday. The Malaita pulled out of Lae at 11 am and we followed the coast very closely even in the darkness as we sailed to Madang.

3rd November. Wednesday. We arrived in Madang at 7:30 am. It is a beautiful place in a beautiful harbour of tropical islands. We made an appointment at the District Office to see the Administrator. We had lunch on the ship and then dressed to meet the Administrator. At 3 pm we met Colonel Murray and found that he was very sympathetic to Missions. He was to the point and wanted Brother Davidson to go with him to Wewak. Following that we made plans for us to be accommodated while in Madang at the home of Mr and Mrs Reason. That night we both stayed on the boat.

4th November. Thursday. Hugh left about 8 am for the (aero)drome to await the arrival of the Administrator. I stayed on the ship and packed things up ready to depart from the ship the next day.

5th November. Friday. Had a beautiful breakfast on the boat, and then moved the luggage over to Customs. I walked over to Reasons’ house and took the hand-bags and the guitar with me. It was 6:20 pm and Hugh was not back, so it looked like I would spend the night alone. I was on my way to tea and he arrived. We had our tea and then went to talk things over.

6th November. Saturday. Nothing much to do until a boat goes. We could only commit all things to Him, who doeth all things well. Before the day was out, we heard that there may be a boat next week.

7th November. Sunday. We went for a walk in the morning and attended a Lutheran Church service at night.

8th November. Monday. We went to Customs and sorted out all our goods. By dinner time we had found most of it, and had the joy to learn we were booked on a ship for Wewak. By night time we had found almost all of our stuff. Happy but tired!

10th November. Wednesday. We supervised getting our goods from the Customs to the wharf for shipping. The goods stayed on the wharf all night under a tarpaulin.

11th November. Thursday. It became apparent to me that we would not get away. Our disappointments are His appointments. I want you to pray very much about our future. I have much sympathy for and a very keen interest in this very likeable people.
12th November. Friday. We had another day watching and waiting. By lunch time we had the joy of seeing our goods go on board. We had our evening meal with our friends, the Reasons, and then we left for the boat at 7:15 pm. We left Madang about 9:30 pm that night on a small ship. M.V. Matoko.

13th November. Saturday. We arrived at Potsdam about 8:30 am. Here we unloaded goods and then stayed all day. Our ship, the Matoko, left again about 6:30 pm and headed for Wewak.

14th November. Sunday. Arrived at Wewak 8:00 am this Sunday morning. No wharf at Wewak and we were moved ashore by boat. We met the District Officer, Mr Niall, and he planned for us to eat at the Mess. We returned to the boat at 7 pm.

15th November. Monday. Up early and had a quick breakfast and then supervised the loading of our goods. Had them ashore by dinner-time, and then transferred them to the aerodrome to be locked in a shed out there, ready for the flight to Maprik. We just got to the Mess in time for lunch.
20th November. Saturday. Another day of expectancy, and we went to the aerodrome and weighed up three loads. Two planes were expected, but only one came. Hugh went in on the second trip with the first load of our stuff. By the time they returned to Wewak it was too late to go again, so I had to stay the night.

21st November. Sunday. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Had breakfast and then went to Jerry Stewarts to inquire. They called me about 9:30 am and we went straight to the aerodrome. Left Wewak about 10:00 am for Maprik.
Mr Haviland, the Assistant District Officer, (Senior Government Officer), had the Kalabus, (prisoners), at the plane to unload our goods. By invitation we ate at Haviland’s home for dinner that night. Mr Haviland made available the Rest House owned by the Administration, and it was situated near the airstrip. Mr Haviland had an old stove put in there for us.

Beside the house was the walking track used by all the natives as they came to the three trade stores nearby.

22nd November. Monday. Had a cuppa, without sugar, and a couple of scones each with a little butter and some strawberry jam. We also enjoyed a gift of bananas from a policeman. A nice cup of tea with Mr and Mrs Haviland in the afternoon and then we went hiking with the ADO.

23rd November. Tuesday. We accompanied Mr Haviland to see a couple of villages nearby and saw their Haus Tambarans. At the second village they were having a ceremony to the Yam god. You have never heard such a din. The Luluai and Tultul came and made contact with Mr Haviland and we met them. They asked if we wanted to see the Tambaran, and they took us in to see the Tambaran. They had a huge yam, about 6 feet long, tied up on the pole as an offering to the ‘spirit’. One of them went on to explain what it was all about in his tok-pisin. It will take the power of the Holy Spirit to break the darkness, which is here.
Future unclear. (Don Westbrook writes from their base at the Rest House near the Maprik Airstrip) We are sitting quiet as to our next step, until we have been around, and we can feel the leading of the Holy Spirit. (Comment: The two men had no idea where they could set up a Base. They needed an invitation and they needed the witness in their hearts of God’s provision for the Work of God. Cyril Westbrook)

24th November. Wednesday. Today, two Roman Catholic priests came to instruct us about our faith.

25th November. Thursday. Two Tultuls and a Luluai came with a note from the ADO, asking us to visit their villages. We did that with them, and we were made very welcome as we trekked amongst the village people. While there, they got a boy to climb a coconut tree and they gave us a Kulau (green coconut) to drink. It was really nice. This is the greatest sign of friendship. The ADO at Maprik, Mr Haviland, had told Mr Davidson that there was no land at Maprik, as the Administration had already used much Maprik village land for the airstrip and the town, and so Mission land needed to come from one of the other villages. We are not hurrying as we feel a right start means everything. Tom Woods, whose Store is next door, is very kind. He brings us fruit and other things.

26th November. Friday. Hugh was not too well. We went hiking, and did about 23 miles. We were down Hayfield way, and got a ride home to Maprik on the tractor. We came home absolutely knocked up. We were really tired.
28th November. Sunday. Today we had the great pleasure and privilege of holding our first service at Maprik in a building called “House School”. We were not good at Pidgin, but we did our best. It will be quite an historic moment, as it is probably the first Protestant service in the Sepik (District). Don Westbrook led the service and prayed, and Hugh Davidson played the organ and spoke in the service. (Cyril Westbrook commented, “I presume the people who attended the service were people who had been brought to the town of Maprik for employment and were used to a church service.”)

29th November. Monday. We went on a trek, up the Amogu River, and then turned toward the hill we could see when looking towards the mountain range from the Maprik airstrip. At the top of the hill we found concrete foundations of an old house, right on the crest of the hill. We thought it was a splendid site. On the return we took a different route and we went past the native hospital where a Medical Assistant was based. Here we found four Luluais saying how they did not want the Tala-tala to come to Maprik. It was obvious the Catholics were working at opposing our launch at Maprik. The Luluais we met were not representatives from the land we had just seen.

30th November. Tuesday. We told the ADO about our visit to this land on the hill. He has called in the Luluai, responsible for this property. We went down to the hut for prayer. We are praying, as we wait for His guidance. Later that day we inquired, and the ADO said that he had been in and had returned to his village to discuss the matter.
1st December. Wednesday. Still waiting for word from the Luluai and Tultuls. Later in the day a message came to say that the Lululai had agreed for this Mission venture to be on their land. So, we went immediately to the ADO. There he had a gift ready of 3 axes, 3 bush knives, and a case of tinned meat laid out on the ground. The ADO, the Police Officer, ourselves and the local people who had been interviewed by the ADO all left to view the land.

Praise Note. Thank God many saints were praying and pleading the power of the precious Blood. We were very conscious of it, and threw ourselves upon God.
2nd December. Thursday. The clearing of the land was a hard one. It is a man-sized job to work in the heat all day, come home, wash our clothes which are always soaked with sweat, and then cook our evening meal. Home at 6:30 pm – very tired. After washing up, we have our devotions together and then very tired, we would write letters to our loved ones.

It is yam planting season, and the natives are busy with large loads of yams, with the shoots on them, going to the gardens. A remarkable thing about these people is their honesty. They are very honest. Our rest room is open, and so is everything else. We lock nothing, but nothing is ever touched.

3rd December. Friday. After lunch we went to the block and began measuring up this new land. We are building temporary quarters and store room on the concrete base – of what was the old house.

5th December. Sunday. We had a service in the House School and a quiet day. I had a nice talk to a Policeman who said he was washed (saved) and loved Jesus.
7th December. Tuesday. Went to the site and spent an agonising day brushing. Cleared a nice area for the house site. We took our lunch and stayed all day.

10th December. Friday. Another day up Bush. Self took dinner and stayed all day. Started to erect temporary dwelling. Came home feeling quite well, but by the time we ate I had an upset stomach.

12th December Sunday. Today is for Church. Quiet day – self sick, and Hugh took service alone.

13th December, Monday. Visited the new site in the afternoon. Paid the people for 200 morata @ 3 pence per sheet.

15th December. Wednesday. Spent the morning at the Camp doing odd jobs. Went to our site after lunch. Got a bit more done to the 'shack'.

19th December. Sunday. This is for Church today. There were five from the settlement present, and a pikinini. We had a visit from natives down the direction of Hayfield. (Hayfield, south of Maprik, was well known as it was the large airstrip from the war years). The Lord is giving us an open door. I pray, "Lord, give us some strong young men"

We are getting to know the people of Cherikem village. The Luluai is Mushalai, and he is getting quite old. The Tultul is Guinyinga. We have two men, Lapun and Beni, who regularly work with us.

23rd December. Thursday. Today we finished the walls of our quarters. They are now covered with Morata, which we have used for making the walls of our quarters. It is made from the sago palm leaf. Tomorrow we will be at home, as we prepare for Christmas day. Sister Davidson will leave on the M.V. Malaita about Jan 25th.
24th December. Friday. I have just finished an overhaul of my things, which you have to do once a week. Cockroaches infest the place, and it is a constant battle. Christmas Eve. 11:15 pm. What are we doing up at this time? It is no good going to bed. Less than one chain away there are hundreds of dark figures singing (?) at the top of their voices, and dancing to the awful rhythm of hundreds of drums. Around and under our Rest House are around a hundred natives. This is Christmas at Maprik.

Maprik men at their Sing-Sing

25th December. Saturday. Christmas Day. The Havilands have invited us for Christmas dinner between 5 and 7 pm. About 3 pm the natives began to assemble. About 2,000 have gathered for a Singsing on the Drome, and it continued till about 6 o’clock in the morning. I cannot describe all their decorations. What fervour they put into their singing. If only they were singing songs of Zion, how powerfully they would sing them.

26th December. Sunday. The morning cometh, and thank God for it. Oh! What a night! A service was held and there were three there. The others were all knocked out, due to the Singsing right through the night.
That night we had an early tea, and I was reading on the veranda, when I saw Mushalai coming. Poor old soul. He was resplendently dressed up in a long red singlet. He brought a coconut for “Tupela.” Poor old man! He wants something. I trust the Lord prepares his heart for the Gospel.

27th December. Monday. A holiday in Maprik, so we read and wrote all day. A quiet day, but very acceptable after the week-end we had experienced. We cooked tea, and then Beni and Samie had a song practice. Sorry that Beni has to go back to Dreikikia.

30th December. Thursday. I had the joy today of receiving your wonderful parcel. Oh! That lovely cake. The plum-pudding, raisins and sweets – what a lovely surprise. We also had a nice parcel from Sydney with tinned ham, salmon, nuts and sweets. These things are nice, but it is the letters I long for. Today I stripped the boxes and got the timber ready for me to make the tables. Mr Niall came into Maprik today. Mr Niall advised Mr Davidson to proceed with building the Mission on the site we had established.

31st December. Friday. This is the last day of the old Year. I am not sorry, as each day brings me nearer home. I have had some very precious moments with the Lord, and some sweet “anointings” of His Spirit.

Went to the site and scrubbed the floor, and planted some tomato plants. At home on the airstrip we had dinner and baked our bread.

1st January, 1949. Saturday. Happy New Year to everybody. Today, after an early lunch we are going over to Royal’s place. I should say it was 6 miles each way.

It was hot going over, and to arrive and sip cold water was wonderful. The afternoon tea given by Mr/Mrs Royal was enjoyed. We left again for Maprik at 4:10 pm. Beni came to see us, and we invited him to be at Church in the morning.

2nd January. Sunday. Had a very happy service, with the best congregation we have had so far. There were 8 men, 1 meri (woman), 2 boys, (teenagers) and 2 children. They are learning to sing quite well. Tomorrow I am going to start to make a table. Packing cases will be the material to use. Imagine the fun I will have.
3rd January. Monday. We had a busy day around our house. We arranged for carriers to come to carry our cargo. They kept us busy preparing loads. We had to shift our iron and the tank material to our site. We had tea and went to Maprik No 1. They had a sing-sing at the House Tambaran. Came home at 8:30pm, had a bath and supper and did some writing.

4th January. Tuesday. A real busy day preparing loads for the carriers as we moved to our Mission site. 51-man loads were taken up that day.

5th January. Wednesday. Well this is the day. This is a special day for the Mission. After a busy day preparing loads and packing, we move up to the site. We sit here tonight and write for the first time from the AOG property in New Guinea.

Hugh and I slept in the new home for the first time. Praise God. We give Him all the Praise. To Him be the Glory forever. Amen.
9th January. Sunday. Church service today. We went to Haus Lotu, and we had a very good Service.

10th January. Monday. Worked on making the Tank today. Went to Maprik twice, and glad to get to bed.

12th January. Wednesday. Hugh and I finished riveting the Tank today. Hugh baked the bread, I washed and Hugh went to Maprik.

14th January. Friday. Finished the Tank today, put the spouting and positioned the Tank.

16th January. Sunday. Morning service at 10 am at House School.

17th January. Monday. We fully pegged out the site for the house this morning. After lunch Hugh went with some natives to cut down a big Kwila tree for stumps and I made shutters.

22nd January. Saturday. Our cargo from Burns Philp came, (it had been shipped from Sydney as ordered) and the porridge was stale; the butter was rancid and two tins of Drybalm were old. Etc.
23rd January. Sunday. Had Sunday morning lotu (worship service) at usual place, and five men were present. I spoke on the fall and separation from God caused by sin. We then had a quiet day.

24th January. Monday. Hugh tried some porridge, but we could not eat it, and had to throw it out. So, breakfast was bread and jam. I cooked dinner, and it was pumpkin, taro, a few onions, and a tin of meat. Then we had pawpaw to eat, so you see we will not starve. We had a big storm so we were washed out today. We were still able to put in 19 posts in indescribable mud. Very trying, but that is New Guinea.

25th January. Tuesday. We got 9 stumps in before dinner. In the afternoon it was very wet and Hugh and I went to Maprik.

26th January. Wednesday. Today we completed putting the stumps in, and tomorrow we will cut the tops off. Then we will start using what timber we have to commence the building of the house.

28th January. Friday. We finished the stumps and did odd jobs. Some men arrived this afternoon – they work at the House Sick, (Hospital), and they carried shallots, beans, and some lovely tomatoes. We rewarded them. Dear old Mushalai often comes, and he just sits and watches. I am sure he loves us both. He says, ‘not friend, brother belong me’. We will believe God for him – his soul for Jesus – dear old Mushalai.

We will put a work shed on the other corner of this concrete so we can work while it is raining. (Cyril Westbrook commented, “remember it was the Maprik wet-season, in January, when they were doing this.”)

30th January. Sunday. Had a Service today.

31st January. Monday. This morning we made a start on the big house. It is a heart-breaking task with the available timber. We ask the locals to cut some good, big and straight, "diwai" and they come with stuff so bendy, and fit only for clothes props. For one straight stick you get 9 crooked ones. We will get there.

2nd January. Wednesday. Working on the plates and bearers on the Missionary’s house but in the afternoon the rain interfered with the work.

3rd February. Thursday. Still working on the plates on the House, and almost finished. Mushalai and Colombine today made Morata for the workshed. Tonight, an old man came from Kuminibus and brought some cabbage – 3 bundles at least – and we gave him salt and a razor blade. We shared the cabbage with our two helpers, Mushalai and Columbine.

4th February. Friday. Today a letter came from Mr Niall, cancelling the old claim to the property that we are on. So, we rejoice and Praise the Lord.
Our application has now gone to Port Moresby for a Mission site on part of this mining lease. The finding of this hill, and then the large area of concrete on the hill made this a desired location.

**6th February**. Sunday. We had our Service at the Haus School, then spent the afternoon writing.

**7th February**. Monday. A good morning for work. A heavy ceiling of cloud, very high, and no sunshine till after lunch. Put in the day wrestling with crooked joists. Got on well.

**9th February**. Wednesday. We work till late, and by the time we have tea, wash up, have reading and prayers, it is around 9 pm. Went out today and felled a tall palm tree. This is for splitting up and to use for flooring. When used like this it is called – limbom. They split up the trunk and take out the pith, and use the shell about an inch thick. It is not a level floor, but the best there is.

**12th February**. Saturday. I finished the joists on the main house and erected some studs. My passage home has been booked from Lae on the 6th April. My right wrist which has given me much pain and concern for many weeks is definitely on the mend. Praise the Lord. I am almost sure there was a broken bone.

**13th February**. Sunday. Service in the Haus School. There were 4 boys, 1 meri and one pikinini for Church.

**15th February**. Tuesday. Self not the best, today. Had a touch of diahorrea and a bad throat, by night time. Erected the tents today.

First Camp at Ilingita, Maprik – ready for the Davidson family!
16th February. Wednesday. The tents are up and ready for Sister Davidson and family to arrive. This afternoon I almost finished making a Table for the new house.

17th February. Thursday. Hugh got away in the afternoon in GATfox, (sic) on the first stage of going to Madang to meet his wife and family. I remain to hold the fort. Old Mushalai has moved in and is going to sleep in the workshop. Another lad is also sleeping near the stove.

18th February. Friday. Writing this am. Musalai working around. Radio from Hugh. I worked on the Table and finished it, and in considering the timber, it is a good job. I then started on the Dresser. Tomorrow I have to make my first batch of bread. There are also 2 benches to be put up, and sundry other jobs to attend to.

20th February. Sunday. Got my breakfast and ironed my white trousers so I was ready for Lotu (Church). I had lunch at Havilands and stayed on through the afternoon. Almost gave up hope of a plane coming in. I went down to Tom Woods and I had only been there a half hour when the plane came.

Mr Gibbs flew into Maprik with all the Davidson family on board the little Auster. We went to Haviland’s house, staying just a short time, and then wended our way slowly homeward.

22nd February. Tuesday. Today I finished off the dresser and started to make some chairs. Mr Haviland kindly sent up a sheet of three-ply for the seats of the chairs.

The work continues
24th February. Thursday. We had a good day on the house. All studs and top plates up on the main house. Praise the Lord. The end is in sight. No mail came today, so I have to carry on.

27th February. Sunday. The day started with rain, and continued to drizzle all morning. I did not go to Service with Hugh and family. A great Sunday, with all the Davidson family in Church today.

28th February. Monday. I asked the Lord for a good cloudy day, so I could work well. I had the joy of my prayer answered. Finished the joists on the front veranda of the house and erected the studs.

1st March. Tuesday. Busy on the house. Got all the joists down on the back veranda. Rain came and caused some delay. Wrote to Lae to Qantas re a booking for the 23rd March.

3rd March Thursday. Started the day with Hugh sick. Put in two tank stumps ready for the tank to be near the house. Had a cuppa and as Hugh was improved, we got up the ridge pole on the house, and are now ready for the rafters. Big rain came and so I worked in the shed on the chairs.

4th March. Friday. We now have 15 of the 20 rafters up, so next week I should have them all up. Wonderful.
6th March. Sunday. We had a rainy day. We had our Sunday service as usual.

7th March. Monday. Made the spouting for one side of the house and put it up. The rest of the day I was very sick. Oh! What a day.

8th March. Tuesday. I was very sick with the “bout” that had taken hold of me. No work today.

9th March. Wednesday. Took Castor Oil before I went to bed. I was very sick through the night and in agony for hours.

10th March. Thursday. I was feeling off all day. Finished the spouting on the house. Had lunch and then a rest. Later I got on 12 sheets of iron.

12th March. Saturday. Self worked on the roof and got all but two sheets up. Hugh was getting cargo from the airstrip. Then I worked on the chairs for a time. After tea we put on the rest of the iron and the ridge cap, all but the last little bit. It was quite dark when I got down.

13th March. Sunday. Service at Maprik. I spoke on “Come” at the service. I visited Havilands, and then went to Tom Woods. I had dinner with them and then came home about 5:30 pm.

17th March. Thursday. I have been busy with many items to complete before leaving to go home. Today busy on Stove-recess roof, Stove pipe, Down pipes, Tank, etc. A busy day.

18th March. Friday. We moved a concrete slab, and I did some work that was needed. Then I cleaned my suit and finished packing. Bathed and dressed and went to Maprik after lunch and I collected the mail. After tea I went down to Tom Woods and reached there just at dark.

19th March. Saturday. Gibbs pilot came in with the Auster and took Wally Allen, myself and luggage to Wewak. Had a beautiful flight to Wewak, and I enjoyed it immensely. I got my trunk about 9 pm. Praise the Lord for His mercies on this first leg of the journey.

20th March. Sunday. We shall surely reap if we faint not. After a long weary day, and a broken night, Sunday finds me sitting up reading, awaiting breakfast. Time 9 am. I have been feeding my soul with heavenly manna. Praise the Lord for His precious Word.

Summary: These details are from Don Westbrook’s notes of 1948-49: He left Maprik on the 19th March for Wewak. His departure from New Guinea was planned for the 23rd March and it seems that it was from Lae. Cherikem people came up en-mass to say “Good-bye” to him before he left the new Mission Station to return to Australia.
We learn from these Notes that the arrival of the two men at Wewak was the 14th November 1948. At Maprik the arrival was the 20th and 21st November as there was not time for the second flight on the Saturday. Don Westbrook had to wait in Wewak and fly to Maprik on Sunday morning.

The 28th November, the first Church Service (Tala-tala service) was conducted and a number attended. There would have been Police and government staff including some trades people at Maprik from areas with a Mission. Some may have been locals who attended for the first time.
A Seed Dies – a Harvest Comes!

Two thousand years ago, Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me." (John 12:24-26 NIV)

In summary, George Gordon (Don), was the third of seven children born to Edward and Edith on the 27th October, 1898. The family sailed from London on 11th March 1914 and arrived in Brisbane on Sunday, 10th May – Mother’s Day.

They attended the service at the Albert Street Methodist Church. The next day they disembarked, then prepared and travelled by train and finally by sulky to the farm of George Westbrook, (Edward’s brother), at Wahpanga near Kin Kin, Qld.

The George Westbrook family welcomed and lovingly cared for them until they found elsewhere to live. The younger ones attended the small school at Wahpanga. Don learned the building trade from his father and they did much work together. Edward and family finally settled on their own farm at Belli Park, while Don found work in the building industry.
The family faithfully attended the Cooroy Methodist Church where Don met Mary Krohn and they were married in October 1924. Don built their home in Cooroy. Cyril was born in July 1927, Neil in August 1929, Harold in October 1932 and Olwyn in October 1936.

Some Church people in Cooroy who were mightily touched by God, invited Don and Mary to some house meetings, and in the early months of 1931 they attended a service and answered the call to come to Jesus. This transformed their lives, giving them a new focus and changing their eternal future.
The early 1930’s are known as the “Depression Years” and jobs were few. Don worked with his younger brothers, who developed a large Banana plantation. The markets crashed and they eventually abandoned the plantation at the end of 1934. Don found work building and renovating houses, and also had Government Contracts on Schools. Olwyn was born in Cooroy in October 1936. Don bought a pineapple farm at Palmwoods during 1938, and in August the family moved there.

The family attended Church in Woombye and Don was welcomed by the church leaders to share in ministry. Due to frosts in winter the pineapple farm was disappointing, so Don did some building work. Mary had been unwell for some time, and on 26th December 1940 she went to meet her Lord. This was a difficult period for the family.

In early 1942 Don married again to Winnie Mills, and she lovingly cared for her new family. Roslyn was their first child born in March, 1944.

Early in 1944 Don was unexpectedly invited to become the Pastor of the Assembly in Gympie, and after much prayer he sold the farm and relocated there. He enjoyed the ministry as he saw God at work in many lives. Their second child, Leona was born in March 1947.

Don was praying about the launch of the Mission work in New Guinea, and God spoke to him to go and help set up the first home for the Davidson family. When he went to share these thoughts with his wife, Winnie, she said, “I know.” God had spoken to her and she was willing.

He accompanied Hugh Davidson for New Guinea and returned home late in March, in time for Helen’s birth, on 17th April 1949.

From 1940 to 1958, Don’s leadership and commitment were evident in his various roles on the AOG Executive Presbytery, both State and Commonwealth, and also the National Missions Council.

His main interests were education and missions, often taking the lead in educational and doctrinal ventures.
He was one of the key promoters of an approach to a Commonwealth Presbytery encouraging the establishment of a Bible School, and his church became one of the first three to contribute to the initial national Bible College Fund.

Don was also tasked with writing the Objectives and Guiding Constitution for the State Sunday School curriculum, and setting out the Articles of Faith foundational to the Assemblies of God in Australia. At national level he was behind the development of correspondence ‘Home Bible Study’ course.

In 1955 Don became the Pastor at Chinchilla, followed by a move to Kingaroy in 1958. In 1963 the family moved to Brisbane to live. He was invited to be the Pastor for the Zillmere Assembly. He was there in 1966, busy for God when he became sick, suffering from a brain tumour. It was serious, but his faith was steadfast. Don was called home to Jesus on 3rd June 1966. He had “run his race, he had kept the Faith, and he went to his Reward.” His legacy in missions and ministry is being continued by his children, grand-children and great grand-children.

On the 25th December (Christmas Day) 1948, Don Westbrook had written in his diary...

“About 3 pm the natives began to assemble. About 2,000 have gathered for a Singsing on the aerodrome, and it continued till about 6 o’clock in the morning. I cannot describe all their decorations. What fervour they put into their singing. If only they were singing songs of Zion, how powerfully they would sing them.”

Maprik Sing Sing
Don had written this prayer ... *“If only they were singing songs of Zion, how powerfully they would sing them.”*

That seed has died, but the prayer was answered and the harvest came.

In 2018, seventy years later, his son Cyril Westbrook wrote this report of his visit to Papua New Guinea to celebrate the harvest.

“The 70-year celebrations were a great demonstration of Faith by multiple thousands of people who love and believe in Christ, the Saviour of the World. With grateful hearts they rejoiced in the Lord, shouted praises, and declared “Jesus is the Way.”

On the 22nd October 1948 Pastors Hugh Davidson and Don Westbrook moved in faith, supported by many in Australia who prayed for them as they sought the leading of the Lord. 70 years later, The National Executive Council of the AOG-PNG Church planned that through November and December 2018, the five Regions of the Church would each plan to celebrate the 70 years since Pastor Hugh Davidson opened the first Mission Station at Maprik.

The Islands Region, Central Region, Highland Region, Northern Region and Southern Region of the Assemblies of God church all planned special activities.
The Islands Region commenced in Independence Park, Kimbe, the first week-end of November. Lyndon, our son, as well as others who visited Kimbe immensely enjoyed their program. They celebrated 50 years of Church ministry locally and 70 years as a Church in PNG.

In the Northern Region, which often gets spoken of as ”The Sepik” (due to the vast Sepik River which dominates the area), there are the many Mission stations from those earlier years. A number of these groups held local district celebrations.

These events were a lead up to the main celebrations in Wewak from the 27-30th November, where people from all over the Provinces of East and West Sepik were to gather together to declare the greatness of God.

Maprik town was the place the missionaries landed and the Government administration provided a very small and open dwelling for them to camp in till they decided on just where to go and build.

Just over one kilometre away from the Maprik airstrip, on Cherikum village land, the men found God’s spot for them. This land is called, Ilingita. This is where the first home was built for the Davidson family. Mrs Davidson and the four children arrived in Maprik on the 20th February 1949.

Kevin Hovey, John Carlsson and I were present at these Maprik celebrations. We had all served the Lord here in earlier years. The Guest Preacher for the celebrations was Pastor Gharo Maru who is the assistant pastor at the large Cornerstone Church in Port Moresby.
On Wednesday 14\textsuperscript{th} November, (70 years to the day), we had a great opening ceremony on the old Maprik airstrip. We sang with praise to God and different speakers took part to mark this historic event. The next two mornings were up at Ilingita, where the Bible College is now situated. A tremendous crowd was present on Thursday as we honoured the Lord with praise, and prayerfully launched the future. The Church declaration was, “God has done great things, great things He \textit{will} do.”

First Mission House built for Davidson Family in Ilingita

Ilingita
We followed the Service with the dedication of a Monument that had been erected honouring the two pioneers. It was positioned where the original house was built 70 years before. I think of Joshua 4, where it is recorded, “when your children ask, tell them what God has done.”

Following this ceremony, we dedicated a new water supply for this Maprik Station, which was officially opened by the Mayor of Maprik. We had enjoyed a great day of Thanksgiving.

Then on Friday morning we had a great crowd present again at Ilingita and we honoured a wonderful group of founding fathers – men and women of God that preached the Word of God, served and lived for Christ for so many years.

We had a wonderful morning as we acknowledged these warriors of the Faith.

Some had gone to their reward, but many, now quite old and frail, were honoured with medals for their service to the Church. This was very timely, as many of these dear brethren had borne the load, and served with much loyalty and great faithfulness.

We also had four nights of praise and preaching the Word on the old airstrip with tremendous crowds, and as well held the closing Sunday morning service there. Maprik has become a big centre compared to the earlier years and now there are buildings everywhere. On certain week-days the streets are filled with people trading food, selling clothes and marketing vanilla beans. This is where the church started.

At Maprik I witnessed the joy and excitement of the youth to worship God. These were the 4th and 5th generations of those reached in the beginning years, worshiping God. I saw 700-800 young people singing and dancing in the mud, as it had rained quite heavily over these days of celebration. At Wingei there was a crowd of 3-4000 thanking God for the Good News the missionaries brought.
After Sunday I had some spare days and I was able to visit to Kusambuk Church Centre with its Elementary, Primary and High School facilities all spread out over one Campus. Another day I attended the funeral of one of our early school teachers, who had been influential in his village of Waikakum with a long life-time of Christian testimony. Next Sunday I preached at Wingei and Ron Westbrook Jr, preached at Kalabu. Ron was brought to Wingei that afternoon, to be with me.

I told him how his Dad helped me in 1952 build a house ready for when Evelyn and I were married in July of that year. Ron travelled to Wewak on Wednesday. Through that week, Wingei Christians held great morning activities with night crowds of around 4000 people. I needed to be in Wewak on Thursday.

Wewak had started celebrations on Tuesday night and on Thursday night the crowd continued. The Stadium was not well lit, and it was hard to see the vast crowd. Ron told a little of his father's life, and I shared on Pastor Hugh Davidson and Dad arriving in Wewak 70 years ago, because we were celebrating that marvellous happening. Friends, the calling and the leading of God were remarkable, and it makes one broken in God’s Presence.

Then Pastor Ivan preached so earnestly to the crowd on the ways of God, and closed with the opportunity for an act of dedication as we – the Church – marched into our future. From the crowd, which was quite a distance back, there were a 1000 people who marched to the altar, telling God they were for Him and wanted His ways paramount in their lives.
Thursday night there was very little sleep for many, as through the night, people from every direction were moving on vehicles into Wewak. Already a great crowd had been present each night, but this day witnessed an even greater event as a procession of vehicles, floats and a massive “MARCH through WEWAK” was planned.

A great witness took place as people sang and praised their way for at least four kilometres through the town and on to the Stadium. At the Stadium we had the closing ceremony and the Governor of the Province joined us to bring his congratulations to the Church on the occasion of the 70 years.

I flew to Port Moresby where the next week-end, the Southern Region were to hold their Celebrations at the Stadium in Port Moresby. The Hillsong Music team was in charge for three special nights of celebration and the crowd sang praises to God – there was no let up.

On the Friday night we had the representatives of the Prime Minister present and one spoke on his behalf. The night speaker for the Celebration was Pastor Brad Bonhomme from Horizon Church and he shared on the Prophets Elijah and Elisha, and that the church is moving from yester-years into their future with God’s anointing.

It was a special word for the Church. Sunday morning, we had a crowded house as we used the in-door Stadium facilities. I shared a little on our history and that the God who made it all happen, is still with us as we enter our new season. Pastor Joseph Walters preached a significant word, that the Gospel we deliver in filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Then the Leaders gave out Awards and Certificates to honour many faithful workers from the early years. It was a long day.
After the Word was preached that Sunday night the Regional Leader called out about a dozen of us who had brought the Gospel to this Region over the years that are now past, and gave us a candle to hold.

After a few words were shared, he lit the candle he had placed in our hands and sent us to go and light the candles held by hundreds of the younger ones, who were now dedicating their lives to serve God and live for His praise and glory. This was the Launch of a new thrust of the Gospel into these communities.

Cyril Westbrook receiving the Order of Logahu Medal – the British Empire Medal
November 2015

Much, much more happened as this celebration was nationwide and the people of God responded with gratitude in their hearts. Keep praying for those that preach the Gospel and for the Word of God to have entrance into many hearts. There is much to be done, as the Destroyer would devour and destroy.”
Early missionaries in Papua New Guinea
Hugh Davidson Family, Jack & Hazel Easton, Morris & Leila Hovey,
Cyril & Evelyn Westbrook, Ron & Grace Westbrook
1954
### Papua New Guinea Language (Tok Pisin) meanings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADO</td>
<td>Assistant District Government Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diwai</td>
<td>tree, timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haus Lotu</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haus Skul</td>
<td>school house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haus Tambaran</td>
<td>traditional men’s spirit house in the Sepik region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalabus</td>
<td>gaol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulau</td>
<td>green coconut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwila</td>
<td>ironwood tree – a strong timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limbom</td>
<td>flooring made from palm tree bark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logahu</td>
<td>Motuan word for Bird of Paradise (kumul)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotu</td>
<td>worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luluai</td>
<td>a village headman or chief in New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meri</td>
<td>woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morata</td>
<td>roofing made from sago tree leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pidgin</td>
<td>Tok Pisin – the trade language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pikinini</td>
<td>child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sing Sing</td>
<td>traditional festival with dancing and often feasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tala Tala</td>
<td>Protestant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tul Tul</td>
<td>an assistant or deputy of a New Guinea headman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tupela</td>
<td>two people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16 years after the Hugh Davidson family and Don Westbrook established the Ilingita mission, I went to New Guinea as a missionary. On my arrival, the first task I was given was to install a diesel lighting plant, overhead cables and the electric wiring of the houses on the Maprik property before I relocated to the Sepik River. Now, the missionaries could enjoy 240-volt power to their homes.

I made my own ladder and the long process began. It was quite a day when Morris Hovey joined me to get the plant operating – unfortunately, we had put it in back to front the first time and nothing happened. 😊 We got it right the second time!

Denis V Smith – 2019
Haus Tambaran, Maprik

Yam Mask, Maprik

Display of currency rings on Haus Tambaran, Maprik
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Cost: $12.00 plus postage (2019)