

# REMOTE

*“Et remotissima prope” - To bring the far, near...*

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

**ISSUE NO. 6, APRIL 2008**

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## Romanian Mission School

*On January 14th, 2008, the Romanian Mission School, an endeavor started in 2007 in cooperation with Pilgrim Society and It Is Written has opened the second generation of students.*

14 male students came from 8 countries to start the second year of our school in preparation for missions around the world.

This year we have 14 teachers, mostly from the United States and Canada, that direct their courses to specific geographic areas and that deal with the remote cultures in all their aspects: survival, beliefs, geo-economic science, environmental and political issues, mission aspects, etc.



**Sebastian Tirtirau teaching at the school in Romania for opening classes.**

2007 Graduating class is doing wonders around the world. We presently have 4 missionaries in the Kalahari Desert working with the San tribe and other tribes, 2 in the Congo jungle, working with the Lugbwara tribe and the Bambuti Pygmies, 2 in the Arctic, working with the Inuit people, and 3 in Peru, deep in the jungles of the Amazonian forests.

**A new horizon**

The new students will be involved in replacing some of the last year missionaries and also open new frontiers as 6 students will be sent into our new field of work, Vanuatu, South Pacific.

We are very happy to have a strong group of students this year that continues the tradition of the last year students in going to the most remote places around the world.

We thank everybody that is involved in this work and supported our school in many ways. Without your loyal support, this would not have been possible.



## TANNA, VANUATU

In March, 2008, Sebastian Tirtirau and Dan Serb traveled to Vanuatu to continue what we started out to do in 2007.

First, the island of Tanna was reached with the distribution of mosquito nets to several villages on the island. 15,000 people live in Tanna, an island struck by most cases of malaria in the whole country. We are now in the process of providing mosquito nets for everybody in need on the island.

A child dies every 30 seconds of malaria around the world. A simple 10-dollar net could save the majority of these children.

We are currently supporting the school in Port Resolution village, the development of the clinic, and we are in the process of building a new church building for the people in the village.

A massive project of providing green power to the people of Tanna is in place as Pilgrim Society is searching for donors in wind energy to deliver a windmill capable of sustaining thousands of people with energy. The special demands required by the climate and the challenge of the cyclone season makes this a difficult task, but we are confident that we will find the right technology to make such a radical improvement in people's lives.

We are also providing a motorboat for the local people to transport the sick and ferry food products from one end of the island to the other. This vessel is of great importance to an island nation, where roads are either non-existent or impassable due to heavy rains.

We encountered great difficulties in traveling across the island during the cyclone season and we now better understand the challenges faced by the islanders.

While in Port Resolution, we witnessed a tragic event when one morning the Chief's 11 year old son was found drowned on the reef after locking his hand between two volcanic rocks while diving for fish. We were profoundly touched by the unity and the common spirit of the village gathering to support the father during this painful ordeal.

## ERROMANGO, VANUATU

Erromango Island is one of the most isolated islands in the world and that is both a blessing and a curse.

3000 people live in 6 villages around the coast of the island and reaching them is no mean feat. Having traveled there during the cyclone season made things even more difficult. We flew from Tanna and landed on a very primitive, grass air strip in the village of Ipota on the east side of the island. Heavy rains made land travel impossible. Therefore, the local chief had to travel by open boat all night along a dark coastline in order to pick us up from Ipota. The villages welcomed us with open arms and the chief gathered his whole population for a meeting with us. There is a lot of trust in what we do and we have full confidence from the local people and their leaders.

One major need for the people of Erromango is lack of drinking water. They ferry water in open boats across heavy swells for miles from one village to another. The reason water is scarce is because, despite the heavy rains, the water gets contaminated when coming in contact with the volcanic soil.

Therefore, to have clean water, we had to climb the highest peak on the island, some 1000 m (3000 feet) above sea level where the local people discovered a source that remains clean even during the heaviest rains. The climb in itself was a great challenge. Strong winds, thunder and lightning were present all around us at all times during the climb. Large treetops were falling around us due to the heavy storm. However, we had no baggage and no loads on our shoulders. The previous, men, women and children had carried up the 5 km (3 mile) hike, heavy loads of cement, sand and gravel to the top in order to build the water reservoir necessary to capture the source. We have become very respectful of their tenacity to see this project completed. 5 km of plastic pipe has been carried to the top through heavy jungle and slippery terrain. It is with a great feeling of accomplishment and humbleness to see the determination of the local people result in success, with a little help from our organization. Now, the 1000 people in Upongkor village will have water to wash, cook and drink.

## ESPIRITU SANTO, VANUATU

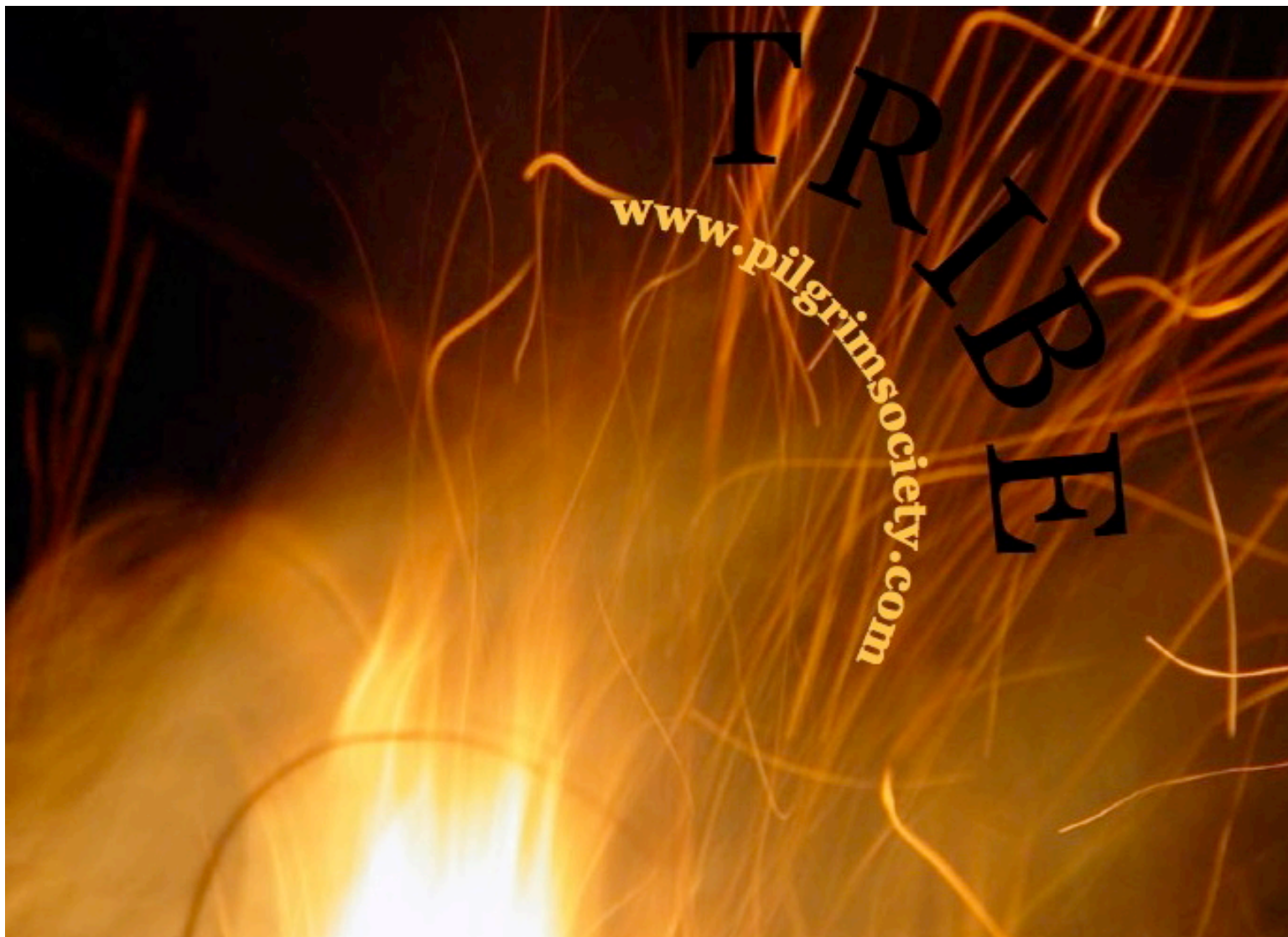
Following on the Kiai situation of Espiritu Santo, we have pursued our promises we made to them in October to return and see how we can help them. The Kiai situation is different due to their geographical location on the island. There are no roads, no airports, no access by boat. Everything has to be done by foot, which makes it extremely challenging to bring supplies. However, our guide and representative from Tanna, Werry Narua is presently with the Kiai, discussing with the chiefs of the villages the best way to bring water systems to them, mosquito nets and supplies.

It takes between 3-5 days to fully arrive at the villages of the Kiai people. Harsh jungles, marshes, water falls, steep climbs, extreme heat and humidity, are just few of the challenges. However, the tribe assured me that they are willing to send tens of men down at the bottom of the mountains to carry BY FOOT, all the materials we bring. This is a monumental task and an expedition such as this will create a stir around the villages and will help establish our relationship with this wonderful tribe.

In October this year, two of our student missionaries will be sent to live with the tribe for a whole year. This will ensure that our projects move on and the tribe sees a physical evidence of our love and affection for them.

For the Kiai people, we plan to establish water systems, mosquito nets delivery, a school and eventually a church to serve the spiritual needs of the people. All these projects have been requested by the Kiai people and we want to follow up with their requests.

Werry Narua is now visiting the villages, recording their stories and songs, as well as informing everyone in the tribe about our intentions and our desire to start a friendship with them.



We are happy to announce that the production of the film: "TRIBE", is complete and ready to be distributed anywhere in the world.

"TRIBE" is the result of 12 years of work among the remotest tribes on the planet. This year Pilgrim Society celebrates its 7th anniversary and there is no better way to showcase the work that we have done with the help of thousands of people from around the world, than with a visual account of this journey.

Many of you around the world have seen several video pieces of my missionary work around the world. Many of you know that I have been working as a missionary for these tribes for 12 years. However, this film is the first film with a specific social, political and environmental message, which I believe needs to be said in my

defense of the remote tribes and their plight. Our duty to God includes standing up for the unrepresented, for the silent victims of greed, war and

To order, you can do one of the following:

1. Send a check for \$29.95 to:

Donate and follow the instructions for Paypal.

Make sure you have your name and mailing address visible on whatever option you choose.

The film will be mailed to you within 3-4 weeks.

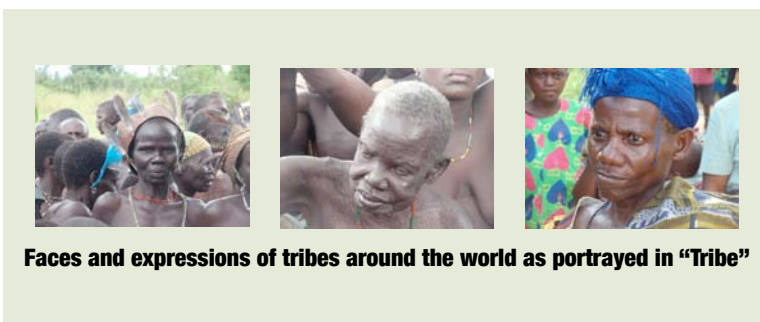
For more information, to see projects, pictures, contact information please go to : [www.pilgrimsociety.com](http://www.pilgrimsociety.com)

Phone / Fax: 1 450 202 0588

Toll Free (North America only):

1 877 745 4796

Summer phone: June 1st to August 15th: 1. 514 652 8340



poverty. This is how "TRIBE" was born. It deals with the current issues that concern the entire world and the duty we have for our children to leave a better world behind.

Pilgrim Society, P O Box 392, Hudson, QC, J0P1H0, Canada.

2. You can go on our website: [www.pilgrimsociety.com](http://www.pilgrimsociety.com) and go to