

Margaret Stringer



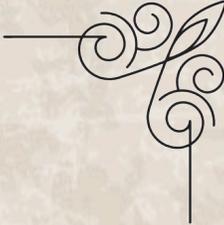
INTRODUCING

Pastor Bernard Bagasu

March 2026



Pastor Bernard Bagasu



Dear Friends,

When I moved to Senggo from the Mimika tribe in 1974, Bernard was about 4 or 5 years old. He had a younger Brother, Andreas. The Citak people at that time had no way of recording births, as they did not know how to write!

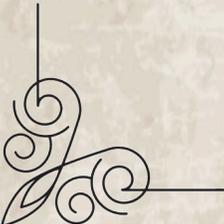
Turbis, his father, was the most powerful and most feared witch doctor. People believed that if they had an enemy, they could pay Turbis to kill them. They thought he had the power to turn himself into a wild boar or a poisonous snake, which would kill their enemy when they went into the jungle for food. Turbis himself would be at home, possibly asleep.

Bernard's mother, Pemar, and I became very good friends, and she was among the very first converts. One day, she came to my literacy class and took her Primer home. That afternoon, someone came to my house saying, "Turbis beat your friend because she came to your class." He was angry that she would bring a book home when she couldn't read.

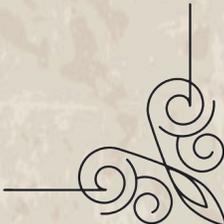
I prayed, mustered up my courage, and went down to the village. Turbis had beaten her with a stick of firewood, but she had no broken bones. The villagers were gathered in front of their house, anxious to see what would happen. I was pretty concerned about that too! That meeting will be another story, but I had a good meeting with Turbis, and he apologized to ME for beating his wife.

As they got a bit older, Bernard and Andreas began attending my children's Bible class, and both were saved.

Several years later, Turbis was also saved!!



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Pemar died before I retired, and Turbis died when I was back there for a visit. I remember sitting with the people that day, thinking, "I remember when everybody feared Turbis. Today, nobody feared him." Praise the Lord for the power of the gospel!

In the meantime, Bernard grew up, studied the Bible through correspondence, and became the third pastor of the Citak church at Senggo.

He and his wife have seven children. The two oldest are away in school. The oldest girl not in the photo is Margaret!

He is the head of the district church committee, which means he leads all the Citak- and Tamnim-language churches. There are six churches, and other villages have services but no buildings. There is also an Indonesian-language church in Senggo. Bernard has no leadership for that church.

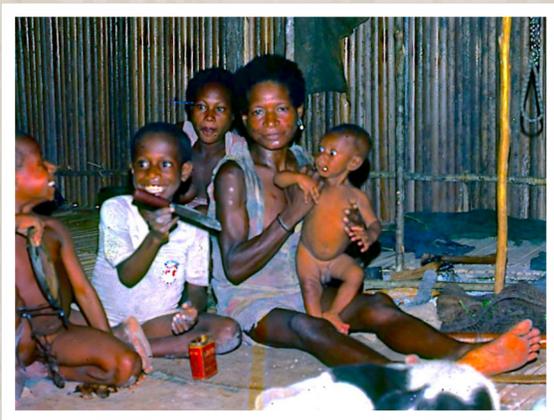
Bernard has no salary, but cuts firewood for a Muslim trader who is making bricks.

WILL YOU PLEASE PUT BERNARD ON YOUR PRAYER LIST AND PRAY FOR HIM?

Will you also pray for me? Pray that I will be faithful as we watch the skies for His return.

Serving the King,

Margaret Stringer



Pemar



Turbis with Andreas and Bernard

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