



PO Box 1765, Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-272-8170

www.piministries.info piministries@ncws.com
Eric and Penny email: epsim@ncws.com

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Dear Friends,

David Wakuri gets a call on the radio, "We have to cancel the marriage workshop you were planning to teach next week. A village man died and we must show him respect." David leaves the radio with a heavy heart, both for the man who died and the disappointment of not being able to go and share the Word with the villagers. But at least they informed him ahead of time instead of when he arrived. A prayer David sometimes offers prior to a workshop is, "Bikpela, plis, no ken larim sampela disturbance i kamap bai i bagarapim woksap bilong mi." "Lord, please, don't allow some disturbance (esp death) to come up to ruin my workshop."

David Wakuri has served with PIM 35 years. During his initial years he taught children in the schools, but later on he began traveling to many villages along the Sepik River and up and down its tributaries teaching week-long biblical courses on marriage, hard work, financial priorities, and basic leadership. Sometimes alone, sometimes with Eric he has taught courses to pastors of various denominations.

In December 2006 David's wife Martha of 30 years passed away at about 45 years of age leaving young Clive (7) and three daughters between 10 and 16 years of age. One year after her death, David and his businessman son had to make "Head Pay" to Martha's brothers, sisters and cousins, K31,000 (1 kina = \$0.40), an amount he would never have been able to pay on his own salary. In PNG it's incredibly expensive when your wife dies!

Following village custom, David waited 4 years before marrying again because the belief in many Sepik villages, including David's village Mowi, is that if a man waits only a year or two before re-marrying, he probably used sorcery to kill his spouse so he could pursue another woman. Animistic customs still hold a powerful grip in many villages in the interior.

In early 2011 after much prayer and messages thru others (courting a woman through direct friendship and conversation is not allowed), David settled on Marlene, a woman from Senapien about 35 years old. They happily married in June 2011 after some intense negotiations on the bride price (K6000).

Join us in prayer for:

- 1) The power of the gospel to break through animistic-based customs.
- 2) A pastors course David and Eric will be conducting in Blackwater village Feb 25-27.

"Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God." (Acts 10:4)

We had marvelous times with our children and grandchildren during the Christmas season and the best trip we've ever had back across the Pacific.

Thanks for praying for us!

Eric and Penny Schering



David & Marlene in David's office