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Dear Friends,

The cataract team left after completing amazingly 130+ operations by the doctor. One morning at the clinic an elderly woman who had a bandaged eye from the surgery the day before, clung fearfully almost whimpering as her daughter carried her through the doorway. She hung on to the daughter as the nurse deftly removed the patch. Unlike most of the other patients who asked for pain medicine soon after their patch removal, the old women smiled, raised her quivering hand, and said "thank you God." When asked, "Do you see the light?" she said, "I see the light and out the window there and to the next building." Then pointing upward again she said, "Praise God," displaying a thankfulness which written words cannot properly convey.



The thirty five pastors who attended the four days of training during April, had fellowship, and also some good discussions about thorny topics they deal with in their churches. Most of the pastors were back in their villages by following Sunday, some of them had over 12 hours of walking to reach their homes in addition to travel by canoe. Penny, Eric and Melvin Dottinga (formerly with PIM in the 80s), our visitor who helped with course, also have left Ambunti. This makes me the sole expatriate for miles around.

Douglas Heidema.

Translating the reports from the field is a rewarding job that has to be done yearly for the fall board meeting. Years ago my grandma (Martha Kooyers) and I (Michelle Hawkins) handled the task, but

now we have the excellent hand of Penny Schering to gather in the reports through personal interviews. She then compiles them neatly and sends them out to many of you who are their individual prayer partners. As I read the reports I grieve with my brothers and sisters for their losses and find sweet encouragement from their blessings and victories. I pray you will be blessed by Benedict Masinanji's report. He is the Sunday School Coordinator from Bogomachi,



Kwanga District. His wife passed away June 7, 2016. [Editor's note: Benedict is short and on the thin side with a shy smile that fills his nicely rounded face.]

**Meaningful verse in 2018—1 Cor 15:49-50—I believe we will get the new body like Jesus when we die.** Just before my wife died she said, “Adam gave us a body from this ground. Jesus will give me a body like his new body. Don’t worry about me; I will be in my new body.”

**Children:** Our last girl, Rossy, is almost married. And our last son, Elliot. Pray for them both to marry well, do well in their marriage and raise good children.

**Thanksgiving:**

1. The Lord is my shepherd. I thank him.
2. He is my help and my stay. I give thanks to him.
3. Answer to prayer from a 2016 request—The District Executives who previously had no unity, God changed the leader and we are now working in unity.
4. As far as the prayer request given in 2016 for more provision in the area of clothes especially, yes, this is better. I see God stirring up some Christians and they give to this need I have.

**Prayer Requests:**

1. Pray for my children whose mother has passed away. When they get really sad about it, I put my hands on them and pray for them. Pray for me, too. Sometimes grief for my wife overcomes me. Other times I am able to focus on God and know he is with me. Pray that I will hold fast to God. Thank you too for praying for my children’s school fees.
2. SSEC Church does not give official work in our church to a man who does not have a wife. [So he is not the official Sunday School Superintendent at this point.] Pray that the Lord will provide a partner and wife for me who will accompany me in the work.
3. There are now seven local churches and two fellowships—two times a year I go out to them, once a year I call for them to come to me. Pray that I may supervise the Sunday School work well. And pray for all the Sunday School children and parents, also the youth. Bad music seems to be messing them up. Pray they get rid of the bad music and come wholeheartedly to Jesus.
4. Pray for Warne local Church, pastor, treasurer and secretary, that they could all work together, that they may be one, carry out the leadership and look after the men and women.

**Stories of what God is doing:**

1. When I go to the garden all alone, the Lord is with me. He gives me the strength to clean out all the weeds. He is with us always. Spirit Holy is with us. I am truly full of joy being with him. Because he helps me with so many things, I truly believe he is with me. I have a big vanilla garden, a yam garden and a cocoa garden. We get a little bit of income from this.
2. Our third child now comes and helps clean up around church and give offerings at church. This is a change. Physically he is changing but his heart hasn’t changed yet. Keep praying.
3. Sunday School courses are scheduled for Area #1 on June 1; Area #2 the beginning of July and Area #3 the last week in July. May the Lord get the thank you and the honor from them all.

Psalm 40:5 says, “Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works which you have done; and your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.” With these stories we tell of the wonderful works God has done in PNG! Be encouraged as you too recount what He has done for you. If you are not already a prayer partner for one of these precious brothers or sisters and would like to be please contact us to get involved.

In His grace,  
Michelle Hawkins (granddaughter to Neal and Martha Kooyers)