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September 2018

Dear Friend,

Walking barefoot on short grass was my lot today, as both pairs of sandals needed some glue for repairs. It's kind of a nice feeling on the feet despite how gingerly each step is placed. I do have a pair of shoes but they were all wet from the morning walk and drying on the roof.

The thought of walking in someone else's shoes challenges us who have a size greater than 14. Literally it would be quite painful. Last weekend I did not quite walk in someone else's shoes, instead I rode in someone else's vehicle. It was the first in a motorcade of three government vehicles heading to see the building site for their next court house five hours by road from the coast and then on to Ambunti to inspect the nearly completed court house which PIM carpenters are working on.

These 4 wheel drive Land Cruisers of differing colors had dark tinted glass except for a narrow band that the drivers used to see. In an area of the country where vehicles of any kind are a novelty, we were an impressive show of affluence. Folks along road stopped to stare at the passing vehicles, but they could not see who was inside. We brutally speed along the winding road rarely slowing for the numerous pot holes and raising huge clouds of dust on gravel road sections. As the passenger in the front seat I clung on to the handle above the door and grasped the one on the dash in front to stabilize myself as we lunged along. In the back seat sat two chief officers of different departments. Both were born in the Ambunti area and had obtained their advanced university degrees in Australia. One of them had hobnobbed with the newly elected Australian Prime Minister. They dropped names of government officials of whom I have never heard.

The local aid post lacked tape for the gauze to cover the stitches on the finger of the young man.



The dry season low water makes croc hunting easier.

Before the road conditions began to take their toll on our bodies, we carried on an in depth conversation about beliefs, politics, development, education, and integrity for almost 2 ½ hours. The gist of our talk was that Christianity should have influence and be applied to all aspects of life from the grassroots man to the country's leaders. They agreed that it is crucial in improving any society. The verses from John were in my mind at the time and were shared. I John 2:15 "Do

not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. “

With increased affluence comes the tendency to forget our need for our Savior. I pray these men do not forget the Lord or allow the things of this world to distract them. Our ride was an encouraging step into someone else's shoes, one with fancy Land Cruisers and government leaders, but one where the people still need Jesus, and where we can see that PIM's construction project can be an opportunity to let our light shine.

Grace,  
Douglas Heidema