

October 2018

Dear Friends,

September 16 gatherings celebrating the forty third independence day of Papua New Guinea have occurred throughout the country. The national anthem could be heard frequently. In the capital city of Port Moresby street vendors sold PNG flags and colorful decorations made from feathers with a small flag on top. People had small flags standing in their hair. Many stores had employees with painted faces and there were some who even wore traditional styled dress (with flags of course).

Papua New Guinea National Anthem

O arise all you sons of this land,
Let us sing of our joy to be free,
Praising God and rejoicing to be
Papua New Guinea.

Chorus

Shout our name from the mountains to the seas
Papua New Guinea;
Let us raise our voices and proclaim
Papua New Guinea.

Now give thanks to the good Lord above
For His kindness, His wisdom and love
For this land of our fathers so free,
Papua New Guinea.



Girls helping each other with hair care.

I never had difficulties remembering our anniversary date since it was always a public holiday. September 16th, forty years ago Leah and I exchanged our marriage vows and then during the following month arrived in Papua New Guinea. We planned to volunteer for just a few years, however we were young, without mortgage or debt, and but few worries. Four of our children were born and raised in PNG, they all stayed until graduating from High School. God graciously allowed us to remain working together in PNG until September 16, 2009. Most amazing and never boring.

While attending a worship service a former employee of the 1980s named Timothy introduced himself. It took me a long while to recognize his face. He thanked me for the influence that PIM had had in his life. For some years he had been a prodigal but had come back to the Lord. Presently Timothy is active in the church ministry. You just never know which "seeds" God will use. "The Lord is compassionate and merciful."

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