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Dear Friends,

The seed that formed Pacific Island Ministries was germinated in Neal and Martha Kooyers' early life and educational background. Before their call to Bible translation with Wycliffe Bible translators in Papua New Guinea our founding couple were a California school superintendent and a teacher respectively. Sepik Christian Academies (which later became PIM) was formed in 1975 after they completed translating the New Testament in the Waskuk language. Early in their work in PNG the Kooyers applied their skills in education, and Christian primary schools were established in many villages of the Sepik River basin.



Anne Thomas in the mid 1970s

Older PNG people view the time prior to 1975 with nostalgia. They remember the Australian funded services of the government run infrastructure, the health department, the police and justice system as running more effectively. The Australians built and supplied many things. After PNG gained independence the new government lacked the funds, skilled laborers, and inducement to practice the essential work of proper upkeep. A newly build road stays new only a short time and then the years of wear soon take their toll. Roads, like everything else in the world, wear out and develop potholes if they are not regularly maintained.



Like many potholed roads in PNG PIM's education department has some improvements needed. As a teen over 40 years ago, Anne Thomas spent time in the Sepik with Neal and Martha Kooyers. Possessing a gift for languages, she has spent most of her life in full time ministry in South East Asia. She is still able to converse in Tok Pisin after all these years and will lead this years' teachers course at the end of this month. One of her goals is to coordinate the curriculum used in all of the schools, so that all the teachers are using the same materials. After an initial visit to the schools

in last October, she is able to make helpful suggestions. In anticipation of the course many reams of paper have been sent out to Ambunti for printing. Pray with us for a productive and fruitful time for all of PIM's teachers.

Another year has begun. Perhaps you know of some neglected areas in your life or church community that need maintenance? Perhaps you need the help of another to help you start the repair process. Several churches have recommitted themselves to prayer this month; which is the unsurpassed way to begin any endeavor.

In His Grace,

Douglas Heidema