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Dear Friends,

PIM works with villages which are located alongside the Sepik river or its tributaries. When water levels drop during the dry season some of these locations become more difficult to reach with the hours of hiking required on jungle trails. To make villages more accessible PIM organized the construction airstrips by the people of these villages.



Yatoam village has a rocky shallow river nearby, but is nestled amongst hills and mountains distant from the mission base at Ambunti. For more than a decade there has been an operational airstrip which was started and organized by Friedemann Urschitz in the early 2000's. He had been the first expatriate to ever be seen in the village which was three days of walking from the nearest airstrip.

At the beginning of this year a teacher, Phenuel Tek and his family were flown to the village. After that MAF, which flies for different missions in PNG, was grounded for a time because of two landing accidents. The Civil Aviation Department investigation of these incidents started during the first Covid lockdown and did not progress quickly. The MAF flights for missions have resumed. Yet now with new



Samaritan Aviation provides Medical evacuations for river villages.

travel restrictions once again in place by a government department responding to the increasing number of positive Covid19 cases, organizing a flight to get Phenuel requires a special approval. Given the natural isolation of Yatoam it is possible only under extreme circumstances that flight would be allowed. "To stop the spread", a "No" answer is easier to give than a "Yes".

Please pray for the village of Yatoam and our PIM teachers in their truly isolated situations. Unlike the rejection that he received to his request for a flight,

Phenuel and any child of God has the promise of John 6:37, "Everyone the Father gives me will come to me and whoever comes to me I will certainly not turn away."

In His grace,

Douglas Heidema