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We are thankful. The first week of November, Phenuel Tek, the PIM teacher working in the village of Yatoam and his family returned to the mission base at Ambunti. They had been “stranded” in the village since February with a lack of flights resulting from Covid-19 restrictions and a lack of MAF pilots checked-in for landing at the Yatoam airstrip.



Social distancing, considered good for slowing the spread of disease, impacts folks in different ways. For these past months Phenuel and Dorthy have lived in isolation to the extreme. Confined to a village surrounded by mountains, hills and many more beyond, it is not easy to leave should some health challenge occur. Yet through the months, verses from scripture have sustained the family and they knew not to give into fear for nothing happens outside of the LORD’s control. *I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Ps 121:1-2*

The Lord has been Phenuel’s help as he had thirty students in his 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class and received their parent’s commendation for teaching them to read, write and gain knowledge. His class had sufficient supplies and literature to complete all the terms. He reported, although no store food could be purchased in the village, they had enough local food. The Lord has been their help as they have decided to go back to Yatoam for another year and bring the first graders through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and graduate them.

The Lord motivated Phenuel to trek over hills to a village hours away, at the Kianu River, and spend the weekend with 30 Christians to preach the gospel and encourage the two pastors. And most recently the Lord was their helper as he and his wife started out at 7 am and hiked nine hours over the mountains to get to the airstrip where MAF could pick them up.

In the conclusion of his three-page report Phenuel gives praise and glory to God. He wrote, “I see that firstly, I’m a teacher, but also I work as a missionary and pastor.” “There’s work to help people in this area, they need to hear the gospel, be shown the good way and leave their old beliefs.”

We are thankful for PIM teachers who teach in remote villages for seeing themselves as missionaries.

Trust and fear not, for our mighty Lord is near

Yours in Christ,

Douglas Heidema



Yatoam Medical Aid Post