



PO Box 1765, Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-272-8170
www.piministries.info dhpimusa@ncws.com

January 2018



Victoria Crowned Pigeon

Dear Friends,

God's people celebrate the birth of the Savior with joy and thankfulness. The southern hemisphere summer (during December and January) does not impede the joy of the holidays in PNG. The missions' teachers and staff enjoy a two-month break at their home villages with their families. Services provided by the mission at the Ambunti base dwindle to a minimum without the staff. Management plans and prepares for the New Year, but also enjoys vacation time with their families.

Meanwhile in the villages, the people utilize the season in various ways. Brilliantly colored flowers, crafts, palm branches, and some imported shiny plastic decorations adorn the churches where villagers attend worship services. Families use this time of the year to exchange dowries for recent marriages using their traditional currency and cash. Others use this time of the year to settle the customary exchanges occurring between clans in memory of deceased family members. Traditionally there is a village feast. Large volumes of food are wrapped in banana

leaves and slow cooked with hot rocks in a pit called a "mumu". If any meat that can be found on a hunt whether cassowary, duck, pig, or crocodile it is added to the mumu. Food in any culture is a part of the celebration.

Clinton Sowano, the Assistant Manager in Ambunti, included Exodus 14 in his annual report. This passage is a poignant reminder to move forward in obedience to our Heavenly Father in spite of difficult or maybe even dire circumstances. Clinton's brother, who recently had completed teacher training college, passed away suddenly last year. This year the son of a neighbor who worked in the capital city and also in his 20's died after a short illness. Plus there were other departures of mission staff and former staff that went to meet their maker in this year.

After leaving Egypt the people of Israel are pursued by Pharaoh and his whole army. They are hemmed in by the Red Sea in front and the furious, ferocious Egyptian army behind. Panic threatens. Starting in verse 13, *"Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace.' And the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me?"*



Canoe travel. Some can carry up to 40 people.

Tell the children of Israel to go forward.”

When panic threatens we must remember that the Lord will fight for us, pausing for a moment will help us remember His faithfulness in all our past difficulties. However, it is not enough to stay still, we must then, like the Israelites, move forward. Assuredly when we move forward in trust even the sea will be open to allow us to walk through on dry ground.

PIM looks at how God has been with us throughout the years with rejoicing and thanksgiving. In this New Year that is upon us we know that God will be with us. That battle is the Lord's!

Yours in Christ,

Douglas Heidema

