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Dear Co-worker:

Years ago when I needed material for a newsletter I relied on topics that Martha submitted to me. Today, with Martha largely confined to her lounge chair, I have the privilege of sorting out what to write from the various emails that come my way. What follows, then, are excerpts from Doug's.

Last Sunday six people and I motored to the village of Tongajam that included a dousing in a driving rain. [The village is about two hours by motor canoe up the Sepik and then the Sanchi River.] Over many years PIM has had a special relationship with the village. The parents of mission manager Reuben Wak live here along with others who work for PIM. A huge welcome with flowers, leis, wreaths, adornments, confetti, and singing awaited us. After my message the village counselor and others spoke about ways PIM has helped the village and then I told about Leah and showed the video. After shaking hands with many, one man grabbed my hand and told me (and went on and on) how he grew up in Madiwai and remembered Neal and Martha and son Cory whom he often went out on the lagoon in a canoe and netted fish with him. After a delicious meal we went back to Ambunti with intermittent chilling rain and bright sun.

On Monday I worked on a copier that had a non-functioning toner cartridge. After trying to alter the one ink cartridge that was available to fit the particular machine, I gave up on that and threw the results in the trash.

Since the Walde family from Germany was coming on Thursday from Wewak on Tuesday I thought we should do some repairs on the flat where they would be staying. Last week much of the ceiling was replaced and the crew had worked on the light fixtures. After checking one out I notice they were wired incorrectly, so I had to do some teaching. I notice that the newest employee caught on well and I was impressed on how well he did the job.

Wednesday we continue on the light fixtures. After figuring out some problems and getting a fixture from another location we finally got everything working properly. The flat should be ready for occupancy tomorrow.

Thursday Hannes and Carolin and their four children arrived (ages 1 to 6) at 10 am via MAF. The sky was over cast but no rain this morning. The Waldes were seconded to PIM for several years until 2010. Hannes had to return to Germany to further his education and training and now he's assigned to Wewak under Liebenzelle Mission of Germany. I wasn't able to get to the office because I also had to supervise replacing a door frame and lock in the Kooyer Hostel and see to some screening repairs.



Visiting the prison (when Doug called Michelle he began the conversation with, "I was in prison today.")

A heavy down pour came in the afternoon and the Walde's three-year-old girl went running in the rain, slipped, and cut her foot on a sharp stone. After attention to her injury we learned she had slept well. Hannes and I worked on some plumbing modifications in the afternoon. I hit the sack at 10, went to sleep and didn't hear the thunder cracks during the night.

[Note: The Ambunti tropical climate has a wet and not-so-wet season, but the level of the Sepik portrays a decided wet and dry period through the year in the highlands. In March there's a steady northwest monsoon that comes off the Pacific laden with moisture that usually lasts until May when the southern trade winds blowing from the east move up from the south. Then New Guinea's Central Range is in the rain shadow and the Sepik River (which has its sources in the range) acts like the bath tub has had its drain plug removed and the water in the vast basin can drop as much as 30 feet. I've noticed that in June and July one can expect earthquakes, likely caused by the land mass trying to adjust to the change. Slowly the SE blowing trades turn to the NE beginning in September or October, and then in December or early January the NW monsoon comes into play again. In January, however, the region usually experiences a two or three week period of a much drier pleasant breeze blowing due east; this results from the rains falling in west New Guinea on the other side of the range.]

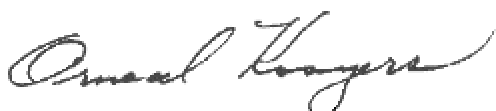
Friday we worked on improving the water supply to the various buildings. We also had a new trainee to operate the duplicating machine. We had some paper jams which helped the newcomer know what to do in the future when the problem occurred. The high humidity affects the stencils so every new one that's made has to be checked to see that it is threading through the machine properly. After that the new man printed over 6,000 pages of Sunday school literature.

Earlier I had worked on the printer for more than eight hours. At first it looked like a simple job, but it turned out otherwise. One thing led to another. It taxed the brain cells without a service manual and I had to disassemble and reassemble various bundles of electrical wires. After I got it working again it can print 100 sheets per minute. Needless to say the printer is vital to PIM's teaching ministry.

Saturday morning Reuben and I went to attend a meeting at the Ambunti High School. Only one teacher showed up after our 15 minute hike. In the afternoon we finished the plumbing job, so now we have good water pressure at the PIM compound.

Tomorrow we plan to visit the local prison with Hannes and his family. As I reflect on the past week I rejoice in what the Lord enabled us to accomplish. What a joy to have Romans 5:3-5 speak for us when it says we rejoice in our afflictions. They energize that enduring spirit in company with the direction of the Holy Spirit.

In his grace,



Orneal Kooyers



Photos by Doug and format by Michelle