



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

May 2016

Dear Co-worker:

Penny writes about Rubeena's testimony regarding her throat surgery. Rubeena worked in PIM's office in Ambunti faithfully for many years.

After her surgery Rubeena felt terrible. She could only talk in a whisper. She couldn't eat. She cried out to the Lord for three nights in a row because she couldn't sleep. She kept blaming herself and the Lord. "Why did you let me go in for this operation? Where are you now? I'm a preacher and now I have no voice." She moaned so much in the night that her two friends asked her to be quiet.

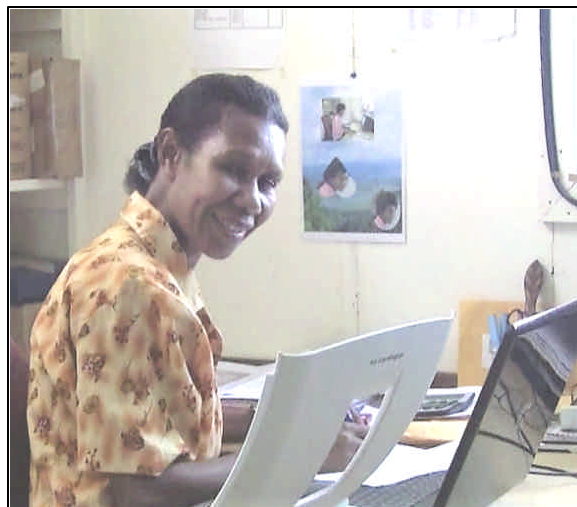
The next morning her friend called her pastor. "Please come. Ruby is in a terrible state." The pastor came at 5:45 in the morning. He counseled and prayed with her. "Why are you worried and second guessing yourself? You will be all right. Stop worrying. The Lord has heard your cry and you will be fine." Ruby said, "He prayed for me to receive God's peace and as he left it washed over me and stayed with me. I slept the whole day." From that point she knew she would be okay.

She told her testimony to nine women under a tree in the women's section of the prison. "We have to reach out in faith for the miracle God has for us. My Christian friends helped me when no one else was there. I had to grab hold of the help that God gave me through friends, through the pastor, through PIM when my relatives who had high paying jobs refused to help. It was the prayers and support of friends that brought me through it all.

And there she was preaching to the ladies. Her voice was no longer a whisper. She was like the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17) who had received a tremendous blessing and was now able to witness to what the Lord had done.

The summer of 1978 Martha and I had left WBT/SIL and we were wondering how to proceed on forming our own mission. It was evident that the Lord had His own plans, because West Coast supporters had called and requested I go to Washington and California and move matters in that direction. While I was there Doug and Leah had decided that a trip to PNG was in order to help them decide their own future. On Doug's recent trip to PNG he reminisced about his first time in PNG and the early experiences.

Shortly after arriving in PNG in late October 1978, Leah, her mother, and I went up the Sepik to visit the upriver villages of Oum and Mowi to obtain a glimpse of Sepik living. We brought our bedding and mosquito nets and slept in thatched-roofed village houses. We boiled our



Former PIM employee Rubeena working in the Ambunti office.

drinking water over a wood fire which gave it a smoky taste. Soon we retreated for the night from the swarms of mosquitoes. Leah's mother enjoyed visiting the different villages. These villages were the homes of many students who attended the Ambunti Akademi. Mowi is on the upper reaches of the Sepik River basin just below the mouth of the May River. It is susceptible to the annual flood waters and is one of the largest villages in the area with over 1000 residents. Several mission employees come from Mowi, including PIM's head of church administration department.

Mowi has grown since I first saw it. Men construct their homes of jungle materials along the shore; consequently, the village is long and narrow. Sago is the major portion of their diet beside fish. Gardens are frequently flooded and there is no high ground near the village, so fresh produce is not available at these times. I found that kerosene is no longer sold. Villagers now have LED lights powered by a battery charged by a small solar panel. I also learned that there is a certain area in the village where there is one bar of signal strength for a cell phone but I couldn't find that spot!



It was encouraging to see the attendance in church which has been growing, likely due to the influence of one of PIM's health workers in the village. PIM also has a school in the village. It was also interesting to meet some of the older fellows who had attended PIM's Akademi in Ambunti earlier. I noticed in Mowi and other villages the impact that PIM has had on them. It may be big or small. One man, who is now a government teacher, thanked me for employing his father that allowed him to attend school and get an education.

When I leave Ambunti for the States I plan to go down river to Pagwi then go by road to Wewak. With the rainy season on, I don't want to miss any flights canceled by the weather to Wewak and miss flying to Port Moresby.

In His grace,

Orneal Kooyers



Photos by Doug and
formatting by Michelle

Patients waiting outside the new Mowi health clinic. The building with a rain catchment system was built by PIM with government funds.