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Dear Co-worker:

After arriving in Wewak from Port Moresby on July 20, Doug provides some interesting incidents with other comments:

*Port Moresby, the capital city, sprawls over rust covered hills and in the current dry season scattered trees are the only green. Rural people relocate to the growing urban area hoping to make some money. They usually stay with already overcrowded relatives, and most do not prosper. They remain long enough to acquire enough funds either through work, or a relative buys them a plane ticket home.*

*After coming back from the service counter one such fellow passenger sat next to me and was relieved to learn that my destination was also Wewak. It was obvious he didn't want to miss the flight out of the big city with its traffic, noise, crime, and crowds. He was from a small village in the East Sepik region and the flight information screens, noise in the terminal, and frequent garbled announcements confused him. He was looking forward to home sweet home with the family, grandchildren, and a good night's rest.*



One of the Wewak beaches.

*We boarded the plane through a doorway near the tail; surprisingly the seat numbers began there. My seat in Row 19 happened to be up front, and the man who sat down next to me looked well educated and friendly. He was a highlander from Enga Province who had attended a Lutheran mission school for*



The bent lightpost hit by the van.

*the first six years of his education. I learned that a teacher from Nebraska influenced his pronunciation of certain English terms.*

*He was a lawyer who practiced corporate law in Port Moresby and was on his way to attend the funeral of his uncle at the flight's next stop, Mt. Hagen. At twenty eight years old, he claimed he wasn't being paid much by the law firm. When I asked if he had read anything by John Grisham, he smiled and said of course he had. That led our conversation into more lawyers, his work, and specific cases involving companies having to deal with corrupt politicians in land sales. He went so far as to mention names.*

*When he learned I was a missionary our exchange went off in another direction. That lasted about an hour and a half. After talking about his family, he seemed receptive to talking about spiritual things and had many questions. We talked of the evidence for God, the complexity of creation, and the overseeing intelligence required for the earth's fine tuning. We discussed C. S. Lewis' statement about Jesus being either a liar, a lunatic or what He actually claimed to be, God. He said he read some of the Narnia series by Lewis. At the end of the flight I asked if he was prepared to face eternity. With that basic question that each one of us has to face, it appeared that he had a few things to ponder when we parted ways.*

To remind us that God's law and order are still needed to be promoted in PNG, Doug relates the following which William, a former teacher with PIM told him.

*A recent accident occurred on a hill leading up to PIM's residence in Wewak. A small van with five passengers driven by a drunk driver clipped another vehicle coming up the hill. The drunk lost control of the van and it flipped several times until it was stopped upside down on a street light (seen in the picture above) which kept the vehicle from tumbling down an embankment. The driver and two women died, the others were taken in critical condition to the local hospital.*

*What happened next is typical PNG. People swarmed to the scene. William's son helped the injured get into vehicles that took them to the hospital; one of them was from the local Christian radio station. Meanwhile other bystanders had a different plan: they helped themselves to what they could take from the accident scene, looting what they could of people's belongings from the wreckage*

Surely, there is still much room for missions, missionaries, governments, and schools to teach the biblical Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do to you. "

Many, many thanks to you for partnering with us in proclaiming the Good News to those in PNG where the Lord sent us many years ago. Rejoice in the fruits of righteousness that come by the Lord Jesus Christ as we together work to please Him.

In His grace,



Orneal Kooyers

Photos by Doug Heidema  
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Refueling a Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) plane before the flight.