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Dear Co-worker:

This month Penny and Eric are translating reports from PNG PIM staff for PIM's annual board meeting in November. The reports are primarily submitted to help us empathize with those working in the remote villages so we are better equipped to help them in their missionary task. We share some with you, but first we include comments from Doug.

After preaching in a village church one Sunday I was invited to stay for lunch by one of the couples. Their cooking fire continued to burn as we sat on box-like stools in a cloud of smoke which slowly rose into the thatched roof and out the doorway. A generous serving was heaped on my plate and the children sat in another room listening to the conversation through an open door. Food left in the pot would go out to them but the guest was served first. The first serving was more than adequate, and I'm confident that if my hosts had owned a fatted calf, they would have prepared one.



I also experienced a first in relations to New Guineans. I was chatting with a neighbor in Ambunti when his son, who is less than a year old, walked over to me and put his arms around my legs. His daddy pulled him away, hoisted him up, and tried to keep him. But the toddler protested, and again came to me with his arms extended. So I picked him up and was amused with how he examined me with the greatest curiosity. I suppose my neighbor could say that I was a substitute light-skinned grandfather since the little one's grandfather was an Australian.

From Albert Sailes in Jama: I take the opportunity to be a spokesman for the community. Many thanks for the clean, fresh water. We are grateful for the two big water tanks connected to our school and classrooms. The school is functioning well and the in-service training has helped me in my teaching.

From Chris Wakuri in Waniap: When we were in Kagiru in 2013-2015 a sorcerer tried to injure our son, and my wife called upon the Lord to protect us and our son came to no harm. Thankfully the pain and fear that we experienced did not linger with us. Our faith is strong and God does actually deal with wicked men, and when we cry to Him He hears us and looks after us.

From Eric Wani in Ablatak: There are many things for which I can say "thank you." I see great things happening around me, and I know that Papa God is helping me in my teaching. I have peace when the problems in the village overwhelm me. When the anxieties want to get the best of me, I try to apply the wisdom and understanding that comes from the Lord. I know that He is full of compassion and that gives me joy. When I am unhappy because we have no clean drinking water, I read the Word of God and cling to Him. I know He is a powerful God forever and forever.

From Genesis Aplasua in Manamei: Last year I had a heavy burden that weighed me down. And I really got discouraged because we had no clean drinking water. We were afflicted with various diseases. But we had a great blessing when we held a Christmas worship service with five local churches from the surrounding villages. Last year I poured a lot of energy into building a new classroom and teacher house in Buyou, but this year I've been assigned to a different school which is in my home village.

From George Bawi in Yapram: *I have a special need list: My wife has many bodily ailments; we need stationery materials; we need a radio to sound out words in studying phonics; it would be nice to have a waterproof patrol box to keep our teaching material safe from wind and rain blowing into the school. Please pray for these needs.*

From Glen Pokote in Tongujamb: *We have a large group of children in the village and many are not able to be in class. With three big classes we are short of teachers, so I take two classes. The other teacher and I work well together with no tension, no jealousy, or animosity. We're related in marriage so that helps. But I have great hope for the school because the classes now come under the supervision of PIM which was not the case earlier.*

From James Yuwai in Klauhau: *My family and others have been hit hard this year by the flood that covered our gardens and destroyed the produce. This year we hope to start building a permanent double classroom because of some special money received. I'm pleased that the Local Government Council granted K20,000 [about \$7,000] after I submitted a proposal to them for the classroom.*

From Jeremiah Meiwan in Wokiawe: *I have a few things to tell you about. Our pastor took a three month course and I was left with the preaching in the church. It really helped me in my personal prayer life and daily Bible reading. Sometimes the pastor came from Maposi and helped me too. We selected a new school board this year. We hope things will be better with the seven new members. For the past three years it has been hard to get bananas, leafy greens, and other local produce. But this year the leaders of the village started a market. My wife and I use a net to catch fish in the stream and sell them at the market and use the money to buy the produce we need. God heard our concern and now we are not short of fresh garden produce. Also God opened a door for us through David Kasen who got a professor to give some special training for PIM teachers. Many of us having been praying for some good instruction on the new curriculum.*

From Jim Wopri in Arapi: *One afternoon I was carving out a new canoe and two young children were sitting close watching me. All of a sudden the ax flew out of my hand and headed straight for the two girls. But it fell harmlessly at their feet. It seemed like the ax changed direction and its sharpness had no effect. The incident moved me. I was so thankful God had intervened so the girls were not injured.*

There's something else I want to mention. Every time I'm due to go to Ambunti for a workshop or course the Lord sees to it that there is water in the stream. Every time, even in the dry season when the stream normally has no water in it, God sends rain and a canoe is able to come up it. The same thing happens when I have to return to Arapi and teach again. I have seen him take care of my transportation needs like this many, many times.

Whether it comes from the heart of those teaching the youngsters in the villages to read and hear God's Word or from the PIM staff in the Sepik or US, we are grateful to you who provide means for us to labor at the ends of the earth and elsewhere in His grace. Thank you so much for your prayers and gifts.

In His grace,



Oswald Kopye
Photos by Doug Heidema
Format by Michelle Hawkins



Ambunti High School students with copies of *Heroes at the Ends of the Earth*.