



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

July 2017

Dear Co-worker:

On April 24th, 2017 PIM national leader David Warkuri and Eric traveled to the town of Goroka to teach a three day course for some pastors in the city. Sadly, David died in Goroka on May 6 from diabetic complications.



David was a passionate teacher and gifted leader who was committed to building strong marriages, families and churches in Papua New Guinea as a member of the PIM staff.

What follows is an excerpt of what was shared by Doug during his funeral. Doug found a small autobiographical piece that David was working on before he died. His life was a tree bearing fruit and we thank you for praying for David's widow Marlene (second wife) and his adult children Jeffrey, Dorcas, Penni, Manuel, Rachel, Christina and Clive and their families.

David writes: *This is my story. My mother bore me in 1953 in the village of Mowi; however she died at the age of 44 in 1962. So when I was a young boy I came and lived at the Assembly of God (AOG) Mission school. I was a troublemaker and the headmaster expelled me and four other boys. That was the end of my formal education; I was in the third grade.*

In 1968 and 1969 I worked as a mechanic with the Hayfield AOG workshop. I was not happy with the wage so I ran away and took a ship to Rabaul where I stayed for three years before returning back to my village. Then in July of 1972 the AOG mission found me again in the village and took me to Yangoru for a three month teacher training course. Then I stayed there and taught in the school for six months. At Christmas I went to my home village of Mowi far up the Sepik River.

1973 the AOG sent me to Maprik Bible College for one year. It was during the following year, that I came to the Ambunti Academy and was introduced to Pacific Island Ministries. I taught a Bible Class with Neal. PIM took care of my room and board and paid me as well. I then went back to Bible School; it was okay that I moved around because I was still a single man.

In 1975 I did my teaching practicum in several different places including three weeks back with PIM. After completing the year I graduated and went back to my village and was married on February 22 of 1976. On the 28th of February the AOG church called me as a pastor and I worked with them until May of 1977 when we left the church to work with PIM.

PIM gave me many different opportunities and has opened doors for me to work with many people. We lived and worked in Ambunti until 1986. We then worked in the Mowi area for 6 years planting 10 local churches. However, we were forced to move back to Ambunti because Mowi did not have higher education for our



children.

I am blessed to remember some highlights of my work with PIM over the years. Buria (Neal and Martha's language helper) and I spent time in the village of Maposi in 1979. Buria and I started an airstrip and the ministry work in the area. Buria became a father in the faith to the people in that area.



I then spent four years in the Aitepe area. I traveled a lot and helped to start local churches in the Yagiap area as well. I taught a six week course for the parents to teach them how to read and write. I was grateful for the Lord's help as the parents learned very well and quickly!

So many things I am grateful that the Lord helped me with. However, life also brings great sorrow. My wife Martha was a wonderful woman, she was a great help to me. She would help me in my work by giving me good input and ideas. Sometimes if I was discouraged or a little tired she would strengthen me with God's word. She was my prayer warrior when I went out on ministry trips. She and the children would stay at the house; it felt like she was a part of my body- my backbone. She left me on December 20th, 2006 at midnight. I wept and mourned deeply for the loss of my best friend and fellow worker. She was the perfect helper for me and I was grateful that God had given her to me. I was comforted. I felt deeply the promise of Jesus, "I will go and prepare a place for you," I felt as if Martha was going ahead of me too. We were married for 30 years.

I look back at all of the churches that I have started while I was working with PIM. For 40 years I have worked with PIM, and not one of those churches has been called a "PIM church". PIM has started and supported churches not to lift up its own name but to lift up the name of Christ and to build His kingdom and this encourages me too.

Closing thoughts from the funeral from Doug,

All of us here in this gathering have seen that truly David was a faithful servant of the Lord. He was a pastor, teacher, but also a student as he was always learning from the Word of God. His passion was for strong unified churches to spring up in the Sepik area and in other places in PNG. He was committed to training leadership in the church, and he had a desire to teach and grow strong marriages and families. What a precious gift the Heavenly Father gave us in David Wakuri! Thank you Father!

Each one of us has lost others to death. In His timing, our Lord will close the book of each of our lives as well. We pray that your story, like David's, will proclaim the Glory of our Great King!

In His Grace,

Michelle Hawkins
Photos by Doug



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

