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Dear Friends,

Over the 35 plus years Rueben Wak has worked as a senior staff for PIM, he has wrestled with the effects of corrupt government officials. Year after year government subsidies for operational expenses of PIM schools were erratic or non-existent. Leaders from upriver villages would often sit in his office in Ambunti decrying the absence of health services.

Teacher absenteeism in government schools in the East Sepik Province is high. Principals take off for months leaving teachers with the difficult choice of assuming the load of another class or sending students home. Teachers collect salaries even when they are not on the job. Nation-wide 50% of children are not in school. In this way PIM teacher integrity is valued by village parents; they grateful for our teachers' faithful conduct.

For years Reuben has been thinking and praying about whether to run for public office. Could he combat corruption better from that vantage point? This year he gave it a try. On April 1 as required by law, Rueben resigned his position at PIM to contest for Member of Parliament for Ambunti/Drekikir District. He travelled up the Sepik River and traversed pot-hole filled roads in Drekikir area looking for votes. He spent time on the phone, and sometimes had to field two calls at once! Being a person of integrity in financial matters, he would have done very well as a national MP. Of the 26 vying for the position in the district Rueben came in 4th.



The PNG government had 10 million ballots printed in Indonesia for a total PNG voting population of three million.

Whether the Ambunti/Dreikikir elections were rigged or not, we are not sure, but David Kasen, long term staff member with PIM put it well: "It's a win-win situation. If Rueben wins the election, it will be a positive for the country. If he loses, PIM wins because we get him back." On Aug 1 Rueben came on board as a PIM staffer again.

The timing worked out very well because Doug was summoned back to the US in the last few days of July as the health condition of Orneal took a turn for the worse. Orneal wanted to interact with Doug about PIM matters as well as some personal concerns. Doug is thankful to leave Rueben in charge of PIM PNG operations.

A big thank you for your gift to PIM! We rejoice in your love and prayers for the ministry, which is being used by the Lord in a great way.

May the Lord show you his favor in new ways! May the God of Israel grant what you have asked of him! (1 Samuel 1:17).

Eric Schering