



PO Box 1765, Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-272-8170

www.piministries.info piministries@ncws.com
Eric and Penny email: epsim@ncws.com

September 2017

Dear Friends,

“You’ve played long enough. I’m going to send you to a needy people.” Orneal sensed the Lord speaking to him during the Memorial Day weekend of 1959. He had just read an article by Nelson Bell in Christianity Today and it set him thinking about the direction of his life.

Orneal Kooyers was a visionary with great passion that the people of Papua New Guinea would understand and live by the Word of God.

Orneal passed away on August 29, 2017 in Grass Valley, CA. In late July Orneal realized he was no longer able to care for Martha, his wife of 69 years. He entered Spring Hill manor in Grass Valley where he spent the last five weeks of his life.



1961 just before leaving for the mission field.

In the 1950’s Orneal served as Principal of a high school in Mount Shasta, CA and Superintendent of the local elementary district. He found the superintendent position boring and the education system deficient. It did not satisfy the yearnings of his heart and soul.



1985. Neal and Martha with the other missionaries in Ambunti at the time.

After the Lord spoke to him about going to a needy people, he and Martha decided to sign up as Bible translators in PNG. From 1961 – 1977 Orneal and Martha served with Wycliffe Bible Translators in PNG, translating the New Testament into the Washkuk language.

Upon completing the translation, Wycliffe asked them to consider doing another translation. The locals in the Washkuk-speaking area wanted Orneal and Martha to teach them and their children how to read in the Melanesian language and in English.

After much prayer and thought, Orneal and Martha decided to leave Wycliffe (aka Summer Institute of

Linguistics) and form a new organization Sepik Christian Academies, which changed to Pacific Island Ministries in 1982.

Included among Orneal's books were *Reflections, Commentary on the Gospel of John, Heroes at the End of the Earth*, (written with Martha) *The Moral Law and Its Supremacy in Life and Governance*, and *Enduring Principles of Living and Leadership*.

Of special note is the book *With All My Heart*, originally written by Thea VanHalsema, who passed away in 2016. With permission from Thea and The Committee on Education of the CRC, Orneal and Martha re-contextualized the book for Papua New Guinea. 60,000 copies have been distributed in PNG, including at least 25,000 in the government schools.

A friend of PIM just sent Penny this email a few days ago:

I have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to experience a small piece of what PIM is all about. Until someone actually stands in the compound, walks down a path, visits a village, or attends a church service, the mission field is just a thought or an image. Having been there for a few weeks, I can only begin to appreciate the dedication and commitment your family understood as your personal Call. What a great man of God your Dad was and what a great endowment he gave the world through your family's vision and effort!



Left: Neal and Martha giving out certificates.
Above: In Ambunti.

Thank you much for your gift to Pacific Island Ministries.
May the joy of the Lord be your strength!

Eric Schering