

May 2019

Dear Friends,

In April, local pastors, Rev. Eric Schering, and Rev. Mel Dotinga (our visitor) taught in a Pastors' workshop. Many of the participants expressed thanks that they could be involved in the workshop to hone their skills, to be encouraged by the fellowship, and to be strengthened in scriptural truths. The pastors were equipped with many good resources as some received either concordances, Bible dictionaries, commentaries or a NIV study Bible. Most of the testimonies below are from those who attended, but also a few praise and prayer items from our PIM teachers who now in their second term of teaching this year.



The Pastors' workshop at Ambunti.  
This year Rev. Mel Dotinga taught on the covenant.

**Benjamin Ogm** (first born son of late Pastor Peter Ogm from Oum #1; Joseph Ogm, our PIM teacher is the third born): I say "thank you" to God for helping me these two years at Bible school when I only went as far as 6<sup>th</sup> grade in school and have now turned 45. At first, I found it very difficult to finish the assignments well, but I kept telling myself, "In God I have life; I can do everything through the strength that God gives me" (Phil 4:13). The Holy Spirit did indeed strengthen me, and now I am doing well in my diploma studies.

**Benedict Masinanji** (Sunday School coordinator in the Bongomachi area): He prays, "I lift up Your name over and

over. Lord, You are my God; [reigning] over all. You made me like Yourself and now I rejoice in You. Thank you! You are the only One. You help me with many good things. When trouble comes, You don't leave me stranded. You are with me forever and ever. Amen." He knows trouble first hand—his wife passed away two years ago—and prays that the Lord will comfort him and his two children still at home (Eliat, 18, and Ismael, 7 years old in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and supply a companion to come alongside him in the Sunday School ministry in his church district.

**Desmond Swayou** (Pastor in Amaki #2): I praise God for stirring in the heart of a businessman in the Amaki church who is spearheading the building of our permanent church building. He carries a lot of the supplies up the river and into our tributary with his PMV canoe (river taxi service), and he paid for the labor and rent of the chain saw of the man who cut posts for us. When we first started building, we got a letter from the community complaining about what we were doing. We couldn't help thinking of Nehemiah! But he sustained criticism from enemies during the whole time he was building the wall.

**Glen Pokote** (PIM teacher in home village of Tongujamb): I thank God for what he has done for me and my family. He has given me a nice present of being asked to participate in community gatherings and lead discussions. [After everyone has expressed individual views], I can bring them back to the main point and ask, "Now what should we do?" Pray for commitment, courage and discernment for Glen and fellow Christians. Also there has been increased opposition from those involved in sorcery.

**Carmilus Inani** (PIM teacher in Pei on a Sepik tributary): The pastor of the church in Pei is happy that I help him with teaching Sunday School—there are 50 children in my class. When I trained under Martha Kooyers, she said, "If you don't have Sunday School materials to use, just teach them from the Bible." So now I am teaching them story by story through Genesis. I prayed and asked God if all of my own children could be "selected" to go on to high school, and right now two of them are attending Ambunti High School.

A pastor tells his prayer requests to Penny Schering

**George Bawi** (PIM teacher in Pukabuki): Psalm 23 is meaningful to me—Jesus is my Shepherd. My knee is giving me some problems—weak and painful—but I don't want it to [dominate my thinking or] incapacitate me. After Corina being sick and nearly dying December 2017, I am very thankful to God for keeping the whole family well, healthy and without any major troubles throughout 2018 while I taught in Pukabuki.



**Nassy Judah** (pastor/teacher in the interior, off the highway beyond Maprik): Pray that God can strengthen my faith, show me my sin, guide my life and words, and help me follow his principles. Pray that my children too would follow in the character of Christ and be controlled by his good Spirit. God has done this in my life: after I fell down in sin, the Lord had mercy on me and has brought me back to my place again. The Holy Spirit works to show me my failures and establish me in the good habit of believing in Jesus each and every day.

**Bill Aruwep** (pastor in Sunuhu, Nassy's area): Pray for me. Don't forget me. May God give me more wisdom to guide and teach my family, and to be God's witness to them so that they would understand their studies well, be God's servants and know God. Don't forget me. Pray for me that God would continue to hear me when I cry out. I told my family to stop running around everywhere to find help. We want to find our help in God. So when our son looked like he had drowned (he had been 10 minutes under water), we cried out to God, "Lord, bring him back. I don't want any of our children to perish and not know You." And God brought him back to life. When son Malachi's mouth swelled up and he couldn't eat for three days, I prayed and told him to think of what he had done that was not right and to go and apologize for it. He did that and the next day he could eat and open his mouth again. Don't forget me. Please pray for me and the church I lead.

Everyone attending the Pastors' workshop received a *Bel Bilong Man Chart*, a PNG-appropriate series of flip-chart pictures and scriptures telling what our heart is like without Christ and what happens when we let him be the Lord of our lives as the Holy Spirit fills us. Bill Aruwep called two weeks after the pastors' workshop saying he had gathered the youth of his church and area to teach them using the *Bel Bilong Man Chart* for a few days.

Thank you so much for your participation with Pacific Island Ministries to enable the equipping of God's people for works of service. To God be the glory.

In Christ, Penny Schering