

June 2019

Dear Friends,

Years ago, I was given a 12 in one multi-tool that compactly folds up and slides into a little pouch. Such tools are a good gift for any season, but particularly useful when traveling to bush locations in Papua New Guinea. Whether its opening a hole in a green coconut for a drink, cutting up food, tightening loosening screws or cutting and joining wires for an electrical repair having such a tool(s) is so helpful in accomplishing a task or job. The right tool with knowledge can help bring about success.

In a continuation of last month's thank you letter we are bringing some of the testimonies from the pastor's course in this past April. PIM was founded for the purpose of equipping God's people for works of service and our pastors' course is part of that aim. We want give them the tools they need to better serve their congregations. Not only do the pastors have an opportunity to learn with others and refresh themselves with fellowship they are given resources (tools) that aid their personal Biblical study and sermon preparation.

News Update: Pastor Desmond Swayou died suddenly on June 7, 2019 after severe vomiting. He was on an IV at an aid post. We grieve with his wife Carol who is a PIM teacher, over his passing on to glory.



**Pastor Bill Aruwep (& wife Wero):**

Bill is a pastor in Sunuhu, Nassy's area, a little west of Maprik and then south. "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!" Eric and I first met "Bill Joe" in prison eight years ago where he was the worship leader of the protestant Sunday morning prison service. He got out in 2011 and we connected more this year than previously. Nassy talked him into coming to the PIM Pastors' Workshop.



Bill's testimony: "God helps me when I cry to him. May God continue to hear me when I call. I told my family to stop running around everywhere to find help. We want to find our help in God. So when our son Aisaia 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 our son Malachi's mouth swelled up and he couldn't eat for three days, I prayed and felt as if I should tell 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. "

Bill said it more than once, and he said it earnestly, "Don't forget me. Please pray for me and the church in my village." [Editor Note: Bill's gifts are in music and worship so others came in and took up preaching in the church he started. They led the church off the path into cultish beliefs, and Nassy went to district and national denominational leaders to take them to task. On the day everything came to a head, members of the church were beginning to stone Nassy, but Bill came to his rescue and saved his life. Through Nassy's urging Bill came to the PIM pastors' workshop in Ambunti,

**Nassy Judah Sapio, pastor in Sunuhu with his wife Merkdelyn:**

Nassy's testimony: Verses that have helped me this past year are Hebrews 12:2—My eyes keep on looking to Jesus; and Col 3:2—"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." My aging Papa says to me, "You take over the church; I'm getting too old." But I tell him when he is no longer here with us, that is when we will take over. Now I preach about three times a month.

Further testimony: "I thank God for his mercy to me. When I fell down in sin, he brought me up again to fulfill his covenant through Jesus Christ. I thank God that he still lets me dwell in his presence. When my enemies wanted to destroy me, God put his protection around me. When I meet trials and trouble, God helps me. When I fell down in sin, God had mercy on me. He brought me back and gave me my position [of respect] again. The Holy Spirit works to show me my failures and the good way of putting earnest faith in Jesus each and every day."

Nassy's story of an event that happened sometime in October or November 2018: The pastor of the South Seas Evangelical Church (SSEC) in our area, had been leading the people astray: They weren't following the Word of God. They were proposing a theocracy of which a former politician would be the King (proclaiming him the Jesus of PNG). They taught that all who believed in that man would go to heaven, and they were promising free (miraculous) goods to anyone who believed. So along with leaders from our district in the SSEC, I took them to court, and the court decided against them; they could no longer be a part of the SSEC.

Those who were not happy with the court case outcome began to chase me with sticks. They slashed my bicycle tires with knives and started throwing stones at me and hitting my back. I thought of Steven in the Bible and I had peace and no fear of death. But Bill Aruwep heard what they were doing to me and came running to save me, "No, no, don't do that to Nassy," he shouted, and they stopped.

The police wanted me to take my attackers to court [and get money out of them], but I said, "No, forget it. I'm putting it in the hands of the Lord."

These powerful testimonies encourage us in our work to provide them with tools that help them effectively communicate the gospel. Thank you for your prayers for these men and also for the family of Pastor Desmond as they grieve.

In His Grace,



eft