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October 2019

Dear Friends,

One of the favorite Bible verses used by some in PNG is Mathew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you."

Missions and Missionaries often hear requests involving financial assistance for personal needs ranging from emergency travel for medical or family situations, school fees, or even help to buy food or other things at a store or market. One even insisted that because of this verse above his request he could not be denied. Village representatives also come with broader requests: schools, water supplies, or health aid posts. Not all generosity can remain inconspicuous, so people keep on coming with their pleas for help.



Charles and his fiancée Debra.

Given the limits of mission and personal finance the easy hard-hearted answer is "No." Yet the much harder to give, "Yes," requires discernment, for not every compelling story is true nor does giving what a person desires necessarily help. God doesn't give us everything we want, but what is best for us. However, there is one thing that is not denied for those who seek Him with all their hearts, they will find Him. Those hungering and searching for righteousness will be filled.

Recently, Charles Gasa, a PIM office employee informed the rest of the staff of his engagement to be married this coming December. Most of the time news of a forthcoming marriage reaches the ears of a missionary last, so this was pleasantly surprising. Charles asked that I would pray with him and his bride to be, Debra, before I left for the states. Now that is a request that could not be denied. Plus, it gave the opportunity

to give some scriptural teaching to them about marriage.

The greatest joy while in ministry in PNG is this; sharing the gospel in one on one conversations. These opportunities present themselves while traveling with strangers on the back of a truck, riding with the truck driver in the cab, or even when sitting with the Governor and other government officials. Generally there seems to be a respectful openness to listen to a missionary "foreigner". PNG fortunately has freedom of religion as well as freedom of religious expression. We are truly thankful for the opportunity to work in this country.

Thank you for your part in making this ministry possible!

Yours in Christ,

Douglas Heidema  
Pacific Island Ministries