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Dear Friends,

It's a new day, the sun rises, heavy morning dew drapes the grasses, assorted birds begin their morning songs and calls. The start of the school day nears and a teacher checks the time. Shortly thereafter the "bell," a steel wheel rim rings out to summon students and they navigate the dirt trails to the school. Morning assembly on the small field outside the classroom begins. The routine is much the same: the opening prayer, the national anthem, pledge of allegiance, and the announcements. At least one day of the week many students bring grass knives for the grounds cleanup period before classes. Once again PIM schools have begun in different villages along the Sepik and its tributaries. Yes, and one of the songs sung by students during their Bible class has the lyrics "It's a new day, it's a new day of the Lord." We praise the Lord.



One thing becomes very clear in the operation of schools distributed in far-flung villages; a teacher or even two cannot do all the work by themselves. Cooperative efforts of the village parents and the mission must come together to successfully operate a school. Initially a major village contribution involves the construction of a classroom from bush materials as well as a teacher's house on area they set aside for the school. Then village school boards are expected to be supportive of the teaching staff.

PIM supports schools in a variety of ways including: transport of teachers and their families, salaries, training, school supplies, published curriculum materials, in some cases water systems buildings, or radios for communication. The necessary infrastructure cannot always be seen or appreciated. Through God's grace PIM has been allowed to be a blessing to many.

Establishing a school means the possibility of getting an early good education for their children by motivated teachers and many villagers desire this. Moreover, PIM's motto is based on Eph4:12 "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," has influenced our involvement in Christian education for children. What is done today, in the here and now, has eternal consequences.

Thank you for your part in PIM's ministry.

In His Grace,

Douglas Heidema

