



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

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

April 2021

Dear Friends,

Several kinds of palm trees benefit the lives of people in Papua New Guinea. Village houses in the lowlands have thatched roofs and walls from the sago palm, floors utilize another palm. A major source of the starch in the local diet comes from processed sago logs.

Palm trees get used in making bows and arrows, brooms, mats, log bridges and even toys. The coconut palm has multiple uses besides being a food source. Its fronds or leaves get used in making decorations for festive occasions often with the addition of flowers, aromatic leaves, or woven with other for colorful objects found growing in the jungle. Such is the case at many churches for Palm Sunday and Easter services, women spend hours in preparation of these special decorations. Thus, the use of date palm branches by the Jewish people of Jesus' day has parallels in the PNG culture.



Jesus rides on a donkey into Jerusalem past the Mount of Olives a few days before His upcoming crucifixion. The crowds, some of whom had seen the resurrection of Lazarus, were ready with palm branches. In high excitement the throng cries out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" John 12:13 In fulfillment of the prophecy; "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" Zechariah 9:9. Yet on that day few understood what was happening, including the opposition who had multiple reasons to suppress the people's praise. Christ's response to them, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." Luke 19:40.

Clearly Christ, being obedient to the Father, was the ultimate atoning sacrifice, the Passover Lamb, for the sins of those who believe. I trust many of you have had a blessed Easter and were able to participate with your congregation in live worship as we in the USA enjoy more things opening up this spring.

Last year in PNG few cases of Covid-19 were diagnosed and only a dozen deaths occurred. Unfortunately, the number of Covid deaths spiked beginning in mid-March with the total of confirmed deaths at 60 as of April 4. Thus, the government has imposed another lockdown with travel restrictions, etc. even stricter than USA. The Australian government has sent some vaccines to be used for health service workers, but the population of PNG is 8 million. Treatment for severe cases of Covid in under-equipped PNG hospitals is difficult and for those living in rural areas there is nothing.

Our schools, following the guidelines, will be closed for four weeks and this is so soon after starting the term. Pray for PIM staff and teachers in this time. "The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of Yahweh; They shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and green" (Ps 92:12-14).

Thanks, in all things,

Douglas Heidema