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Dear Friends,

The country of Papua New Guinea includes the eastern half of the New Guinea island as well as several other islands. The second largest island, New Britain, is 300 miles long and 90 miles at its maximum width. PIM has had little outreach in that area of the country; however, as of last month things have changed.

Twenty cartons of PIM books for Religious Education were shipped to Rabaul located on the northern tip of the island. (A volcano near Rabaul erupted in 1994 and ash covered most of the town so it was relocated to a more distant town called Kokopo.) Eric and Penny flew to Kokopo intent to see the books distributed to High School principals who work in schools on the island.

On the day they arrived the pallet of books still needed to be released and transported from the wharf storage facilities. Getting this accomplished was complicated by not having the proper paperwork and no transportation for the 45-minute trip back to their accommodations.

Penny Schering writes: *Amazingly a staff person agreed to help us and returned soon with a pickup truck filled with the pallet of books and other packages. Even though the paper work wasn't quite in order, she had made it happen! Her mother had items coming on the same ship, owned a truck and was also heading to Kokopo; they were happy to take our books as well. We traveled with Diane and her Mom Pauline for 50 minutes and soon felt like best friends, they sang along with Christian music, showed us landmarks and told us some of their family history. I get choked up just remembering what a miracle the Lord did for us. Truly, the Lord gave Eric "success in everything he did" (Gen 39:3). Praise God! He is so merciful and hears our cries.*

Eric found out that a meeting of 17 principals was happening on the next day right in Kokopo. Eric asked for permission to come and was given the ok. So, we showed up in the morning with our 20 cartons of books. Eric gave a presentation and was able to leave at least one carton (50 copies) for each school represented. They were very thankful. Some of the principals who came drove for hours to get there, so it was a great opportunity to connect with them. They all know that teaching the students the Word of God will change their lives and make them better citizens.

I was reminded of the verse from Matthew 12—where he quotes a prophecy of Jesus from Isaiah 42—"In him the islands put their hope." Yes, amen! That is what this island is doing and we are part of that process with our books.

Thank you for your generosity.

In Christ,

Douglas Heidema



Lillian, one of the Rabaul principals who helped PIM