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Dear Friend,

Normally during the dry season rainfall comes before a month passes, yet now the Sepik River basin of Papua New Guinea has had an unusually long drought. Small tributaries of the river system “highway” have only scattered pools of water separated by black silt, sand or stone preventing passage of even the smallest canoe. This transport difficulty impacts villagers upstream who must follow the dry water course miles to where navigable water still remains. Not getting goods and cash crops to markets impacts people’s income. Fish initially plentiful when concentrated by the receding waters, have either escaped to deeper water or died off. Although, clearing and burning a new garden in the jungle is easier, only moisture can sprout the planted seed. Even drinking water sources begin to dry up.

Meanwhile, with drought also in the western US multiple forest fires have raged and sent smoke over even a larger area. Technical achievements of the last century do enable humans to live in arid places. However, when rains don’t come the impoundments which supply both town and field shrink to desperately low levels. Then comes the realization that the seemingly endless supply which flows from the tap could stop. Water remains undervalued until scarce, yet we all depend on it for life.

In the Bible the people of Israel understood the hardships associated with drought, which at times came for their correction by God, but also, they knew the blessed preciousness of rain. Drought caused the move of Jacob and his family to Egypt where Joseph, who earlier in God’s provision had been sent. The prophet Elijah prayed and God withheld rain from Israel when Ahab was in power, but then sent again after the Mount Carmel showdown between the prophets of Baal and Elijah. We serve a God who can calm the sea at his word, and in addition “makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” Yet there is spiritual dimension that should be remembered with water too:

**Isaiah 41:17** When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them. **18** I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

**Psalms 63:1** O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**John 4:13** Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.



Water tanks installed on a PIM classroom

Thank you for your part in bringing “showers of blessing” to the lives of others

Douglas Heidema

PS: Pray for PIM teacher Susan Wak Piakey and husband Gibson as they cry out God for healing for the growth on her back. All paths to hospitals for surgery are presently blocked. PS 138