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Dear Friends,

The Thanksgiving holiday dates from 1621, a year after the Pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts and established a village at Plymouth. Half of the original settlers had died before the spring came. In March, a member of the Abenaki tribe came to them speaking surprisingly in English and then later he brought, Squanto, who taught the settlers how to plant corn and other helpful survival skills. After a successful corn harvest in the fall, a celebration of God's goodness was organized by governor William Bradford. He invited the local tribe of which 90 men came and it became a three-day feast with the hunted game they brought in.

In the tropics without the four seasons harvests for garden produce occur throughout the year. Yet influenced by missionaries, some Papua New Guinea local churches have started Thanksgiving celebrations in early December when the church and school activities take a "summer break" (PNG is south of the equator). Generally, held with a church potluck, the church leaders make speeches remembering the Lord's goodness and blessings during the year.

Times of thanksgiving are good throughout the year and as one pastor put it our lives should be about *Thanksgiving*.

Wesley Walu serves as a teacher in his home village of Manja and he gave a report telling how the Lord has richly blessed him and his wife Maria. They have two sons and daughter who have married Christians, three younger daughters who are still in school, and then two grandchildren.

"My cup of blessing is full and overflowing", Wesley said with a smile. Nathan will soon begin teachers training, both he and his wife are active in the church. Daniel came back the village and used his carpentry skills to extend the school classroom and to make seven benches for the student desks. Daniel and his wife are active leading the singing at church and as well as Sunday school. Alma's husband pastors a church in his home village near Maprik.

Wesley sees that God has not forgotten them and is nearby. He has given me a teacher supplied by the government, Mr. Kose Raimon, married to a woman from our village — he's even a Christian brother! Also, there may be financial assistance coming from another NGO to improve school facilities at 18 schools in the East Sepik Province including ours.

At a recent Teacher-In-Service, Wesley was strengthened by a study given by Eric Schering on Judges, including Deborah. Even though his village lost their pastor to another village, Wesley no doubt has helped the church out with preaching. He continues to participate in outreaches to the nearby villages of Bangwi, Mowi and Kamarowe with Pastor Robert from Mowi.

He shared some verses:

Mark 1:35—You must go out in the wilderness and pray; then God leads and directs.

All this blessing has come because I put all these needs before him.

Matthew 17:20—"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain,

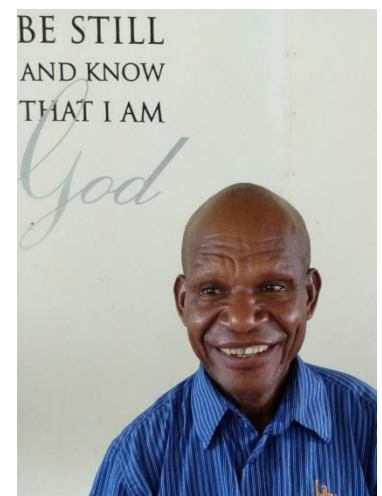
'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

John 14:14—If you ask anything in my name, I will give it to you.

Luke 11:11—Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

Thank you for your support of PIM,

Douglas Heidema





Sago pudding in the making.