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Dear Friend,

Remember PIM teachers as they endeavor to plant the seeds of truth in their students' lives.

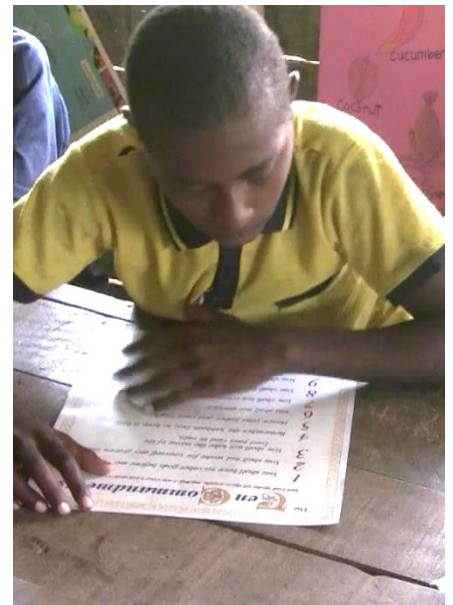
The idealized notion of the "noble savage" appears in some modern works and media. This generalization has indigenous people living in harmony with nature in a bubble of happiness and goodwill flowing towards all. Until corrupt outsiders intrude with "civilized ways" destroying the purity and peaceful environment with fear, hate, greed, envy, and disease. Yet we know from the Bible, that for mankind after Eden's fall, the pollution of sin infuses all men from birth and thus all societies they live in. Clearly, "peace" remains but short-lived in this fallen world so abundantly clothed in sinful savagery.

Villagers in PNG have never been free from sin's contamination. Though once very isolated, now they can access the rest of the world's ideas good, bad, or ugly. Unfortunately, the predominately secularist view broadcast embraces a tolerance of any lifestyle or belief, other than in the God of the Bible who created all things. This bold new and broad idea appeals to many; we are free to do as we please. Having a God telling us what not do or can do is old-fashion. Yet the words from Ecclesiastes come to mind, 'there is nothing new under the sun' in regards to human nature.

The first of the Ten Commandments God states "you shall have no other gods before me." The latter part of the commandments regulates our relationship to others. The tenth deals with our thoughts and states you shall not covet....., and yet it in a way points back to the first part of Law in not putting other things in front of us as gods. Christ summarized, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Each year PIM teachers have their students memorize the Ten commandments. Having them memorized doesn't guarantee eternal salvation. Knowing them and gaining a fuller understanding of them instructs a person of their own lost nature and need for the saving grace of God through Christ. When the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of those who come to believe, they out of gratitude seek to, "glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law." (New City Catechism)

PIM schools start the year in February. Once again students will be reading, writing, and doing arithmetic, as well as learning from the Bible in classes taught by Christians many of whom have years of teaching experience. New students follow those of previous years who have successfully moved on to the higher grades. Teachers often tell of their joy in seeing some of their former students advance even beyond High School. Starting children in the early learning years with a Christian education can equip them for knowing and serving God.



In Christ, Douglas Heidema