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Dear Friends,

Pineapple is neither a pine nor an apple, but classified in the bromeliad family of plants. Likewise, the rose apple or bell apple has no close relationship to either roses or apples but has been grouped with some other fruiting trees in the myrtle family. The tree flowers prolifically with deep pink blossoms more than once a year and often the ground beneath the tree becomes carpeted with layer of pink of fallen flower parts. Sandy and I sampled some rose apples from a tree in Wewak and enjoyed them immensely! The fruits were soft and juicy similar to a ripe pear with a slight rose flavor. We marvel at God's creation with such an amazing variety of fruits growing in different climates around the world.



Back in the garden of Eden, Adam's initial tasks were to tend the garden which included fruit trees, and also to name all the animals. The names he gave may have been based on some characteristic unique to each animal. Perhaps that big almost hairless animal with two tusks and a long nose used for eating, could be called 'ivory teeth' or 'pipe nose'. Elsewhere in the Bible, we read the names given for places or individuals and these names often have a meaning which is missed in translation. Abraham means "The Father of Many Nations", Joshua "God is Salvation" and Bethel "House of God" are just a few examples.



Importantly to this day we continue to name people, places and things. Most of the privately owned small and large busses in PNG have a name prominently painted on the front and back, of which some are rather unique. A sampling of the bus names *Ketchup*, *Grace*, *Bloom*, *Lightning Express*, *Star*, *Exdust* (that's how they spelled it), and *Blessed (Gen.12:3)*. However, the name of one bus, *Patient*, provokes some thoughts. Am I patient?

We at Pacific Island Ministries look forward to and are trusting the Lord for this year's upcoming training programs, and the various guests coming to participate in them during the first four months. January is still the "summer" or long break for primary and elementary schools and other mission programs. More begins to happen in February. Sandy has a second level sewing class for some local women scheduled for the last week of January. After that in early February, PIM teachers gather for their annual Inservice course. Once again, Anne Thomas

comes from her training work in Southeast Asia to have some more input with the PIM teachers. Another visitor from SIL will be over to the Sepik in mid-February to show six PIM teachers and other teachers a software educational program for teaching beginning level English using a smartphone or computer.

Travel in PNG can have its challenges on land by deteriorated roads, holdups, pickpockets on crowded city streets, or unruly groups of young men. If by air, travel can be impacted by lack of fuel, weather or other

operational difficulties. In Ambunti there is a grass airstrip without proper maintenance by those contracted for the work, so it is close to being shut down. With all that it is planned for PIM it is important for the airstrip to remain open.

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

Thank you,

Douglas Heidema