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Dear Friends,

Beautiful tourism posters all over the country call PNG, "The land of the unexpected." We have learned to live with a degree of "unexpected" events! Praise God! The planned courses for February proceeded better than expected, but with some unexpected events. Sandy began January with a second level sewing class with six of her former students. Then 50 teachers started their 2 week in-service training before returning to their schools at different villages.



On the first day of the sewing class, a disturbance happened in the town market. Wielding shotguns and machetes, a group of over 30 young men chased their opponents down the road alongside the PIM Training Center. Those fleeing escaped. Soon after, their village armed themselves and responded with a larger group who passed by the Training Center going the other direction. Thankfully there were no fatalities. However, one house was burned down, and a store owner who was trying protect his store from rioters was hit in the chest by a projectile from a slingshot. The local police with reinforcements recorded names and fined some of the participants for fighting and arson. There were no damages to PIM property. Sandy's course did have one participant who was afraid to return, but the others continued and have come a third week to finish sewing up their project shirt and trousers.



Regular rainfall in Ambunti keeps the grass green and growing thick- especially on the airstrip. Unfortunately, the local government lacks funds and equipment for regular maintenance. This month with missionaries scheduled to travel in and out by plane, it was necessary that PIM step in and cut the grass. In addition to all the extra time required to prepare equipment, mowing took 10 hours instead of

the regular 6. Thankfully we were able to avoid a closure report.

Alan Deyoung from Iowa (escaping the winter) is with PIM for a visit and to help out. He gets to interact with PIM teachers here at Ambunti and learn a bit of Melanesian Tok Pisin. (see top photo)

We all are living in the land of the unexpected, we don't always know what the next day will bring. But this we know. *God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 41:6.*

Thank you,

Douglas Heidema

