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April 2023

Dear Friends,

Living in this imperfect world, events take place which are often beyond our control. We believe God remains sovereign, and will still be glorified even when bad things happen. The suffering of Christ followed by his resurrection truly gives us hope.

On April 3 at 4am a 7.1 earthquake jolted many from sleep in the East Sepik Province. 7 houses fell down in the village but thankfully the PIM's buildings fared well comparatively, with only the mess of things falling off of shelves. With the epicenter less than 24 miles away from Ambunti, it was the worst earthquake in memory. Elsewhere in the province the



quake caused eight deaths and 17 injuries with over 300 houses collapsing in villages nearer to the epicenter. We must remind ourselves God is in control.

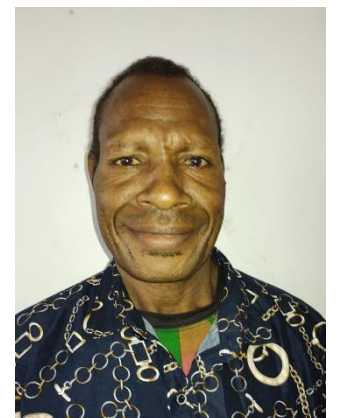
The annual pastors course finished for 70+ pastors the last week of March. The pastors who come to these annual courses are not PIM pastors per se, but come from several local denominations. They are supported by their local churches at a minimal level. They minister because they are committed to seeing their villages become Christ followers. They need your prayers in this gospel proclamation and the spiritual opposition to the truth. We are encouraged by their testimonies, which often include exam-



ples of continued faith through difficult circumstances. Pastor Peter Vagi (in the picture above) lost the vision in his left eye when a stone whipped into his eye while cutting grass. Yet now even with just one good eye he is thankful. He proclaimed that imperfect sight will not make him give up being a pastor.

Pastor Nathan Kiwok (right) lost a daughter in 2018 and then another last Christmas. One of his sons, Marshann, recently had an operation for an abdominal problem, yet the problem is still not fixed. Nathan testified that his son remains a believer in spite of the continuing sickness and he testified, "Gods power is perfected in weakness. God is able to help and give life. It is not in my power to control this or boss this. It is God's will not my will. I am not burdened with heavy sorrow; I live with joy and am happy that I can work as pastor in my community." Nathan has lived through trials which have strengthen him for ministry to others.

One such opportunity for ministry occurred this February in Nathan's home village when some drunken young men violently axed a young relative of Nathan's. As the young man lay dying, Nathan came and prayed with him. Turmoil followed as the



family of the young man retaliated and burned 13 homes, many gardens, and fruit trees. (When a crime happens in rural PNG immediate revenge is sought and this often begins a cycle of pay back violence and sometimes killing) Pastor Nathan was burdened to go minister to those mourning for the young man. (After an adult dies their family sets up a temporary house where people come to mourn both night and day.) So for a month Nathan went to the mourning houses, talked and prayed with the people. Their denomination didn't matter to him.

Nathan is praying to see restoration in the community and unity amongst the four different denominations, promoting peace and good behavior. Even though storms may come into our lives, God will bring us through into eternal life. God uses imperfect people and situations for His glory.

Thank you for your support for Pacific Island Ministries in *"Equipping Gods people for works of service."*

Douglas Heidema



^Rev. Melvin Dotinga and Pastor Terrance

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Rev. Eric Schering



< Alan Deyoung