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Dear Friends,

Sunday, a few weeks ago, a strong south wind began to blow across the Sepik River. The dry season has begun! Nightly rainfalls in the wet season kept storage tanks overflowing and water was used without a care. Not so now. Some of the tanks are dry and the town's water supply that is normally piped from a mountain stream is reduced to a trickle. The phrase from Lord's Prayer, "give us our daily bread" we extend to water also.

A two-week break at the end of the second term allowed PIM teachers to come down river for reporting, supplies, a bit of fellowship and to pick up their pay packets which had accumulated. Teachers traveled to Ambunti in groups from different regions on separate canoes. With some of tributaries barely ankle-deep teachers were forced to pull their canoes through the shallows coming



down and when going back it was more of the same. Saturday the last of the heavily loaded canoes departed with teachers, supplies, and fuel (5 drums for the transport). Monday they begin the third term.

Sadly, Glen Pokotee a teacher at Tongajamb, was unable to come down with the other teachers because his wife passed away after being unwell for several years. Days later another teacher from the same village, Albert Sailas, had his younger brother die. A month and half ago the hospital in Wewak stated nothing could be done for the sickness, so they advised Albert's brother to travel back to his home village to straighten out his affairs.

Many of us have family members who do not follow the Lord and some who are openly hostile to Christianity. In giving condolences to Albert, he related how he mourns that his brother passed away, but he also has a frustration knowing that his brother rejected the gospel so many times.

Sunday's sermon from Isaiah 55: "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price....For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Yours in Christ,

Douglas Heidema

