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Dear Friends,

For the first time, both the Kooyers Primary School (Ambunti) and the Kesu Primary (Oum village) have grade 8 classes. At the end of the year students will be required to pass 4 days of exams before they can be accepted to grades 9 and 10. The educational system in PNG has these nationwide exams first at grade 8, then again at grades 10 and 12 and each time only those with the highest scores can continue on to higher education.

Higher education is a coveted prize in PNG. Parents enthusiastically support their children, often prioritizing their children's education above their daily activities. Even community leaders and churches are careful to not schedule other events during exam weeks. At the Kooyers Primary school

the eight teachers have all invested much in this class of students and are anticipating success for the 18 students who have made it this far. The younger classes make up the majority of the 290 students at the school; numbers dwindle in the later grades. This year the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class started with 25 but lost 7 students to various family dynamics.

PIM teachers play an indispensable role in preparing, molding, and instructing these young people. A visitor starting from the earliest grade could hear the difference in depth and complexity when progressing from class to class into the higher grades. At our PIM schools the lower grades use curriculum produced by the mission which is in Melanesian Tok Pisin. This transitions into English with the higher grades using curriculum provided by the Department of Education as well as other literature published by the mission for Christian education. Knowing that not all students come from Christian homes, PIM insists that the essential truths of God's Word are presented daily to every student.

Two teachers in particular, Samuel Vitus and his wife Priscilla (the school's principal) have made it possible for the Ambunti School to have the grade 8 class. (see picture above) They met at teachers college in the highlands of PNG, graduated and worked in schools for almost twelve years. PIM rejoices that they now both can be with us in Ambunti. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge. Proverbs 23:12

Yours in Christ,

Douglas Heidema

