



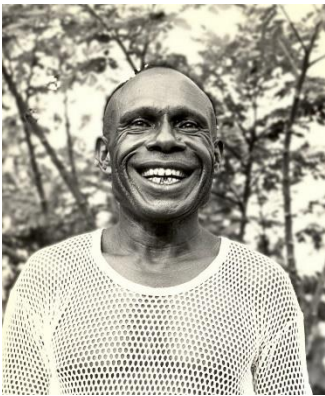
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Dear Friends,

In the 1980's PIM started an outreach to the Maposi area. The translation assistant for Neal Kooyers, Buria and his wife Mukachuwa, pioneered the early efforts by canoeing up narrow log-jammed tributaries south of the Sepik River. Only flooding from heavy rainfalls covering the logs would shorten their arduous travel to the village. The semi-nomadic people of the area lived in small groups at different locations and would survive by hunting and utilizing what grew in the jungle. A move elsewhere would happen whenever an illness caused death or food became scarce. They believed that the ills and misfortunes experienced in this hard life were caused by bad spirits which needed to be appeased. Needless to say, most were open to find a better way.



Since that early contact much has changed for the village of Maposi. No longer do 80% of children die before the age of 5, a health clinic serves the community. All of the children use to have distended stomachs from nutritional deficiencies. This has been drastically improved by the various bananas, sweet potatoes, taro, yams, corn, coconut, beans and greens, that now grow in the villagers' gardens. Other efforts

for community development included clearing of the waterway for canoe travel, cutting the jungle for an airstrip runway, getting people to build outhouses, improving the drinking water source for villages of the Maposi area by setting up buildings to collect rainwater for storage in water tanks, establishing a school for literacy for children and back then for the adults. Yet most importantly, through having the Bible taught lives change, and people gather to worship the one and only true God.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Eph 6:12.

Some people think indigenous peoples should be isolated from all outside world influence be it religious or secular (increasing difficult in today's world). Others think of missions as being toxic to indigenous peoples and their cultures. Admittedly, sometimes Christianity hasn't always been an elixir. Yet in an article summarizing her recent book, *Is Christianity Good for the World?*, Sharon James had five points to answer the question, "What would the world really be like without Christianity?" She says, "The world would be crueler. The world would be more unjust. The world would be less free. The world would be less educated and much poorer. The world would have no lasting hope."

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/5-ways-the-world-would-be-worse-without-christianity/>

We at PIM's joyfully agree! The gospel gives hope and a future for people of all tribes, languages and people groups.

Yours in Christ,

Douglas Heidema

