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Dear Friends,

In the late 1800's missions came to Papua New Guinea and began evangelization efforts, established schools and provided other services including health care. The colonial government saw the merits of the pioneering work and provided grants to encourage the missions' medical work. The Christian Health Services of Papua New Guinea began in 1975, with the purpose of coordinating the medical work undertaken by the various missions and denominations along with those of the public health services of PNG. CHS is committed to training medical workers to raise the standard of care. Mission agencies with the help of government funding continue to operate clinics or aid posts staffed by Community Health Workers in many PNG villages, where otherwise the nearest doctor available can only be seen by days of travel.



In the last two years PIM has become a full member of the Christian Health Services rather than just associate observers at their annual meetings. It took a decade to achieve membership. PIM needed to have properly trained and certified medical personnel, a certain number of aid posts, plus other organizational requirements and qualifications. PIM now has government financial help with some of salaries for the medical employees, as well as medicines. This allows PIM's medical program which has six aid posts to better serve these rural villages as well as others in the vicinity.



Frank and Lusal Sukaki have worked at the Frieda River clinic near Paupe since 2019. He and his wife have two children and the family attends the Baptist church in the nearby village. They are much appreciated by the local population. Recently, the health center had an upgrade funded by the government. The facilities now have solar powered lights and refrigerator for vaccines, plus more rooms for patients who stay overnight for treatments.

The opening ceremony had many speeches by officials from the Health Department and other government political representatives. Afterwards villagers hosted a traditional

feast and notably this one had 9 pigs hunted and brought-in from the jungle along with many fish from the river and food from the village gardens.

In the Frieda River area mountains and hills a significant amount of copper and other valuable metals have been discovered. Therefore, for the last 40 years government and mining ventures have wanted to see development. The current goal is to have a mine opened in 2025. Environmental issues are in the forefront especially protecting the waterways from pollution. The local economy would improve with more jobs, yet not all local villagers would have the skills or training necessary to get skilled jobs. As with any change there are the pros and cons.

Whether the mine operation starts or not, PIM health personnel have been put in the position of working in the Frieda River area to provide needed medical care in a location which is a one-hour plane flight from the coastal town hospital in Wewak. This health center and the other 5 clinics can't treat all the medical conditions, but they are the starting place where villagers can come for their medical situations.

Mathew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before other, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Thank you for your prayers and support allowing PIM to be helping others, Douglas Heidema





