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Dear Friends,

Villagers in PNG desire a higher level of education for their children. Unfortunately, the school fees increase significantly as students advance and go on to distant high schools. With few employment opportunities for men, they try cash cropping, either coffee, cocoa, vanilla, or oil palm. However, the high cost of transportation in certain areas or wide price fluctuations for their commodities limit the profits from their work.

In many families it's the wife who literally carries the burden of making up the shortfall for school fees. They labor in gardens or catch fish to have something to sell and raise funds. Many women carry string bags on their backs loaded with sago, sweet potatoes, taro, garden produce, or fish to the market six days a week. It's challenging for mothers as they also must pay attention to other household tasks and ensure that their family has sufficient food.

One of the reasons many want to attend sewing classes run by Sandy Heidema is because they want to make and sell clothes. That could happen but the goal of the sewing classes is for the trained women to start a Dorcas Fellowship in the churches they attend. In these church groups they would lead Bible story devotions for other women and then also mentor others in sewing. Sandy's classes begin with basics then increase in difficulty at each level. Progressing to the next level for those with rusty math or poor reading skills tests the perseverance of students. When students complete their projects, it brings them so much joy.

Sandy desires to improve her class's ability to sew by utilizing better equipment. The low quality of the imported hand cranked sewing machines presently used causes a lot of lost time due to repair issues. Sandy has tried an industrial sewing machine and wants to upgrade to that model for her students. Hopefully six machines will be available for the class. Possibly later after women are trained, they could rent the machines for their personal projects and generate some income for their family's needs.

James 2 : 15-16 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

PIM desires to bring the "good news of Christ" to people in rural regions of Papua New Guinea by ministering to spiritual, education, and physical needs. This word and deed approach has the mission involved in multiple endeavors including literature distribution and publishing of educational materials used for religious



instruction, Sunday schools or by pastors, holding annual training seminars for Pastors and church workers, Christian elementary schools, aid posts for medical care in villages, construction of classrooms, rainwater catchments, aid posts and other community projects such as developing airstrips for remote villages.

We appreciate your support through the years which has helped thousands in Papua New Guinea.

Yours in Christ, Douglas Heidema



Sewing group at the SSEC church in Ambunti