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Dear Friends,

Neal and Martha Kooyers came to Papua New Guinea as missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1961 and began working in Madiwai village. In 1968 Neal built a house at bordering the airstrip at Ambunti alongside the Sepik River. With fewer mosquitos at this location the translation was more efficiently completed. The housing also provided accommodations or logistical support to other WBT missionaries working in the area. Though the years many more buildings were added to the Ambunti property and it now



includes housing for mission staff, a repair shop, a large training room and the field offices of Pacific Island Ministries.

Old pictures show that six raintrees or monkeypod trees were planted when the house was built. For the past 50 years, these fast-growing trees became massive in size with tree trunks of over four feet in diameter providing umbrellas of shade of up to 90 feet in diameter. Sadly, to protect nearby houses

from possible storm damage from any falling limbs, some of the big trees in the yard had to be cut down.

Recently, yet another one of these giant raintrees was felled before the Sepik River erosion had a chance to undercut the tree's roots and topple it causing even more damage. Since the tree was planted over 12 feet of the river bank has eroded. Unlike redwood trees, raintrees cannot live for millennia as their almost horizontal branches grow too long and break, insects invade and then the decay process begins causing a steady decline.

Certainly, the erosion of time, that second law of thermodynamics is confirmed in the world around us and even with our own bodies. The Bible reminds us we are to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, not in this world where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal. The heavenly treasure is indestructible.

As the work of PIM continues, we have had some of those who started working the in early years with PIM move on to glory. However, we see their children and grandchildren grow, advance in their education, and then go into various vocations. We are blessed to have children of PIM employees who completed teacher's college and can now teach in PIM schools.





As with Micah Aimei who has come to PIM to work. Justine, his father worked with PIM as a plumber for many years. PIM started with Micah at the reception counter dealing with folks who want photo copies, documents typed, or other services plus he has the other duties of meeting aircraft, organizing transport of supplies or personnel by river, and variety of other PIM tasks. Micah has completed some correspondence courses for business studies while on the job and is keen on continuing his education for management. He is active in leading the youth group of a local church. He and his wife Delca have four children. PIM values him as an employee. We

trust the Lord for future employees.

Yours in Christ,

Douglas Heidema