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Dear Friends,

The Apostle Paul states in Philippians 4:11. *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.*

The theologian Reinhold Niebuhr may have had this verse with the others preceding it in mind when he penned the following prayer in the early 1930s which has been well circulated and used by various groups. "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."



The annual rainy season continues well into May of each year for PNG and it's not something that can be altered. The Sepik River floods covering a wide area without the control of dikes, dams, or levies. All that can be done is watch the fluctuating river water levels hoping for an average year and that your house posts are high enough. Most people do not have higher ground to move to, so they learn to be content and adapt to this situation.

The gardens disappear for months and later as the water subsides, a deposit of thick black silt and debris is left. In the meantime, for most villager's their diet consists mainly of fish and sago while waiting for the soil to dry enough for replanting vegetables. It's just one of the inconveniences of this season.

PIM teachers whose schools are near the Sepik River continue holding classes having their students "walk to school" by paddling small dugout canoes. This was a good year for the six PIM schools affected because they only had to suspend classes for a month while waiting for their school grounds to dry up. Unfortunately, students lose flood days of education almost every year.

Yet we rejoice that for the majority of the almost 2000 students in the PIM schools they are in schools above the flood plain. We pray for the diligence and faithfulness of their teachers as they give Godly instruction and mold these young lives.





There are times when it seems this world is being flooded by unrighteousness. No matter where you live look at the news spread by the media – its not that uplifting. We need from God peace courage and wisdom.

God reigns,

Douglas Heidema

Pictures beginning top of first page.

1. Sandy showing PIM teachers the use of a sewing rulers
2. The flooding at the beginning of May in Ambunti PIM houses at bottom to the right
3. Student find a drifting log to play while on the way to school.
4. Ambunti airstrip with erosion caused by the heavy rainfall