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Dear Friends,

Most of us are thankful to have access to medical care and particularly in cases of medical emergencies. Some of my grandsons, could qualify for frequent ER cards for the frequency of bones broken while using their bicycles or participating in sports. Looking back, I am so thankful that my three sons never broke any bones while growing up, because then it would have been at least a day or more to reach a health facility with a working x-ray machine in PNG.

The wife of the founder of PIM, Martha Kooyers, was an educator however had a concern for the lack of health care for those living in the remote upriver villages. She observed that treatable diseases or medical conditions would deteriorate and often lead to even greater disabilities or early deaths. In the Lord's providence, over 25



years ago medical teams from Stanford University lead by Dr. Peter Lu and Dr Kelly Murphy came for several trips and did training for a number of Village Health Volunteers and also supplied the participants with medicine kits. This has been a great blessing. (the Oum center in picture) In subsequent years PIM became more involved the PNG Department of Health who supply the

medicines. PIM hired college trained Community Health Workers to work at some upriver stations where PIM had established schools in Oum, Mowi and Wario villages. Presently there are 7 clinics in operation and we have a total of 16 positions in the PIM Health department.

John Yuar, who had worked at the Mowi clinic now supervises our program which is affiliated with the PNG Christian Health Services. Local government councils and in one case a local mining company have made donations to help the program for clinic construction and with assistance for transport.

According to John's statistics PIM clinics serve an area with a population exceeding 10,000 people. The most treated illness is malaria. Maternity cases are common for the larger clinics. Please remember, the clinic workers and program in prayer: the medical workload is great for the workers and what they can do for people is limited, currently there is a shortage of certain medicines! One of the locations is so isolated it's only reachable by air. This is made more difficult with a shortage of MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) pilots making it so that the workers are sometimes stranded in that location. In spite of the difficulties the work is very rewarding as the people living in the upriver villages are so thankful for the primary medical care made available by these health centers.



Best Holiday wishes,  
Douglas Heidema