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March 2026

Dear Friends,

The annual rainy season begins again and almost every night the downpours come accompanied by rumbling thunder that sounds like giant boulders rolling through the sky. A morning walk to the market gets the feet wet and muddy. The Sepik River continues climbing higher- flooding lower areas along its banks. How high the floodwaters will rise remains a matter of speculation until the end of May. Yet with the rains we enjoy cool nights with temperatures of only 76 F. and an abundance of water for our storage tanks which are full and running over,



The fully packed training center in Ambunti during the first two weeks of the month had the largest number ever participating with 112 teachers. This shower of blessings kept our staff busy with housing, providing meals, and then transporting all of attendees back to their villages by river. It was wonderful having so many new people in the group desiring to start early childhood Christian education in their villages.

During the last week of the February, we have had a more manageable number of pastors- just 47 attending a seminar. PIM holds these weeklong refresher seminars to assist village church pastors, who have limited training, to equip them to better lead their local churches. It also provides an opportunity for fellowship with other pastors from different areas and this year pastors came from four denominations.

Penny Schering interviews most of the pastors to record their prayer concerns. Often, these pastors feel burdened by the calling to proclaim the gospel in their local villages. Offerings do not support the pastors so they carry the secondary burden of providing for their families on top of the difficulties of ministry. Rustic bush material buildings bring its own set of challenges as well the the often overwhelming needs of the congregation. Thus, the Biblically based teaching they receive at the seminar helps them deal with situations they face. Since pastors do not usually get to the Christian bookshop on the coast they appreciate new Bibles, plus other resource books and even reading glasses they receive while attending the course. As one pastor said, they came with dull tools and in some cases no tools, but now they are better equipped.

Special thanks to Rev. Mel Dotinga from the USA and missionary, Richard t'Hart from Australia who taught sessions of the seminar this year working along with PIM missionary Rev. Eric Schering and Pastor Ray Wangimbi of PIM

Thank you for your part in showering blessings in the Sepik River Basin of Papua New Guinea, we are equipping God's people for works of service!

