

*The Lord brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom, and broke away their chains. Let us give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men Psalm 107:14*

Sewoknai is Elma's brother – she is one of our faithful house helpers - and together we have prayed and grieved over her brother's drunken and violent ways.

I was encouraged to see Sewoknai at the Easter convention and gave him 'Two ways to live'. He was in fact playing the keyboard in a couple of the sessions along with Anip, Mase's son.

You can imagine how thrilled I was when he came to talk.

"*I am a sinner*" – what sweet, unusual words to hear from the mouth of a young PNGean (or anyone for that matter!)

He told me an awful story of how 2 guys from his village beat him up meaning to kill him. (There's a lot of jealousy over land issues where gas/oil has been found) He jumped in the river to escape them, but a stone thrown at his head knocked him out and he went down, thinking he will drown. He called out to God to help him – and felt someone lifting him up. Somehow he ended up on the bank – he doesn't know how - and dragged himself through the bush. Again he called out to God to help him and then found his way to the road. '*I should be dead*' A few days later was the Easter convention.



We talked about what following Jesus really meant – self denial, carrying the cross.... not an easy life, but a wonderful one. His friends are all drinkers and marijuana users. He does not know any young people his age who are Christians or would be a good influence for him. The few people he mentioned were all fathers. No peers. (Except Anip – who shares a music interest, but whose life also needs transformation)

Sewoknai said he was ready to ask God's forgiveness and give his life to Jesus. So he prayed - and came into the family of God. He now calls me apoe – sister. Praise God

*The Lord brought him out of darkness and broke away his chains*

So now to encourage him to keep on the path! He needs our prayers. Now to find him some good friends, healthy activities, fill his mind with things that are good and true, right and pure.....

Thankfully I have a MP3 with some Aekyom bible stories and songs – so as he cuts the grass on our banks he can learn some good things.

I'm so thankful for **Sana** who recently started working in our pharmacy. Sana recently started up community sports Saturday afternoons, and is also gifted on the keyboard. He has agreed to try and disciple him – although he's never done that and doesn't know what to do – and they are from different language groups. Please pray for Sana as he takes this on. Pray for them as they come to lunch tomorrow that they will connect and become good friends.

I'm thankful that the youth group and Sana plan to go to Ningerum prison on Saturday for outreach – another opportunity for Sewoknai to do something meaningful and encouraging with others.

The message is on *The Lord brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom, and broke away their chains. Let us give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men Psalm 107:14*

Pray for a good time for all – and for more chains to fall off!

I had a great time last month when I went to the prison– they were so open to talk about knowing God – my box of books and bibles was very welcome!



Thanks for your prayers for the **Easter Convention**. We had a good time. Against my usual practice I even shared a couple of times in the items time. As I walked to and fro the drunkards on the road made me feel again the empty awfulness of life without Christ. One drunkard said "*I'm drunk*" I said "*Jesus helps drunkards*" He said, "*I'm good really. I'm lost in the bush*" We talked some more, and pray I will have the opportunity to visit for fellowship when he is not drunk.

That is so human – to think that '*we are good really*'. So I felt burdened to share with the many unbelievers at the convention using the Bridge illustration – and gave out some leaflets along the road as well. Not quite the usual thing to do – but they were all more than willing to take them!

## **An exciting opportunity at the Kiunga High School**

Since teaching on unplanned pregnancy and abortion at the Women's Convention it's been on my heart to share this key message with young people. It's such a big and increasing issue – and someone needs to speak up! I met the Principal of the High School - and found an open door to go one afternoon and talk to Grade 9-12 girls. I'd like to take a group with me. Please pray as we work out the best way to do this. Sana has agreed to compose a song – so pray for God's help as he does that.

Please pray for the **Preaching Workshop** coming up very soon – April 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

David Sprouse from Cuckfield will lead using the PPP 2 Timothy book he wrote. There will be mixture of teaching, and small groups. The aim is for them to leave more able to dig into God's Word and preach a relevant message from the text. We hope establishing Preaching Groups will enable the skills to be practised and developed.

It is especially encouraging for me as PPP series (Pray Prepare Preach) was birthed because of the lack of accessible resources for the pastors here to help them prepare sermons and teach the truth effectively. So it's like PPP has come home! I told Phil how I'd have loved for him to come and teach Preaching Mark here – but that was never a possibility because of his chronic fatigue. So I am very thankful for David being able to come.

**Pray** that the right church leaders from each of the 13 districts in the North Fly will come. We will be studying from an English bible – so pray for God's Spirit to enable them. It's hard. Imagine yourself studying in a second language!

Some will walk or travel by canoe for days, so ask God to watch over them.

**Pray** for David as he adjusts to the large climate difference (from 3 to 35degrees! as well as humidity) He has an intensive programme, preaching on both Sundays as well.

**Pray** for good interactions and encouraging times with all the participants some of whom live in remote places.

**Pray** the messages about false teaching – how to recognise and how to respond - will be life changing and strengthen the church immensely.

May we all go away determined that God's Word IS enough.

As always our enemy satan is active and will try various ways to discourage and disturb – so pray his efforts will be thwarted and turned on their head to bring greater good.

May we all be better equipped to teach God's Word so that more and more we will see:-

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