

April 2014

From the Lenzes:

Thank you very much for your prayers and notes of encouragement regarding my meeting with the local District Youth Council group. In preparation for this meeting I learned something new which may be an encouragement to many of you. As it was explained to me, it seems that according to the PNG government “youth” is defined as anyone from the age of 18-40. Enjoy your youth!

This meeting was a great opportunity to share what New Tribes Mission is doing here in North Wahgi, but most importantly it was a great discipleship opportunity and a good chance to share the Message of Truth with some of the area leaders. I was able to take along three of our translation helpers for the meeting and they were able to read the people’s expressions and hear what some of them said among themselves as I was teaching.

There were at least 5 pastors from various churches among the group of 20-25 people who attended the meeting. I shared with the group about the sin of Adam and Eve, how the Old Testament continually pointed forward to Christ as the fulfillment of the promise for a redeemer that God gave in Genesis 3, and how the death of Christ on the cross fulfilled that promise and that as a result we only have salvation by our faith in him apart from anything else. These elemental truths of the Gospel are ones we often take for granted. However many of the pastors were even saying, “This is new talk, we’ve never heard this before. This is good talk.”

Early on in the meeting I asked them to list off some of the problems they see in the ‘youth’ of today here in our area. I listed those things on a piece of paper and read them back. I asked if they themselves are guilty of doing the same things that they listed. Although I told them not to answer, some spoke up and said, “Yes, I do.” Then I asked how they expect to lead the youth of our area into good living when they themselves are exemplifying the same sin in their own lives. And how they would direct the lives of the youth if they themselves aren’t clear of how to be “right in God’s eyes” as that is the basis for all things.

After I finished teaching two of the helpers and I left and one stayed on as he is a part of the youth council. When he returned, he shared that many of the people were thinking a lot about what was shared and one pastor said to him, “I get mad at my wife and treat her poorly when nobody is around, but when people are at my house I don’t do that. I understand now that that is sin.” There were other testimonies that came back to the effect that they rely on works of their own strength to be right in God’s eyes, but they see now that that is not what the Bible says.

Thank you again for your prayers and encouragement. They were definitely felt during that time.

At His Service and For His Glory,

Levi, Robyn, Michael, and Daniel Lenz

