

## From the Lenz's View – Hold onto the Banana

### Literacy, the gateway to self-study...



*“How can they call on him in whom they’ve not believed?*

*How can they believe in him whom they’ve not heard.*

*And how will they hear without a preacher?”*  
~Romans 10:14

And how can they personally continue to grow in their understanding of Him if they cannot read? Literacy is a vital block in the

foundation of the church. Like a newborn baby is susceptible to all kinds of illnesses, an illiterate church is susceptible to the false teaching which Paul warns Timothy about. Literacy is the means by which the church leaders will wield the Sword of Truth at the wolves who come to devour the sheep. Without literacy the Sword will be stuck in its sheath and the church leaders will be defenseless when the wolves come to attack...and they will come.

On Monday we started a new literacy class which currently has 13 students who are all from our church. These students range from a 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade education in the PNG school system and three of them are Sunday school students who are currently in the local elementary school. *\*Please pray that these students will be faithful to complete the course.*

This current literacy course has something which the previous courses did not have. It has three teachers in training. By the end of the course, we would like to have these teachers trained and equipped to teach the course wholly on their own so that we, the missionaries, can spend our time in other areas of the ministry. *\*Please pray that these teachers will also be faithful to the end and will have a desire to teach future literacy courses on their own.*

### *Syllable memory game*

### **Hold the banana...**

Over the last several months, two of our Bible teachers in training have been teaching the Creation through Christ Bible lessons to three women. That teaching was finished on Sunday evening and the three women have given clear testimonies of their trust in Christ alone for their salvation. Though not officially a part of the class, the husband of one of the ladies has been in his house listening off to the side as the teaching was taking place. When the location of the teaching changed, Kumye faithfully went to the new location as well and has also begun coming faithfully on Sunday mornings. Kumye seems to be a deep thinker and has expressed



that he has some questions. *\*Please pray for Kumye that his questions can be answered and that he will join his wife in the family of God. What a difference that would make in their family.*

After the teaching wrapped up on Sunday, David, a young Christian man who had decided to sit in on the teaching that day, relayed a story that happened to him when he was a boy. He said he and a man with him were going to cross the Wahgi river so they took off their shirts and pants/trousers, threw a cut banana plant into river to float on and started paddling across. As they were paddling across a flash flood hit and the river started raging. When the river began to rage, the man with David begun yelling to him to hold on strongly to the banana plant. David said they couldn't grip the banana plant well, so they tossed their clothes into the river, so as to not have to hold onto something else, and paddled as hard as they could. Being scared, David began to say that he was going to let go and just swim across, but the man continued yelling, "No. Don't let go. Just hold strongly to the banana. Hold the banana..." Through continually coaching to hold on to the banana plant the two eventually made it across the river. David said that our salvation is much like that. Christ is the banana plant and we just have to believe in him and hold onto him strongly.



### **Prayer Points...**

- Pray for upcoming teaching opportunities. A man who has given us much opposition is interested in hearing the Creation to Christ teaching. We hope to start teaching him and a handful of others soon alongside some of our teachers in training. Pray for this man's salvation.
- Continue to pray that home schooling will go well.
- Pray for the young believers as they find it hard to stand against outside pressures to conform to the old way of doing things rather than following what God would have them to do.
- Praise God for the team that came and helped get the addition done for the boys' room and a shed built under our house.

