

The big event in the last month was our **ECPNG General Conference at Kiunga**. Thankfully it went ahead in spite of covid – we were given special exemption from the lockdown restrictions within the province. Even the march and dancing starting at the local oval to the church was allowed to continue with police escort.



Dancers ready to lead the march. Sana on the left – was the MC for the opening ceremony, and also led the worship times for the week very beautifully.

Below is President Hengebe cutting the ribbon to open the (46<sup>th</sup> Biennial) General Conference. Yes red, white and blue are our colours.

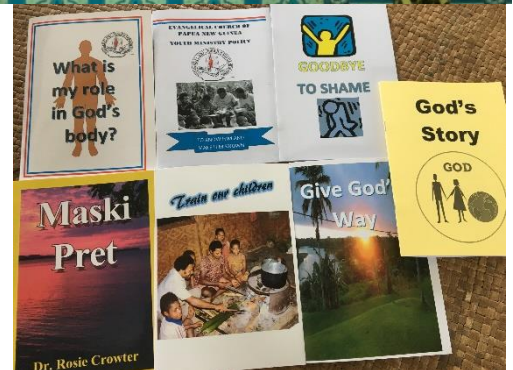
The bible messages were given by Dr Maxon Mani, the recently elected principal of CLTC, on Christ like leadership. He powerfully exposed the cultural thinking of ‘big men’, and challenged all to learn to be servants. The men must learn from their wives who serve all day looking after the family needs. They are the great ones in God’s eyes. Very challenging for PNG men!

I am writing the messages into a simple illustrated booklet to reinforce, and further spread these good messages. All went home with a book ‘Leading like Christ’, and a local bilum (bag) made from tulip tree or Suki grass.

**Pray for God’s transformation of our church leadership.**



**Praise God** all these books (17 boxes!) arrived the week before conference, and 2 more on the second day. I was very thankful. Many books and bibles went out. The conference was especially thankful for the role book – which reminds every member they have an important role to play. We must not depend on the leaders. Pray the role book will help *everyone to play their part in God’s body* – and to do it gladly for the Lord.



Sadly some of our participants from the South Fly arrived by outrigger canoe only on the last day of the conference! They were looking for fuel and started late– but it took them 5 days to travel.

Their memorable contribution was on the Sunday close up service where they dramatized the impact of the Good



News of Jesus on their tribes.

Fighting tribes killed each other, and rejoiced dancing over the number of heads collected from their conquered enemy.

Then there was payback. And so they continued, living in fear.

But, Praise God, the cross of Jesus and God's Word brought peace. Peace with God – and peace between headhunting tribes.

Now they can celebrate Jesus' death on the cross and God's Word.

This was a powerful way to close our conference remembering what the Good News has done in many villages here beginning only 90 years ago.

We also began conference with a power point of some ECPNG church history – remembering some of the pioneer missionaries in the 1930's and 1950's who went to the different areas of PNG. It brought tears to many eyes.

Truly **the gospel is the power of God to salvation.**



It was a good, busy week, following on from PNG's 46<sup>th</sup> Independence celebrations on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. This was celebrated at the primary school for the first time which gave it a different flavour. The children marched, and then formed the letters of INDEPENDENCE in colours – sorry I need an aerial photo to be able to show you! One of my teacher friends is shown here wearing knitted national dress, with her son.

We had a variety of tribes presenting their traditional dances, with many of the teachers and students participating which was most enjoyable.



Final drama (see right) showed the marriage customs before of the Aekyom people here. Interesting – I've not seen it before.

## October

**God's Word and culture sickness and death workshop** for Rumginae district (18-22<sup>nd</sup>). Only about 20 came – but they were eager to hear. Pray for release from the bondage of wrong beliefs about sorcery and death which remain so strong all around here. May God show His power – which is still the same today as it was when the Good News first came to Rumginae 58 years ago. Pray Hebrews 4:12 with me.

We have been particularly aware of the evil one seeking to attack and spoil the work here, with what it seems was a demon attack on one of our main leaders. It was horrid to watch. There's also an increase in killings and evil activity – seems the people are going back to old ways. Reminds me of **Romans 1: 21-25**. *They exchange the truth about God for a lie. They worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator Himself.*

**Pray for God's power and God's victory to show out strongly. *'Restore O Lord the honour of Your name. In works of Sovereign power come shake the earth again, that men may see and come with reverent fear to the living God..***

Covid and death is increasing. Fear of vaccine continues. President took vaccine as example at General Conference. As many of you will know Heidi lost the court case about discrimination for disability. But the fight goes on – she cites William Wilberforce as a model to follow of someone who did not give up.

In the precious and powerful name of Jesus – our model servant leader. Love *Rosie* rosiecrowter@gmail.com  
Apologies there will be no PNG calendar this year – the system changed and left me behind! Sorry.