

RAGIAMPUN ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL BOOKS DELIVERY

Introduction

The plastic container with the red lid containing donated books which started its journey at the Division office packed by the education department departmental assistant finally arrived with other stuff for the health department in a twenty foot container and was delivered to the Union education secretary office. The little project was the initiative of the SPD former director for education, Dr Barry Hill after visiting the school in 2009. With him during the visit were general secretary for Morobe Mission Pastor Geoffrey Pomaleu, Mount Diamond Secondary School principal, Mr Geoffrey Kombil, education secretary for Morobe Mission and I. Dr Hill during a brief inspection of the school noted that it had no library but did not say anything about it. He wrote an article in the RECORD about his visit to PNG featuring Ragiampun Adventist Primary school. Thanks to those who responded and made donations and the much needed books are result of the generous donations. Sonya Mulh had worked really hard to ensure that the project materialized and followed up on the container of books from day one until it arrived.

Trip to Ragiampun

I immediately contacted Mr Lamech Sokaripa about the arrival of the container of books and told him to contact the principal at the school that his books will be delivered. On Tuesday, 25th October we set out on the trip to Ragiampun to take delivery of the books. Included in the trip were Mr Lamech Sokaripa, Morobe Mission education secretary, Mr Yoba Dame, PNGUM Associate Education Secretary - primary and I made the two hour trip to the school. We arrived at the school about lunch time and were met by one of the teachers who directed us to where the principal of the school, teachers, students and community leaders were waiting.

At Ragiampun



At the entrance to the school ground we were met by young girls who placed laces on us and were met by the principal who assorted us as we walked between two rows of over three hundred students who

threw and showered us with flowers as we were led to the church where the ceremony and the dedication of the books took place, As we entered the church the school choir sang a welcome song and the crowd moved into the church. I could at this point sense

that this was an event the whole community was looking forward to from the way they expressed themselves in their singing and the reception we received.

Dedication of the Donated Books

Before the program started the container of books with another carton of resource materials were brought to the church. The district director of the area led out in the program with welcome, followed with dedicatory prayer, an item from the school choir and I took a spiritual thought on loyalty and concluded with another musical item and prayer. We were told that all programs they have at the school always begin with the spiritual aspect conducted in the church.



Morobe Mission Education Secretary & District Director of Markham opens the donated books

Handing over of the Donated Books:

The master of ceremony took over in the little ceremony with the handing over of the books with a number of speeches made by the principal of the school, PNGUM education secretary, Morobe Mission education secretary, PNGUM associate education secretary, the chairman of the school board of management and a community representative. I was



Mr. Ponduk presents donated books to the Principal

privileged to be given the opportunity to hand over the books on behalf of the donors to the principal of the school. I also took the opportunity to challenge the children and the teachers to get students to read as much as much as possible if they are to do well in school. I also told them that the books are a start for them to start a library for the school. The speeches from the principal, chairman of school board of management and the community expressed how much they appreciated the kind gesture of the donors. The community representative spoke highly

on behalf of his people that since the establishment of the school many years ago he had not witnessed any such event where books were donated to the school.



Children display donated books

The students rushed for the books after the ceremony to see what they had received with smiles on their faces. They held up the donated books as photos were taken. We had the opportunity also to meet the teachers who also expressed their appreciation of the donated

books. A number of them expressed that the donation would be a boost to their students' performance academically.

The day went very quickly because we had thought we would only be there for a short time. We were served refreshment by the local community and children brought heaps of fruits such as pawpaw, green coconuts, pineapples, cucumbers, sugarcane, water melons, peanuts etc. Then it was time to leave Ragiampun, a school that is growing with additional staff houses and new classrooms built, all because of the support of the Local Mission.



Left: Incomplete classrooms



Right: New Staff house

Report prepared by Joe Ponduk, Adventist Education Secretary, PNGUM
30th October 2011.