

TT - PNG at a very different school...

Dear Friends!

June 2022

Sometimes we experience something we can only describe as the 'after effects' of our time from 1998 to 2018. During that period, we have helped dozens of keen young Austrians to find a place of service **somewhere in the world**. One of them, a medical student at the time, profited greatly from his **short-term placement** at a mobile clinic in Africa – and not just him, the local medical team as well!

"Send us more like him!" was the enthusiastic response of our partner organisation in Africa.



presentation on the colourful country where we had worked with great joy for ten years: **Papua New Guinea (PNG)**!

And so it happened that in mid-May we were able to talk at some length about this exciting country in the South Seas to a group of roughly 30 children aged from 6 to 16, together with the teaching staff.

We heard from him again at the start of the year – he is now an experienced doctor, married with children. One of them attends a very interesting state-approved 'alternative' school in Lower Austria. The pupils are supported in individual learning according to their abilities and preferences. The school works with no timetable, homework, marks or exams. A lot of the learning takes place out of doors. This dear doctor and his family came up with the idea of inviting us to visit the school. It was their wish that, with the agreement of the school leadership that we would do a



The school leaders allowed us three hours! We were amazed at the pupils' attentiveness. They were really interested and very well behaved. Not **once** did the children have to be told off...

In our luggage, we had bamboo fish traps, bows and arrows, a bush drum, a mussel shell horn, grass skirts, a Bible in Pidgin, New Guinea coins, which have holes through the middle, the PNG flag, and much more. There was of course a **Power Point Presentation** as well. We had a break for refreshments: coconuts, previously cooked sweet potatoes, pineapples, mangos, bananas, avocados... anything that grows in the tropics... We also brought along many stories, all genuine first-hand accounts... There was Raimund's miraculous escape from a giant crocodile, 'praying' cockatoos, birds of paradise, powerful volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. The children asked a lot of serious questions.

The three hours just flew by! At the end of the morning when we were packing our things away in the car, a **young dad (B.)** said hello to us. He had come to pick up his child from the school. Hans-Georg got into conversation with him and gave him our **visiting card**, which also mentions briefly that we live by faith in God. To our surprise, we got an e-mail from him a few days later. He said that following our conversation with him, he would had no peace, he had many questions and he would like to come and see us soon!

All in all: Not just a very **different school** but also a very **special opportunity!** You may be aware that we work on three levels: **Local, national and worldwide**. That was one of our 'national' opportunities, which was a great joy to us! **Perhaps other will follow...**

Local: On **1st June**, we were meeting with two colleagues from the **Emergency Counseling service** who have now become good friends. David & Annika have given us tickets for the Open Air-Passion Play on **4th June** in a quarry very near here: <https://www.passio.at/>

We are very grateful for your ongoing interest!

We know we are greatly blessed by you, through your prayers and all your practical support.

Yours in HIS service

Hans-Georg & Margret



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