

Dear Friends,

Greetings from warm and sunny Papua New Guinea and from Senior Flierl Seminary.

We at the seminary are rejoicing in a larger than usual first year class — 27 men!

That is double the class we took in last year, and the largest class since I arrived in 1997! Praise God with us! A student will be on campus the first three years of his seminary education. The fourth year he will serve as a vicar, or intern, in a parish. The fifth year he will come back to class. This year we have 77 students on campus, plus 16 vicars in parishes around the country.

My major responsibility is teaching English to our first-, second-, and third-year students. For the most part, I enjoy doing this. Our students come to us with a very wide range of backgrounds and abilities in the English language. Sometimes it becomes a challenge for me to find ways to teach so that the brighter students are not bored and the students for whom English is difficult will be able to feel a measure of success. This term I'm also leading the wives of our fifth-year students in a study on "Women of the Bible". This is a series of studies I wrote several years ago and keep reusing.

Something new for me is an elective class I'm teaching. The subject is the Holy Spirit and His work. This is another course I've developed myself. I have 10 students in my class.

As the sole member of our English department, I am responsible for coordinating the English-language worship services, which happen two Sunday evenings each month during the school year. Usually one of our students leads the liturgy, and one of our teachers brings the message.

Another responsibility of mine is supervising a couple of our students as they teach religious instruction in one of our public schools. This year we are using a course of study which has just been developed. I find this frustrating sometimes, probably because it is not the way I would teach, given the choice.

My newest responsibility is the children's library, which is a small room in the back of another building, open 1 1/2 hours every Tuesday afternoon. There are nine students' wives and two teachers' wives who volunteer their time on a rotating basis. At first I almost resented this extra responsibility; after all, it does take up most of an afternoon. However, I have come to appreciate this opportunity because it allows me to work with some of the ladies just a few at a time.

Our seminary is currently having a major shift in administration. Our principal is stepping down and two other national teachers are becoming principal and deputy principal. Pastor Majepe is our new principal; Pastor Kedabing is our new deputy principal. I ask that you pray for each of these men. Thanks.

I am grateful for each of you, for your prayers and for your financial support. May God bless you as you serve Him wherever you are!

In Jesus,

Sister Ruth Ellen