

<sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:21-24

## THE FOOLISHNESS OF PEOPLE AND THE FOOLISHNESS OF GOD

Pastor Maiyupe Par of Papua New Guinea

There once was a man who was working in his garden. The sun was hot and so he rested in the shade of a tree. He gazed up into the branches of the tree and he saw fruit hanging from those branches. He noted that the fruit on the limbs of the tree were relatively small. Then, he looked around him in the garden and saw a huge pumpkin on a vine in the garden. He thought to himself, it isn't right that a great big strong tree should produce such small fruit but a spindly little vine should produce something as big as a pumpkin. If it were me who had designed all of this, I would have had made it so the big pumpkin was on the big strong tree and the smaller fruit would grow on the thin, weak little pumpkin vine.

The man was thinking about all of this and he became drowsy and fell asleep. While he was sleeping, a fruit from the tree came loose from the branch and landed on the man's head. The man woke up with a start and saw the fruit that had hit him on the head. Now he had second thoughts about the way he would have designed creation. "Oh man" he said. "I am one crazy fool. If God had followed my foolish idea and had the tree produce the pumpkin, I would be dead right now." The foolishness of humans and the foolishness of God are totally different. For God, that which is weak is really strong. That which is flawed and wrong, God makes good and whole. That which appears crazy and foolish to this world is really where we find the great wisdom of God. The story of the cross seems crazy to many. However, it is by this message, the message of that we find the power of God that saves us.