



That They May Know YOU



"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:3

The Newsletter of Pastor Larry and Tina Matro, LCMS missionaries serving in Papua New Guinea

June 2018

"If anyone aspires to the office of overseer (pastor), he desires a noble task." 1 Timothy 3:1

In our experience in the USA, a seminary graduate is ordained after seminary and before beginning his ministry. But, here in PNG it is quite different. A seminary graduate often needs to "prove himself" in the field for several years before he is ordained. Pastor Patrick Minato's case was even more complicated, so he waited 28 years before he was ordained! It was my privilege to witness, preach for and participate in his ordination. Here is a bit more about his story...



Patrick James Minato was baptized in the early years of Lutheran mission work among the Enga people. After graduating from St. Paul's Lutheran High School in 1983, he enrolled at Martin Luther Seminary (MLS) so he could become a pastor. He was among the last students from the Gutnius Lutheran Church to "sit at the feet" of pioneer LCMS missionary Dr. Willard Burce. (Dr. Burce left PNG in 1988 after serving his entire 40 year ministry here. He and his wife Elinor are still living in Wisconsin.) Patrick graduated from MLS with a Bachelor in Theology.

His first call was to Boroko Lutheran Congregation in Port Moresby. He served as Assitant to Philip Kiso until Pastor Kiso retired in 1995. During that time he was awarded a scholarship by Lutheran World Federation to study in Switzerland. He also enrolled at the University of PNG and earned a B.A. in Public Administration.

In 1997, Boroko Lutheran Church moved and became Concordia Lutheran Church. It primarily serves the large Enga population that lives and works in Port Moresby. However, CLC was unable to meet the financial obligations needed to support Pastor Minato and his family full-time, so he was encouraged to seek employment with the PNG government. He applied for a position in the Lands Department and continues to work for them and has been promoted several times.



In 2017, Pastor Minato was awarded a scholarship to attend Concordia Theological Seminary (Ft. Wayne, USA) to study in the Master's program. (Larry helped him with some logistics and communicated with him during this time.) He spent about 11 months in the USA and only returned once for 3 weeks over Christmas to see his family! He was awarded his degree in 2017 (picture).



Pastor Minato married Dorish 12 years ago. They have 1 child, Petrah Miti, who is 11. They also have 6 other children (of relatives) living with them while they work or go to school in Port Moresby. The youngest is Karish, who is just 2!

His ordination day on 27 May 2018 was quite special with a decorated courtyard, many invited guests and over 1000 in attendance. Larry preached on 2 Timothy 4:2, ***"Preach the Word!"*** After he was ordained, one could see a tear running down his cheek. Later, about his ordination, he wrote, ***"This is the climax of my life. Now I can engage fully and meaningfully in all aspects of the Holy Ministry. Over the last 28 years I see how God has brought me through thick and thin. I wholeheartedly thank God***

for this and I am sure my family agrees with me."

This is just one of many stories that can be told about the people and work that is going on here in PNG. There are others like Patrick who need the encouragement and support that we bring to nurture and plant God's Church here. Your continued, generous and faithful support are both necessary and a blessing to us and those with whom we live and work.

Thank You and God bless you!

Pastor Larry and Tina Matro

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