



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

May/June 2019

Larry remembers it vividly. He was in PNG in January 2015 on a short visit prior to our deployment.

In a phone conversation with the Asia Regional Director, he was told that we had been “green-lighted” for PNG! That meant that in just **6 weeks** from accepting the call, the financial support was sufficient for us to pack for life in PNG.

As we now prepare to leave PNG, we want to thank all of you.

It was because of YOU that we were able to come and serve as missionaries in this beautiful country.

In the last four years these exciting things have happened because of **YOU**:

- ✠ The children’s Bible storybook, “*Baibel Stori bilong Ol Pikinini.*” was edited, printed, dedicated and distributed. (Many thanks, also, to Lutheran Heritage Foundation and the PNG Mission Society.) Children are also singing Bible songs that Tina had fun teaching them.
- ✠ The LCMS missionaries and GLC partner church met in the highlands often for meetings, fellowship, preaching and worship.
- ✠ LCMS colleagues from the USA were able to visit PNG to learn about and see the important mission work going on here. (One visitor commented, “*The beauty is breathtaking and the roads are back-breaking!*”)
- ✠ Polo shirts were designed by Thrivent members in the USA and brought back in Tina’s suitcase for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
- ✠ The Library at Martin Luther Seminary was reorganized and many newer books were added. (The work will continue under the supervision of a woman from Germany, Mrs. Silke Zwilling.)
- ✠ Many theological books were purchased from CPH (The Lutheran Confessions, Pastoral Care Companion, etc.) and made available to the students at far below cost. (This is a real need as good Lutheran books are expensive and hard to find!)
- ✠ English Bibles were provided for the Martin Luther Seminary students.
- ✠ **FREE** *Small Catechisms* and *Large Catechisms* were gifted to the MLS students.
- ✠ Through an LCMS project, 50% tuition assistance was given to the students from our partner church attending Martin Luther Seminary. This was for the past 3 school years and may continue into the future!
- ✠ A Gutnius Lutheran Church congregation in Lae was restarted. (Please pray that it continues and thrives after we leave.)
- ✠ Larry taught 11 different courses (21 groups of students) during his 9 terms at Martin Luther Seminary.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Your prayers and generous and consistent support have enabled us to live and work here with the Gospel of Jesus always before us.

As we transition back to the USA, please consider continuing to support us, if possible, until we have completed our missionary service at the end of August 2019.

After that, please consider supporting another LCMS missionary!

We will be leaving PNG on June 23rd and will settle back in Michigan for the summer. We are looking forward to time with our family, including the baptism of our newest grandson, James Oliver Smith! (FIVE grandchildren have been born since we came here and we are looking forward to getting to know (aka spoil) them!) Larry will be waiting for a Call from a congregation, hopefully by the end of August. Look for one more newsletter that will tell you what happened here as we said “Good Bye to PNG” and to let you know where the Lord and His church have sent us to serve next.

God i stap wantaim yu! (God be with you!)

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