



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, serving in Papua New Guinea and Oceania

October 2017

FAQ about LIFE & WORK in PNG

- 1. What do the seminarians learn at Martin Luther Seminary (MLS)?** The program at MLS currently extends over 6 years, with the 5th year on vicarage. The first two years focus on basic studies in the Bible, Lutheran doctrine,



worship, preaching and English. The next two years include more advanced doctrine and Biblical courses, Greek, Hebrew and more English. In their final year they take any "required courses" they may have missed and elective courses that are offered. Well-qualified students may opt to attend a 7th year and earn a BTh by writing a research paper on a topic of their own choosing.

- 2. How are students sent to a church and are they supported there?** In most cases, when the students graduate they are sent back to their home districts for placement in a congregation. How well they are supported will differ from congregation to congregation, however. In many cases, students prefer being closer to home where they feel safer and may have access to their own gardens. I know of one case where the pastor works for a government agency because his congregation cannot support him full-time.

- 3. How are women treated in PNG?** There has been quite a bit of news about how dangerous it can be for a woman in PNG. Unfortunately, some women are not treated very kindly as physical violence is common. There is also a growing trend, in the highlands especially, to single out women for having an "evil spirit" (they call it a "sanguma") which often leads to capture, torture and death. *Pray that the churches begin to see their role in curbing all violence against women!*



- 4. Do you see any signs of Muslims there? Other religions?** With Indonesia being our neighbor, one would expect



to see a large influx of Muslims here. But, I have yet to notice anything on a large scale. There is a mosque in the capital Port Moresby (pictured) and I did see a report in the paper of a small group that had celebrated the conclusion of Ramadan. Other non-Christian groups here include Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons. There are many Christian groups as well, the largest being Catholics, Lutherans and various Pentecostal denominations.

- 5. What do you do for fun?** Keeping a sense of humor is a must while we struggle with heat, humidity, power outages, slow internet and birds that wake us at 4 am. There are several restaurants that we enjoy going to and a swimming pool we visit regularly for exercise. We also have a large inventory of movies and TV shows on DVD that we like to watch. We also like communicating with our children via *Facebook Messenger*.

- 6. What can we do for you?** Prayer is so important as the Lord helps us to a keep positive attitude and enthusiasm for this work. Your **regular and generous financial support** is also essential. In a future newsletter we will share about some projects that you may also support that help us to do our work here in Papua New Guinea.

Changes to your address, as well as regular correspondence, can be directed to us at: larry.matro@lcmsintl.org.

God bless you!

Pastor Larry and Tina Matro

Visit our blog to see our movie! [matropnglife@wordpress.com](http://matropnglife.wordpress.com)

To support the LCMS through the work of **Pastor Larry Matro**, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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P.O. Box 66861	40718 Highway E 16
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