

Martin and Marie Dicke—Missionaries Serving the Lord in Papua New Guinea

Celebrating 70 Years of the Good News in Enga Land



By Martin Dicke

During the first week of November Sukutea (Resurrection) Lutheran Church at Yaramanda celebrated the 70th Anniversary of LCMS missionaries arriving in the Enga Province. It is a remarkable story involving Australians and Papua New Guinea missionaries from the Siassi Islands and the coastal area of Finschhafen where New Guinea's first missionary landed in 1886. The theme of the celebration was "From Ghosts to God in Enga Land," the title of Rev. Dr. Otto Hintze's autobiography.

The celebration lasted for three days consisting of worship services, Bible Studies, baptisms, confirmations, reception of new and returning Christians, and a

movie all culminating with a Divine Service and feast ("mumu") on November 3, 70 years to the day that the LCMS missionaries arrived. David Philip, Principal at Wamapisa Lutheran Primary School at Yaramanda and a descendant of those who invited the missionaries to come, wrote of that day in a recent Facebook post.

On a sunny tiring afternoon in 3rd November 1948, two young LCMS Missionaries from the USA arrived at Yaramanda bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Enga people for the first time. Rev. Dr. Otto Hintze and Rev. Dr. Willard Burce first set foot at Yaramanda amongst the Wauni Tribal people. A Wauni war hero by the name of Waiman Koa and other tribal members had made several trips to the Hagen area to observe the Lu-

theran mission work there in Ogelbeng. Since the lead Enga man were Wauns, it was only natural that the first land offered to the missionaries on which to build a mission station was in the Wauni Tribal Territory. It was a strategic Blessing from God that the first missionaries chose a tract of land at Yaramanda, with KEAPO Knoll at the center, situated in the midst of five different neighboring enemy tribes. The site had been land claimed by different ones or pairs of those tribes who had fought each other to possess it. (Mainly it was the battle field of the Wauni and Maini)

After walking for miles they rested and finally continued along the road to

Yaramanda. Some of the Wauni tribesmen went to meet them and helped them to carry their gear. Never did they know that they were carrying the New Covenant Box (i.e. the Holy Bible). Ascending Keapo hill was a struggle because it came at the end of a day's walk in altitude a few hundred feet over a mile from sea level. Near the top of the knoll, a seven-foot leafy cane barrier blocked the path, with a makeshift closed cane door in the middle.

The two young missionaries and the carriers were asked to stop at the barrier. On the other side were Hagen Evangelist Pokon, men who had accompanied Freund from the Aus-



The 70th Anniversary sign above the entrance to Yaramanda (above) and missionaries Julie Lutz and Marie Dicke opening a gift to the LCMS, a sand painting of a missionary giving the Holy Bible to an Engan man (below).

Please Consider a Year-End Gift to Mission Work in PNG

As this year comes to a close, please prayerfully consider a Christmas donation or a special year-end gift so that we can continue to proclaim God's love to the people in Papua New Guinea. Your prayers are an encouragement to us and your gener-

ous financial support allows us to share God's love and mercy to the people here.

Please also consider supporting us in the coming year. The needs here are very great. Thank you for sending us and making it possible for us to share the mes-

sage of our crucified and risen Savior Jesus Christ with those in Papua New Guinea.

One-time or recurring gifts may be made securely at:

www.lcms.org/dicke or

www.missioncentral.us/dicke

alian Siassi Mission and a number of local men. From their side of the barrier, they told them how glad they were to receive the First Lutheran Missionaries who were bringing the Good News of Jesus. Pokon prayed about it and for them, setting prayer as the means to obtain guidance for all their future work. There was some singing and then the barrier door was opened. They were finally invited to pass through it, which was symbolic of their entering their new work.

On the other side they shook hands with all the people lined up on both sides of the path to Keapo Knoll where they would settle to spread the Gospel far and wide amongst the Enga people of Papua New Guinea.

“Asane Goteme namba lao maso pilyo ngeto lao plene mende lea, pana-sia Jisas ditalame panasia” ... To God Be Glory Now and Forever... Amen.

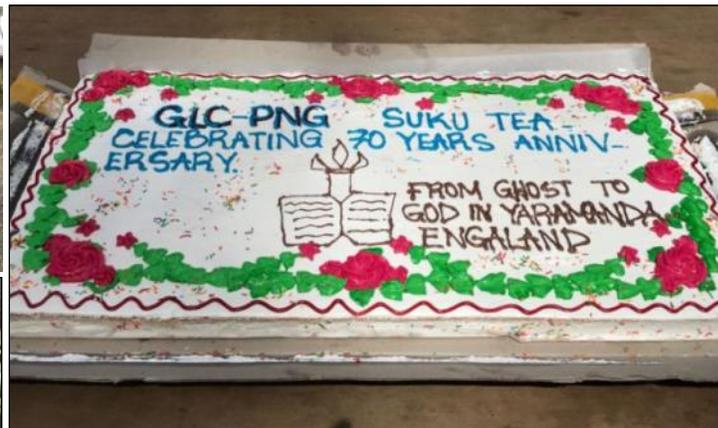
After the Divine Service, Martin Dicke presented the congregation with a copy of Otto Hintze’s autobiography, *From Ghosts to God in Enga Land*, on behalf of the LCMS and the Concordia Lutheran Professional Mission Services; Daphne Kapao spoke of the work of her descendants, the coastal Christians who came to work with the missionaries in 1948; missionary Julie Lutz was honored to cut the ribbon opening a new Sunday School room; and Julie Lutz and Marie Dicke were presented with a gift to the LCMS: a sand painting of a missionary giving the Holy Bible to an Engan man in traditional dress (see other side). Together Daphne and Marie cut and served the special 70th Anniversary cake (at right).

While presenting the sand



painting to the LCMS missionaries, David Philip pleaded with the LCMS to not forget about and abandon the people in Enga Land despite the many problems that exist in the church.

We pray that be the case for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



Pictures from the November 3 celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the arrival of LCMS missionaries at Yaramanda including the 70th Anniversary cake, presenting the book From Ghosts to God in Enga Land to the congregation, face painting with cake frosting, and celebrating Holy Communion.



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Please support the missionary service of Martin and Marie Dicke with a monthly, quarterly, or yearly giving plan or with a one-time gift. Visit lcms.org/dicke or call LCMS Mission Advancement at (888) 843-5267.

Alternatively, you can send checks payable to the LCMS with "PNG/Dickes" on the Memo Line to:

LCMS Mission Advancement
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122-7226

You may also visit our dear friends at missioncentral.us/dicke or send your gifts to:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034