

A Year of Ministry in Review...

By Martin Dicke

Merry Christmas from Papua New Guinea! We have no snow, but lots of rain. We don't have much in the way of Christmas decorations except the beautiful Bethlehem Olive Wood nativity set we purchased at St. Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne, Australia in January (at right).

It's been an especially busy, somewhat exhausting, but very fulfilling year. A stomach bug, the rain, and this newsletter has provided me a chance to look back over it. Besides our regular calling of working with musicians and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ through music, these events have made it special and memorable:

- Translating the song "The Lamb" into Tok Pisin. One day Marie said, "We need to translate 'The Lamb' into Tok Pisin." I said, "OK!"
- Teaching "The Lamb," "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light," and a few other songs to the students at Highland Lutheran International School where we live.
- Teaching Church History (Terms 1 & 2) to Year 2



and Reformation History (Terms 3 & 4) to Year 4 students at Timothy Lutheran Seminary, Birip.

- Helping Year 4 seminarian Enoch Tokeap get surgery to remove a spear tip that had been embedded in his groin for going on 22 years (see [May newsletter](#)).
- The fire that destroyed a

mechanics shed next to our house (see [February newsletter](#)). Thanks to the students and local men, our home was saved and no other buildings were lost.

- Attending the ordination of Rev. Patrick Minato in Port Moresby (see [May newsletter](#)).
- Our daughter Caroline

graduating from the University of Iowa Medical School. Now there are two doctors in the family from the same university.

- The arrival of a large shipment of *Bible Stories in Pictures* from Lutheran Heritage Foundation. We are in the process of distributing it to schools and English

Partner with Us in This Ministry That We Share

As this year comes to a close and a new one begins, please prayerfully consider a special gift towards our work. If you have not already done so, consider partnering with us on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis by visiting lcms.org/dicke (888-843

-5267). Or you may visit MissionCentral.us/dicke (712-882-1029).

Thank you for sending us and making it possible for us to share the message of our crucified and risen Savior Jesus Christ to the people in Papua New

Guinea. Your prayers are an encouragement to us and your generous financial support allows us to continue to proclaim and share God's love with those who so desperately need and long to hear it. May God richly bless you in the New Year!



speakers.

- This shipment also contained Luther's *Large Catechism* in Tok Pisin. Pastors and seminarians were very eager to receive copies.
- Working with pastors, seminarians, and professors to develop additional print resources for the Gutnius Lutheran Church including a new Tok Pisin translation of Martin Luther's *95 Theses*.
- Helping seminarians and pastors read through and understand the *95 Theses* for the first time.
- Working with the LCMS missionaries in PNG (and some in the US) to prepare a statement against the scourge of "sanguma" or Sorcery-Accusation Related

Violence in PNG (see [August newsletter](#))

- Help plan a special worship service dedicating the above resources on PNG's National Day of Repentance.
- The passing of my mother in August. We were blessed to be able to attend her funeral and thank God for her strong and quiet faith and faithful service (see [September newsletter](#)).
- Attending a conference for LCMS Asia missionaries at the new regional headquarters in Taiwan.
- Returning to PNG with Julie Lutz after she was blocked from entering the country for two years.
- Playing scrabble with my wife Marie during the long nights. She usually wins.

- Working with Rev. Ron and Mary Anne Rall who are serving again as LCMS missionaries in PNG, this time part-time. They first arrived on the mission field in the 1970s when I was a kid.
- Helping the teachers and students of Highland Lutheran International School through a crisis that involved a devastating fire on October 16. Three classrooms, the library, and the administrative offices were completely destroyed. Then on October 24, there was an arson attempt on the dormitories. School resumed on October 29 and concluded with a graduation and awards ceremonies on November 28 and 29. The building is being rebuilt and school will resume in late January, early February.

- Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the arrival of LCMS missionaries in the Enga province with Sukutea (Resurrection) Lutheran Church at Yaramanda (see [November newsletter](#)).

Whew! I wonder what God has in store for us next year. Guess we better get rested up!

We will be visiting the US on Home Service from April to early July next year (2019). We hope to see you then and thank you personally for helping us in this ministry that we share.

For links to lots of pictures, videos, our latest PowerPoint presentation, and many other things, please visit our ministry page at JubalsLyre.com/PNG.

Wishing you and your family God's abundant peace and joy in the New Year!

Devotional Thought: Begin Where Christ Began

A little over 2000 years ago our great and majestic Creator sent His Good News to earth in the form of a little baby. 70 years ago LCMS missionaries came to bring the Good News of Jesus to the Enga people (see gift at right and [November newsletter](#)). Deo gratias!

We preach . . . Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

True Christian theology, as I often warn you, does not present God to us in His majesty, as Moses and other teachings do, but Christ born of the Virgin as our Mediator and High Priest.

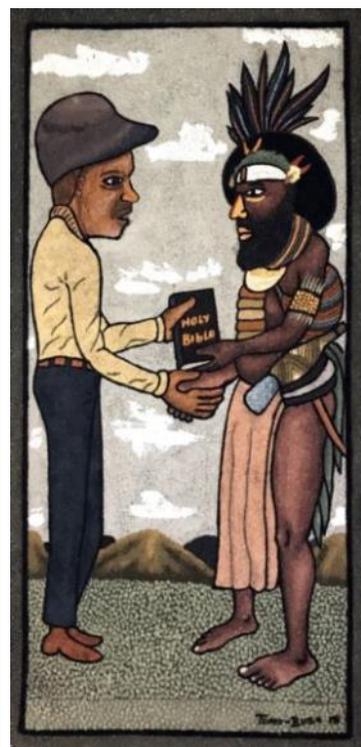
Therefore when we are embattled against the Law, sin, and death in the present of God, nothing is more dangerous than to stray into heaven with our idle speculations, there to investigate God in His incomprehensible power, wisdom, and majesty, to ask how He created the world and how He governs it . . . Therefore if you want to be safe and out of danger to your conscience and your salvation, put a check on this speculative spirit. . . . Begin where Christ began — in the Virgin's womb, in the manger, and at His mother's breasts. For this purpose He came down, was born, lived

among men, suffered, was crucified, and died, so that in every possible way He might present Himself to our sight. He wanted us to fix the gaze of our hearts upon Himself and thus to present us from clambering into heaven and speculating about the Divine Majesty.

Martin Luther

From *Lectures on Galatians* (1535) (Luther's Works 26:28-29)

Taken from *Day-by-Day: 365 Devotional Readings from Martin Luther* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, nd).



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:

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