

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

“Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant”

By *Martin Dicke*

My dear Aunt Elinor joined the Eternal Choir on February 9. Now after many years her whole family is back together again.

Her mother and father, sister Dorothy, and brother Martin died in a tragic car/train accident in 1952. She was unable to attend the funeral since at that time she was serving as a missionary here in Papua New Guinea. Her brother Harold died in 2012 and my dad in 2017. Her older sister Margaret passed away last year. Now they are finally all back together again singing their hearts out to their Savior whom they all loved and served.

Five of the six children were born in Brazil since their dad, Rev. Edward Dicke, and mother Edith served there as LCMS missionaries in the 1920s. They came from a family of missionaries. Their dad’s uncle, Rev. Peter Dicke, was born in Germany, trained at Rev. William Loehle’s mission school at Neuendettelsau, and then was sent to America where he started many congregations in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan. Their mom’s grandfather, Rev. Carl

Rudolf Klinkenberg, was also born in Germany, trained at the Neuendettelsau mission school, and was sent to the US as a missionary serving in Minnesota.

In August 1948 Elinor married Rev. Willard Burce and in September of that same year they left the US to serve as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. They were here for 40 years. In that time Elinor served in multiple roles while raising seven children: Greg, Amy, Jerry, Mary, Julie, Carrie, and Charlie.

I will always remember her wit, her laugh...and her jelly. She made the best jelly out of the guavas that grew plentifully on the Birip station. We affectionately called it “Aunt Elly’s Jelly.” Because Bill and Elinor asked my father to join them as the mission’s Business Manager in the early 1950’s, our families were on the mission field together for 20 years.

It was always a special time when we shared Thanksgiving, Easter, or Christmas dinner at the Burce’s or when they came to visit us. When they moved to Lae we didn’t see them as frequently, but enjoyed whatever time we had together. In their retirement years, they lived in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and Elinor was able to enjoy her 14 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held for her at Timothy Lutheran Seminary, Birip on February 20 and at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Eau Claire on February 23. Rest in peace, Aunt Elinor!



Top left: Elinor pictured with her parents Edward and Edith Dicke and flanked by her sisters Dorothy and Margaret in Brazil where her parents served as an LCMS missionaries in the 1920s; Top right: Wedding to Rev. Willard Burce on August 1, 1948 at Trinity First, Minneapolis only months before coming to PNG. Bottom: First home at Irelya in PNG. More on back.





We Are Visiting the US: Home Service Schedule 2019

Marie and I are returning to the United States for three months to thank our supporters, report on our mission work in PNG, and raise funds for the next two years. Below are the major events in our schedule to date.

We would love to visit with you. If you are close to any of these locations, please come and say "Hi!" and hear our presentation. If you are not on our schedule yet, please contact us at martin.dicke@lcms.org or mariedicke@outlook.com and we will try to fit you in. We would love to visit your church,

school, grab a bite to eat, or share a cup of coffee. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Sunday, April 7—Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Boise, Idaho

Thursday, April 11—Our Savior Lutheran Church, Springfield, Illinois at 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 15—Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Quincy, Illinois

Sunday, 21—Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

Tuesday, April 23—Trinity Lutheran Church, Peoria, Illinois at 6:30 pm

April 26-27—Central Illinois District LWML Convention

Sunday, April 28—Redeemer Lutheran Church, Waukegan, Illinois

Sunday, May 12—Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

Sunday, May 19—Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault, Minnesota

Sunday, May 26—Trinity Lutheran Church, Marshfield, Nebraska

Saturday, June 1—Mission Central, Mapleton, Iowa

Sunday, June 9—Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

Sunday, June 16—St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bertha, Minnesota

June 20-23—2019 National LWML Convention, Mobile, Alabama

July 5-6—Papua New Guinea Mission Society Biennial Meeting, Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri

Sunday, July 7—Holy Cross Lutheran Church, O'Fallon, Missouri



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