



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

March 2018

One of the reasons we prayed that Larry could teach at Martin Luther Seminary was so that he could have an impact on the students from our partner church, The Gutnius Lutheran Church (GLC), who are attending here. There are 8 students from the GLC enrolled at MLS this year. We thought that you’d like to get to know them a little.



Toward the beginning of the year, we gave them each a new *Concordia Study-Bible (NIV)*. (We took advantage of the CPH Warehouse Sale last year and bought all they had!) The students were so happy (Look at their smiles!) to get this new and helpful resource. Pictured (left to right standing): Alan, Jimmy, Nispel & Kandata. Ezekiel, Benson and Micah are kneeling (from left). *Israel, who received his Bible later, is on the left in the picture below.*

The students come from different places and congregations throughout the GLC. Alan (who will graduate this year) and Micah come from the Tsak Circuit. Jimmy (who will serve his vicarage next year) and Benson attend the same church at Yaramanda, where the first mission station was established

70 years ago! Ezekiel is from Pausa, where there is a Lutheran high school, and Israel is from near Yaibos, which used to be where the hardware store and woodworking shop were located.

I asked them what influenced them to come to the seminary: Nispel said that she saw the downfall of Sunday School and Women’s Ministry in the GLC and wanted to come here to learn how to help. Kandata wants to take the Gospel to a remote people near his home area. Israel wants to do mission work and share the Good News with people who are really lost and without the Gospel. Alan has expressed a desire to further his education and maybe become a teacher himself one day.



The students often feel alone down here in Lae as they are long way from home. For one, they are surrounded by Lutherans from the other Lutheran body in PNG and often feel out-numbered. Secondly, it is warm and crowded here and they sometimes miss the cooler temps, green hills and gardens of home. And, finally, because of the issues that have been bothering our partner church, they have had little support or contact from their church leaders. They have shown much appreciation for our presence here, though. After receiving a scholarship from an LCMS Project they wrote, *“...your administration has become the great hand of the Lord in reaching down and pulling us out of our constraints and setting us free from our financial burden.”*



Please pray for Alan, Benson, Ezekiel, Israel, Jimmy, Kandata, Micah and Nispel as they continue their studies here at Martin Luther Seminary. Pray that they would be diligent in their studies, that they would also grow in their faith and not lose their zeal for serving in the church. Also pray for us as we offer them our knowledge, encouragement and support.

Your continued, generous and faithful support are both necessary and a blessing to us and those with whom we live and work. Gifts can be given through the **LCMS** (PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166/lcms.org/matro) or **Mission Central** (40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 61034/missioncentral.us).

Thank you and God bless you!

Pastor Larry and Tina Matro

E-mail: larry.matro@lcmsintl.org

