

March 2018



The altar without paraments on Good Friday

The Ritzman Family, serving in Papua New Guinea

www.lcms.org/ritzman

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Last month I told you about Pastor Aisak. This month I sent another Pastor out to a remote area. His name is Kala Bifi. He is going to an area called Wanakipa. If you recall from a few newsletters ago, I did a spotlight on this area. It so happens that is where Kala did his vicarage year while at Seminary. Now that he has graduated, he and his family are going there to serve. I, and others, had reservations about sending them all at once, but Kala confidently assured us that he spent time on vicarage preparing to bring them and that he was sure all would go well.



With that, we began preparations to send him, his wife, and six children on a small airplane, with all of their belongings to a distant village in the mountains!! In addition to his Pastoral duties, when he gets to Wanakipa he plans on improving the management processes of their seventeen congregations. This is encouraging. Most congregations in PNG operate similar to their tribal constructs, with leaders, or 'Chairmen' overseeing all the day-to-day operations. Pastors are discouraged from administrative involvement; most are expected to just preach and teach. But there is a lot to gain from having more oversight and it sounds like Kala is going to have a beneficial effect. Please pray for him and his family.

At the end of February, PNG was struck by a major 7.5 magnitude earthquake. Then a series of 5-6 strength aftershocks continued hourly for about two weeks. Towns near the epicenter were devastated: houses collapsed, landslides blocked the only major road cutting off supplies, and many water systems were polluted making the water undrinkable. Rescue efforts continue to bring emergency assistance, so that the loss of life was minimized. But the rebuilding efforts will take a long time. Please include their relief in your prayers.

Although the earth may move and crumble let us take comfort in the unfaltering promises of God. ***"He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken."*** ~Psalms 62:6



FAMILY MATTERS: Monthly Family Stuff...

She's fine. I know it looks bad seeing Beth on a hospital bed with an IV, but it turned out okay. But we didn't know it at the time. As she experience ever-increasing abdominal pain we got more worried. Being exposed to different kinds of germs in PNG means we get sick more often than we'd like, but it usually only results in a day or two of being uncomfortable, a low-grade fever, that kind of stuff. This lasted more than a couple of days, and the pain was getting intense. We got to the point where we did an internet search for what it might be. By the way, you should never do an internet search for what is making you sick.



After getting checked out at the major hospital, it turned out to be 'stomach flu' which technically is not the flu, but it still feels horrible, and you get dehydrated, hence the IV. The good news is that it goes away in about a week. The bad news is that it hurts until it is gone. Next month...Charles.

It is my joy to serve in Papua New Guinea, but in order to continue it is necessary for me to receive adequate funding. The current LCMS 'network support' model requires missionaries to raise their own funds, which come from both individual donors and congregations.

Will you please join our support network and become partners with us as we ensure the Good News of Jesus's death and resurrection for our sins is spread in PNG? The following are suggestions for donations:

Pledges or Recurring Gifts: These gifts occur monthly but can also be quarterly or yearly. Typical giving is \$20-100 monthly for individuals, but can be set at any level. These form the backbone of our support network. To establish a recurring gift go online to www.lcms.org/givenow/ritzman, or call **888-930-4438** to speak with someone at the LCMS Office of International Mission.

One-time Offerings: These monetary gifts are given one time, or as desired. These gifts can also be done online at www.lcms.org/givenow/ritzman or by sending a check to:

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod		Mission Central
PO Box 66861	or	40718 Highway E16
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861		Mapleton, IA 51034-7105

Make Checks payable to **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**. Write '**Ritzman-PNG**' in the memo line. Thank you. Your support allows us to help spread the Gospel despite many difficult challenges. People are blessed, souls are saved, and God is glorified.



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For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ~Romans 3:23-24

