

April 2018



The Ritzman Family, serving in Papua New Guinea

[www.lcms.org/ritzman](http://www.lcms.org/ritzman)

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

**We live in Papua New Guinea, in the Province of Enga, in the town/village called Birip. That is where you will find St. Timothy Lutheran Seminary and our house up on the hill. The Birip community is pleased to have us here and they carefully look after the school campus to ensure things continue to run well.**

The seminary Principal and I were discussing this when I brought up the idea of opening up the school campus and having a field day event where everyone could come and just have fun (and get candy and prizes). We called it a Community Appreciation Day. I have to say, of all the events and projects I have coordinated this was the most fun. Planning games, buying candy, and filling water balloons is a tough job, but some missionary has to do it!

Before the events began, I gave a brief devotion: "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" {1 Cor.10:31}, I told them. So whether we work, worship, or play we do so with joy knowing that Jesus has finished the work of redeeming us. And we can rest in his grace as we live out our lives here and now and later for all eternity.

Then the games began!! There were running races of all kinds: 100 meter, 200 meter, 3-legged, sack, and even a race where you had to balance an egg on a spoon that you held in your mouth. There was Tug-o-war, and log-chopping. There was a hot tea drinking race (just like it sounds) and a freshly-opened-bottle-of-soda drinking race. And finally there was the water balloon toss.



The people at Birip have seen balloons before; they use them to decorate mostly. Kids might use them to make slingshots. But they had never before seen them filled with water and thrown at each other. I was the first to demonstrate. Once the rules were established multi-colored liquid-filled rubber bombs began flying. It goes without saying this was their favorite event.

Four different 'clans' competed as teams and points were scored for each event. At the end I announced the results and gave out the prizes: Cola, cookies, and chips (oh my!). The feedback was extraordinarily positive. As soon as we finished, people started talking about next year's Community Day! So it looks like I will have to fill more balloons.

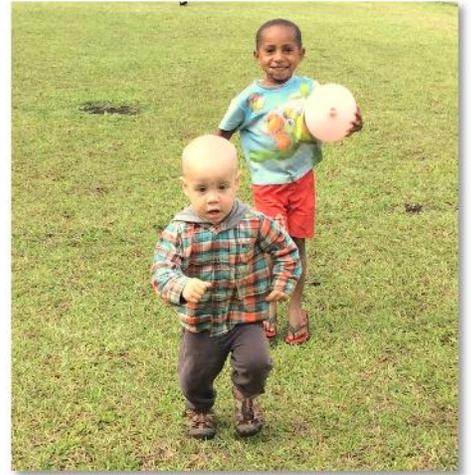
{p.s. Go to our YouTube channel OMPNG to see the video!!}



## **FAMILY MATTERS:** Monthly Family Stuff...

As promised, here is our littlest Ritzman, Charles. Charles took part in the Community Day as well, but he mostly wanted air-filled balloons. He also liked running away from girls holding balloons. Charles is growing up fast. Some of you may remember our birth-announcement from a previous Newsletter. That was almost two years ago!!

Charles is a remarkable little guy. He picks up bugs without fear, he likes to shake hands, and (speaking of hands) he will fold his hands to pray and will shout, "Amen" with us when we are done! He loves raisins and peanut butter (he calls it 'buddy') and reading Arch books (he calls them 'booky'). It is sometimes difficult to know if he wants to read or if he wants a snack.



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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](http://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](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/ritzman) or by sending a check to:

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
PO Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

or

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E16  
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*

