

The Ordination of Reverend Patrick James Minato

By Martin Dicke

The last weekend of May was a very special weekend for Concordia Lutheran Church, Korobosea in Port Moresby and for the Gutnius Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea. 28 years after graduating from Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, Rev. Patrick James Minato was ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry. One of his professors included my uncle, the Rev. Dr. Willard Burce. Rev. Minato is still serving the congregation that first called him.

Martin Luther taught that on the cross Christ defeated sin, death, and the devil and brought the fullness of God's mercy to mankind, but at the cross He did not distribute this mercy. That task He gave to His church (see the devotion on the other side). Thanks be to God for faithful pastors who carry out this work.

The pictures at the right include 1) Patrick with some of the leaders of his congregation; 2) LCMS Area Director the Rev. Larry Matro preaching; 3) the ordination ceremony; 4) Patrick saying the Words of Institution; 5) serving Holy Communion; 6) the celebratory feast afterwards reminding us that Holy Communion is a fore-taste of the feast to come.



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Enoch and the Spear Tip



Ministry and health care can be quite challenging in Papua New Guinea. Meet Enoch Tokaep and his wife (above). Enoch is a Year 4 seminarian from the Kandep region. In the election of 2012, his church was among 14 or so other Lutheran churches that were burnt down. He felt called to become a pastor in order to rebuild his church, gather the flock again, and distribute God's mercy to them on an ongoing basis (see devotion below). He was assigned there during his vicarage year to begin

this task. When I asked him what his congregation does when he is not there he said, "Ol i sindaun nating" ("They don't do anything.")

To complicate things, 23 years ago Enoch was in a tribal fight. Fighting for your clan is a high obligation in PNG. He was shot with a spear in the lower abdomen near the pelvis. The spear tip lodged in a bone breaking off inside his body. There it lay for 23 years causing all kinds of discomfort and pain.

A nurse who served in PNG for many years and now visits regularly had been trying for four years to schedule a surgery to help Enoch. She was here for two months, but had to leave before the surgery was completed. She asked me to help. It

turned out not to be that simple. On May 7 the surgeon was in Port Moresby. He rescheduled for May 14, but still wasn't there when we showed up that day. We were told to return at 4:00 pm. However when we did, no surgeries were taking place and the surgeon did not answer his phone. Some other doctors and nurses said to come back on Wednesday morning. We were told someone else would examine him and then the surgery could take place that Thursday.

When we arrived at the Wabag Hospital Wednesday morning, there wasn't a doctor or nurse in sight. Unbeknownst to us, early that morning the Kii and Kala clans near Wabag had started fighting again over last year's election. Last year during the election about 1,000 men unhappy with the results overran and ransacked the hospital. At

that point Enoch decided to go to the Mt. Hagen hospital, two hours away in the Western Highlands Province.

He took a PMV there and somehow miraculously was able to get this surgery the next Tuesday, however, post-surgical care has also been very difficult. The Hagen hospital had no pain medication on hand. After a sleepless night, the nurses and the doctors in the surgical ward literally kicked Enoch out without consulting the surgeon and dressing the incision. Upon release they prescribed only pain medication, no antibiotics. He called and I picked him up. The two-hour drive back to the Enga Province the day after his surgery probably didn't help. As you can imagine there have been some complications and there is a lot more to the story, so please keep Enoch in your prayers.

Devotional Thought: Mercy Won, Mercy Delivered

Cross, Word, and Sacrament

So that our readers may the better perceive our teaching I shall clearly and broadly describe it. We treat of the forgiveness of sins in two ways. First, how it is achieved and won. Second, how it is distributed and given to us. Christ has achieved it on the cross, it is true. But he has not distributed or given it on the cross. He has not won it in the supper or sacrament. There he has distributed and given it through the Word, as also in the gospel, where it is preached. He has won it once for all on the cross. But the distribution takes place continuously, before and

after, from the beginning to the end of the world. For inasmuch as he had determined once to achieve it, it made no difference to him whether he distributed it before or after, through his Word, as can easily be proved from Scripture. But now there is neither need nor time to do so.

If now I seek the forgiveness of sins, I do not run to the cross, for I will not find it given there. Nor must I hold to the suffering of Christ, as Dr. Karlstadt trifles, in knowledge or remembrance, for I will not find it there either. But I will find in the sacrament or gospel

the word which distributes, presents, offers, and gives to me that forgiveness which was won on the cross. Therefore, Luther has rightly taught that whoever has a bad conscience from his sins should go to the sacrament and obtain comfort, not because of the bread and wine, not because of the body and blood of Christ, but because of the word which in the sacrament offers, presents, and gives the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for me. Is that not clear enough?

*Martin Luther from
"Against the Heavenly Prophets,"
Luther's Works, Volume 40*

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