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“The Lord is faithful and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.” 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Julie Lutz, with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Office of International Mission – Papua New Guinea
Julie.Lutz@lcms.org



Dear Partners in Christ,

Not long ago, several of my Grandkids and I had the great joy of finding a “durdle” slowly making his way through the forest under his patterned shell. Remarkably, we saw him three times over several days. He never made much progress, but enough that it was thrilling for the kids to find him in his new hiding spot each time.



Since those enchanting days, we tried to locate the “durdle,” again, but sadly, it has not happened.

I can't say I really know what a turtle feels, but I related to him, nonetheless, as I traveled about the US, toting my essentials with me. Slow moving, not making much visible progress thru the entanglements of getting back to Papua New Guinea; yet, safe, and never in the same place. I had shelter and protection along the journey – and here's a difference from the turtle – not because of what I hauled along, but because of the homes you opened to me. I might not have had my own address, but wherever I was has been home. Not just a home for food and shelter, but for friendship and love. THANK YOU to all of you who offered the gift of “home” to me.

And, thanks be to God -- my Roaming Days may be done! I have a visa to return to Papua New Guinea! I look forward to working side by side with my LCMS and PNG colleagues and not just from a distance. I confess, I am also quite eager to unpack my suitcase for a spell. In the past months, I've helped to clear several flats in Hong Kong and empty our mother's house in Virginia (which sold this week!). It seems time to put a few things back into place.

Being in PNG won't automatically be easy. I chose the Bible verse above advisedly. “The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.” I have experienced God's faithfulness while in the US. That faithfulness will continue. And I know God will strengthen me – all of us – and protect us from sin and evil which seek to ensnare us.

+ Please pray that my return to PNG will be a blessing ... that healthy relationships will be forged and ministry will flourish to the glory of God ... that people will know Christ as their Savior more dearly because of our mutual service ... that any potential opposition will dissipate before it is even known ...

Papua New Guinea recently held a National Day of Repentance. Our LCMS mission team and leaders of the Gutnius Lutheran Church respected the day and sponsored an event to gather and call people to Christ, in repentance.

+ Please pray for the nation of Papua New Guinea ... that leaders will work for the well-being of the nation and not other interests ... that civil authorities would act diligently and with justice so citizens do not take matters into their own hands to protect themselves or pay back injustice. Pray that “repentance” is not merely a public show, but a turning of the heart away from sin and by the power of the Holy Spirit, turning to Christ in faith.

During the National Day of Repentance event, our mission team dedicated and distributed a small booklet called, "Against False Sanguma Beliefs." The inhumane torture of those accused of *sanguma* – a belief that a person has used sorcery or witchcraft to cause the death of someone – continues unabated in Papua New Guinea. The statement was prepared by our team to clearly state that the beliefs surrounding *sanguma* are false and the violence perpetrated on those accused of *sanguma* is criminal. In it, we point to our Triune God who controls life and death. He is the One who protects, provides for our needs, and calms our fears. In Christ, we know love and are forgiven, and by the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to love others as we are loved by Christ.

+ We pray that the statement on sanguma will guide members of the Gutnius Lutheran Church and other Christians to think clearly about Who God is, in the face of "sanguma." Pray that accusations and torture will cease... that Christ's love will be evident in our acts towards others and that His forgiveness will mark our relationships with others.

With the family –



Cheers – this photo caught us at our best! (Don't laugh – bet you've had a "best" photo like that, too!) We've had joy (ja, sometimes chaotic) and made loving memories in the times the Grandkids and I were together. What a blessing!

If you accurately count the 11 Kidlets in the photo, you'll come up short of the total number of my Grandchildren. By God's grace, we welcomed a new grand-daughter this week! Eight are four years old or younger. May God keep them each in His gracious care.

+ With thanks to God the incredible gift of family and friends ... with grateful thanks to God for those of you who faithfully support the work I do in His name thru the Lutheran Church Office of International Mission.

May God strengthen and protect you. With His peace,

Julie Lutz

My work email address has changed to Julie.Lutz@lcms.org. Personal email is Lutz.travel@gmail.com



To support the work of the LCMS by Julie Lutz, you may send a tax-deductible gift to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St Louis, MO 63122-6861 or to Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.

Please make the checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and write Julie Lutz on the Memo line. Gifts can be given online at: www.lcms.org/givenow/jlutz

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