

## Martin and Marie Dicke—Missionaries Serving the Lord in Papua New Guinea



### *The Story of a Dedicated Lutheran Educator in PNG*



Mrs. Pam Liu, Deputy Principal of the Primary Section at Highland Lutheran International School after the HLIS Ash Wednesday chapel.

By Pam Pakea Liu

*Pam Pakea Liu was educated by LCMS missionaries in the 1970s while they were helping to establish an educational system in the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea. She became a teacher and has taught at Highland Lutheran School (HLIS) for many years. She currently serves as the Deputy Principal for the Primary Section at HLIS and is one of the few Lutherans on the staff. Here is her story.*

#### Introduction

My parents are from Yaramanda in the Minamb Valley in the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea. My grandfather on my mom's side was amongst the first men who invited LCMS missionaries to come to Yaramanda. He was from the Wauni tribe and went with the group in the 1940s that walked across the mountains to Mt. Hagen to request a missionary.

When the missionaries arrived, my grandfather on my dad's side left his home on the mountains of the Yarakipi tribe of the upper Minamb to go to Yaramanda because he heard that there was

a white man by the name of Hintze telling the people that there was a man named Jesus who gave life to people. My grandfather's other sons had died early in life, so he decided to take my dad with him to Yaramanda so that he would live and not die like his brothers. During those times, new Christians had to recite and memorize the Catechism. Sadly, it took them years to memorize it all. My granddad was one of those who was not able to memorize it quickly. Eventually he went back to his village where he lived, died, and was buried.

#### My Father

My dad went to school at Yaramanda and was a smart student. To make a long story short, he was terminated from school because he went with a friend, a fellow tribesman, to his girlfriend's house for courtship. That wasn't allowed then. While there, he married my mom who was from the Wauni tribe.

While my dad was out of school, the hospital at Mambisanda was being built. They needed young men to become

medical orderlies, so a missionary who knew him and his capabilities made arrangements for my dad to work at Mambisanda. He lived and worked there for the rest of his life as an assistant in the operating theatre.

In the early 1960s he went as an Evangelist (Pastoral Assistant) and medical orderly to Yuyane, Porgera with missionary Dr. Robert Holtz. God blessed his work and ministry. God gave him three daughters and a son. My parents took me and my eldest sister, Lady Raniame, to Porgera. Eventually when we reached school age, we came back to Mambisanda so we could go to school at Yaramanda and later Pausa.

#### Schooling

I was the second-born in the family. My parents named me Peiim, which means "Paid" in English, as a remembrance of Jesus paying a debt He did not owe by dying on the cross for our sins.

I started school in 1970 at Yaramanda. Our father was a very strong Lutheran so he wanted

his children to go to Lutheran schools. He had us walk from Mambisanda to Yaramanda and later to St. Paul's Lutheran High School at Pausa every morning and back every evening for 11 solid years. The missionaries who were at Mambisanda in the 1950s and 60s will know my dad very well.

I wanted to become a nurse or doctor because I was raised in a hospital setting and admired the nurses in their white uniforms from head to toe. My dad wanted me to become a teacher. Unfortunately, my mom died in 1977 in a car accident while I was in Grade 7. My grades fell and I didn't do very well in Science and Math, so I wasn't chosen to study to become a nurse or doctor.

### Teaching

I am glad I became a teacher. That was what my dad wanted me to do. I was chosen to join the police force, but my dad wouldn't allow that. He thought that occupation was not meant for Christians.

I SALUTE my dad and mom who are in heaven now. I have begun to realize that I am living my dad's dream. As a daughter of an Evangelist, he wanted me to carry on proclaiming the Good News, the message of salvation which was given to us freely by Jesus' death and resurrection, this same message which he and his dad received from the missionaries. The missionaries sacrificed their land, home, wives, and children just to bring life in Jesus to my dad.

### My Dad's Faith

My dad always read the Bible to us, prayed with us, and sent us to Sunday School. He had us baptized, went through the Catechism with us, taught us the importance of Easter and Christmas, and sang the hymns with us in Pidgin English. But the MOST important thing was that he warned us, his children, not to leave the Lutheran Church and faith. He said, "There will be people coming from here and there claiming that they preach something better, but remember nothing is better than Jesus. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. You already have Jesus because you have the Bible. Read it day and night. You have Jesus' teachings in the Lutheran Church. Keep it and treasure it. Teach it to your children and

they will teach their children so that Lutheran faith in our family will live on."

I honor of my late father who was a member of the Church Council of the Gutnius Lutheran Church—Papua New Guinea, medical worker, Evangelist and Chairman of some of the Lutheran institutions in Enga like St. Paul's Lutheran High School Pausa, and died 11 years ago while serving as Chairman of the Lutheran Church Medical Board. Through thick and thin I still hold on to Highland Lutheran International School (HLIS) claiming it as my own where the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is planted and rooted by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

### Conclusion

My constant prayer is that everyone who comes to HLIS as a teacher, student, parent or stake-

holder, young and old, from near and far regardless of what church denomination they belong to and beliefs they have; whether they are red, yellow, black or white they will be taught the Lutheran Catechism which I will continue to teach through our Christian Religious Education (CRE) classes, in our chapels, and in other religious meetings.

I will still continue my dad's legacy by keeping the fire of the Gospel of God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth—and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified, died, and buried, who on the third day rose again, ascended into heaven, and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead—and the Holy Spirit...alive and burning as long as I live.

We send our newsletter to those who have signed up for it or have contributed to our ministry. If you would rather not receive it or would rather receive it by e-mail, please write [martin.dicke@lcms.org](mailto:martin.dicke@lcms.org).

Thank you for your support and interest in our mission work.

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Mrs. Liu praying with the Primary children during Friday morning devotions.



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