

SERVING THE LORD IN

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NEWS FROM REV. RON AND MARY ANNE RALL



April 2020

about

FIELDWORK IN PNG

Fourth-year seminary students are assigned fieldwork in various congregations. Since they need to use a public motor vehicle (pmv) or travel on foot, the congregations are always near the seminary.

This year, Pastor Ron was able to take all nine of the fourth-year students on two fieldwork trips out in the bush. It took several hours of driving/hiking to get to the destinations. Students visited with people, showed movies (*Martin Luther*, the Jesus film and others) with a small solar-powered projector and worshiped with the people on Sunday mornings.

Many bush stations seldom see missionaries or students so the weekends were joyful experiences for everyone!

MEDICAL CARE FOR STUDENTS

The district dentist and head doctor visited the seminary for a clinic, during which the doctor explained the services available at the provincial hospital in nearby Wabag. The dentist examined each student and made appointments for them at the hospital.

Two students needed to have all their teeth pulled — due in part to the chewing of betel nut, which turns the teeth red, hastens the rotting process and often leads to mouth cancer. Hopefully, the talk given by the dentist will encourage the students to incorporate dental hygiene into their daily routines.

Fortunately, a full set of false teeth only costs about \$100 (U.S.) — quite a bargain!



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Service cut short



Ron and Mary Anne Rall helped unload books that will be used by students and teachers in Gutnius Lutheran Church schools.

The coronavirus has impacted lives everywhere; for us, it meant coming back to the United States months before we had intended due to lack of adequate medical care in our area. It was very difficult to leave so many we love, knowing that the arrival of the virus will be devastating in the Highlands. Please join us in praying that God would protect these most vulnerable people! Social distancing is a foreign concept in Papua New Guinea and, very often, so is hand washing!

We are just ending our 14 days of quarantine after traveling home from PNG.

During our two months at Timothy Seminary, Ron taught “Work of the Pastor,” “Preaching” and “Genesis.” Ron has encouraged the teachers to prepare handbooks for the students to reduce the time previously spent copying

notes from the blackboard into exercise books. This has made a real difference for the students. They now have books that they can keep, in addition to their Pidgin Bibles and catechisms.

Speaking of books...

Two 20-foot containers with over 36,000 books arrived for Lutheran schools of the Gutnius Lutheran Church! The teachers and students were so grateful for this gift from the Papua New Guinea Mission Society. We contacted more than 35 schools; all of them came to the seminary — including some who walked for miles — to get their books!

Unpacking the containers and sorting the books was an exciting project, but even more exciting was the looks on the teachers' faces!

PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ for the seminary students at Birip, that they might soon be able to return to their studies. (The Seminary is now closed because of a government ban on schools due to COVID-19)
- ▶ for strong pastors to counter the false teachings that undermine the truth
- ▶ for an end to the Sanguma (witchcraft) abuses and other violence



GIVE THANKS FOR

- ▶ the many books that were distributed to the schools of the Gutnius Lutheran Church
- ▶ the rebuilding of Highlands Lutheran International School after arson fires
- ▶ volunteer carpenters and medical personnel
- ▶ safe travel for Ron and the students as they visited bush congregations
- ▶ Jacob Luke, who supplied a truck for us to use during our visits

PRAISE GOD FOR

- ▶ mission work going on in remote areas: Mendi, Tarua, Yengis, Lyaim
- ▶ safe return to the United States at the outset of the pandemic
- ▶ the desire and ability to be present in this place—
Papua New Guinea

'I was sick and you visited me'



Our daughter, Emily, who is a physician's assistant, spent January with us and was able to help many people when medical care was otherwise unavailable. She stitched up a young boy's heel after he was cut with a bush knife

She also dressed another boy's leg. The boy was suffering from osteomyelitis in his tibia and actually had a piece of his tibia in a plastic bag, which he had carried around for two years! Although we took him to a hospital, we discovered that he had returned home untreated! Our son, Chris, and his wife, Kapau (whose wedding we attended in Bangkok on the way to PNG), also visited along with Josiah Zeigler, who came as part of a high school service project. (Josiah is the son of Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, speaker of "The Lutheran Hour.")

▲ Emily Rall stitches up a patient.

▼ Chris and Kapau Rall help distribute reading glasses for evangelists at Pastor Kii's congregation near Sirunki.



We are always excited to show others both the work that we are doing and the many needs that exist. Firsthand knowledge of what mission is all about is one of the best recruitment tools!

Making Disciples for Life

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Ron and Mary Anne Rall, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51304

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Ralls." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/rall.