

NEWS RELEASE – July 20, 2003

Papua New Guinea Mission Society – Second Biennial Convention

Voices of praise rang out in Melanesian Pidgin as 100 members of the Papua New Guinea Mission Society (PNGMS) gathered for their second biennial convention at Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO, July 11-12, 2003.

The PNGMS formed after a reunion of missionaries in 1998 which celebrated the 50th anniversary of LCMS mission work in Papua New Guinea. Incorporated in 2001, the purpose of the PNGMS is to provide opportunities for its members to share in building up and extending the Lutheran church in Papua New Guinea.

In the past biennium the PNGMS has provided over \$20,500.00 for the support of various projects such as financial aid to seminary students and building a new clinic in Wanakipa in the Hewa. In addition, the PNGMS is currently partnering with the Lutheran Heritage Foundation to publish a bilingual revision of Luther's Catechism in English and Melanesian Pidgin.

Convention highlights included: a keynote address by retired LCMS missionary Rev. Dr. Willard Burce, who recently spent 3 months in Papua New Guinea on a short term assignment; and a panel discussion by current missionaries on the challenges and opportunities facing the Gutnuis Lutheran Church. In addition participants enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship with friends and coworkers from their mission experiences.

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