

What is.....Who is PNGMS?

Papua New Guinea Mission Society, a.k.a. PNGMS, is a small band of followers of Christ, who while still living under the cross, now live in many places around the world, especially in the USA and in Australia. At one time many members *of this band* served their Lord as active missionaries, bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of Papua New Guinea under the auspices of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

In 1997, a still smaller group of former missionaries, now living in Wisconsin and in Minnesota, began meeting in the office of Robert Holst, president of Concordia University-St. Paul, to consider a Great Reunion of all former American and Australian missionaries to celebrate, in 1998, the 50 years of witnessing to God's people, and building His Church, in the Enga Province and other regions of the great country of Papua New Guinea. From this experience the concept of a Mission Society grew. The Papua New Guinea Mission Society was registered as a Corporation in the State of Minnesota on April 5th, 2001.

On February 14th, 2002, the Department of the Treasury, and its Internal Revenue Service, issued a Determination Letter stating that the Papua New Guinea Mission Society is an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) authorizing donors to deduct contributions to PNGMS, as provided in section 170 of the Code, when preparing their US Income Tax returns.

The PNGMS Registered Office is at: 275 N. Syndicate, St. Paul, MN 55104.

The Treasurer's Office is at: 8574 Quarry Ridge Lane, Unit B, Woodbury, MN 55125.

Membership in PNGMS, currently about 250-plus, is open to all who support, with their prayers and gifts, the mission and goals of the Society as articulated in the Mission Statement. All former missionaries who served in PNG under LCMS World Missions are automatically *members*. Membership may be terminated by anyone by advising PNGMS through its Treasurer's Office.

A copy of the PNGMS Mission Statement and other information is available upon request from the Treasurer's Office. The Mission Statement has eight brief statements. The first is: *The purpose of the Papua New Guinea Mission Society (PNGMS) is to provide opportunities for its members to share in building up and extending the Lutheran church in Papua New Guinea.* The eighth statement reads as follows: *8. PNGMS pledges bold, judicious, accountable, and transparent management and deployment of all resources entrusted to it.*

PNGMS is governed by its Bylaws which among other things provide that the corporation is under the direction of a Board of Directors which annually elects its members. 51% of the Directors must be members of an LCMS congregation. The number of Directors must be no less than three (3). There are currently five. They are: Dr. Earl Bracewell, President; Rev. Harvey Kath, Vice President; Norita Kath, Secretary; Jeanne Dicke, Treasurer; and Willard Burce, Project Leader.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to manage the corporation in such a manner as to gain the respect and support of sufficient like minded people who love their Lord and the people of Papua New Guinea, and who feel their burden to a sufficient degree, so as to bombard the Throne of Grace with their prayers and to share with PNGMS, a portion of the blessings received from Him so PNGMS can serve the people and the Church in PNG.

PNGMS is an active member of ALMA, Association of Lutheran Mission Agencies. PNGMS has financially supported various areas of work in PNG particularly Mission Work in New Areas, Theological Training at Seminaries, In-service training for active pastors, Medical Mission Work, and support to HLIS. For several years, following the example of Paul and Silas (Acts 15 & 16), PNGMS is re-discovering first-hand the State of the Church in this land by sending out *Teams of two* to re-establish relationships and to strengthen the faith, encouraging congregations, leadership development and training. Early 2004 it sent out former missionaries Rev. Ron and Mary Anne Rall. More recently we sent out former missionary, Dr. Jerome Burce, and son Simon, a theology graduate student at Yale University. Their reports are available on request. Most recently Rev. Harvey and Norita Kath have been representing us at both Lae and at Birip,. Norita consulted/advised librarians at both institutions.

To God be all Glory!!

September 2005

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