

Schache Report

An essential portion of the work the Papua New Guinea Mission Society (PNGMS) has done over the past ten years has involved the refurbishing and maintenance of the physical plant at Timothy Lutheran Seminary, Birip (TLS). The chief architect and craftsman of this renewal of the campus has been Roy Schache, who, with his wife Judy has visited TLS in the Gutnius Lutheran Church (GLC) multiple times to do both construction work and medical work.

This work began some 14 years ago in 2006 at Immanuel Lutheran Hospital, Mambisanda. On a trip to Enga that year, Roy and Judy were serving as volunteers helping out with medical supply organization at the hospital, and Roy was asked to evaluate potential construction needs at TLS. Since then the Schaches have returned to PNG as volunteer workers in the medical and construction fields multiple times volunteering for periods of 2 – 3 months per visit. What follows is their multi-year story.

2006 – Immanuel Lutheran Hospital, Mambisanda (ILH)

In 2006, Dr. Steve Lutz and the Medical Board at ILH requested assistance from PNGMS to transfer medical supplies from 2, 20ft containers to storage rooms in the Hospital. Since Mrs. Judy Schache was familiar with medical supplies and ILH, where she had served from 1964-1979, she and her husband Roy were sent by PNGMS to execute this project. At the same time PNGMS asked the Schaches to survey and assess the infrastructure at Timothy Lutheran Seminary, Birip.

Judy proceeded to clean-out some rooms that would be used to store the medical supplies from the containers. In all, she cleaned out 10 rooms in the so called ‘new wing’, and in doing so, asked Roy to find or build shelving so she could itemize, systemize, and store the supplies by categories and usage (Pictures below). There was a room for Dr. Steve’s out-station patrol supplies, surgical supplies, surgical instruments, hospital bedding and linens, orthopedic equipment, maternal child health supplies, hospital equipment, needles and syringes, roller bandages, and anesthesia equipment.



The work at ILH looked simple at first, but within this request, the ILH Board had other requests. The Board had some funds, so Roy was asked to fix water-leaks in the roof over the ‘breeze-way’ and dispensary and make necessary repairs and safety measures so rascals couldn’t make unwanted entry. He was also asked to repair windows and replace countless window louvers, paint the exterior, brighten up the passageway with paint, and repair the rotted-out showers and floors in both the delivery rooms, and more.

Regarding TLS, as requested, Roy and Judy took a day to go to Birip to assess the infrastructure. The Principal conveyed to them that the seminary had closed, except for a few students who wanted to finish their course work and graduate. The buildings were structurally sound, but the exterior and windows were in bad shape and needed repairs and a coat of new paint, and a heap of louver glass.

Projects Begin at Timothy Lutheran Seminary 2009

2009 – Classrooms/ Office/ Chapel renovations

In 2009, Roy and Judy spent seven weeks and \$18,000.00 at Timothy Lutheran Seminary repairing and repainting a double classroom and the administration/library building. New 4ft V-crimp vertical metal siding was nailed to the lower portion of the walls of the single classroom exterior, while the windows were repaired, louver glass replaced, and security mesh secured. The doors were also repaired and secured with keyed locksets. The chapel received new V-crimp vertical metal siding on both front and back gable-shape walls (picture right). A new 'Tuffa' plastic tank was installed on the double classroom while many old corrugated metal water tanks were refurbished for use.



The ranch-style missionary house for expatriate occupation was thoroughly cleaned and washed, then repaired and painted both inside and outside. The Schaches were actually able to live in the house for the last two weeks of their stay instead of commuting the 12 miles for 45 minutes each way from Mambisanda for the first six weeks

It should be noted that there were only four seminary students attending seminary at this time. As the Schaches were visiting Papayuku for a special church service, they noted that the sixteen students attending Bible School had only two well used bibles between them. This report to the PNGMS Board sparked the beginning of the distribution of "Buk Baibel" to all students and teachers of the Bible Schools and Seminarians in future years.

2012 – New double story married student dormitory (2 trips)

Three years later, in 2012, Roy and Judy Schache were asked to return to PNG to begin phase one of an 8-unit, double story dormitory for the married seminarians attending Timothy Lutheran Seminary at Birip. This request came to PNGMS from Principal John Nathan and the TLS Board.

On this trip, the Schaches were surprised to witness a change in attitude and response to the needs of the Gutnius Lutheran Church (GLC). The Seminary had grown to 22 on-campus students, with seven on vicarage, and more expected the following year. Several donations of lumber, sand, rocks, equipment usage, money, and labor were provided, as well as the use of a vehicle and fuel from a transportation manager. Each class of the Seminary students was required to work one morning each

week with the project, saving a great deal of general labor hires. The eight-week stay was a wonderful experience. The Church community treated and welcomed us with friendship, Christian love, fellowship and sharing.

Former educational missionary Dan Trinklein joined Roy and Judy for two weeks to help out with the project. Dan said that working alongside Roy and other volunteers on the project, together with the four paid carpenters was a great experience. Sawing, measuring, nailing, squaring, chiseling and working to tolerances of 1/16 of an inch were a new challenge for him. It was less pleasant dodging afternoon rains (sometimes morning rains) and getting the worst sunburn of my life, even though I'm from Florida.

Roy and Judy returned to complete the project in October that same year, when more carpenters joined the workforce to complete the interior of the dormitory. By working long hours, sometimes on weekends, the project was completed "on time and within budget" ready for occupancy for the new school year starting in February 2013 (picture right).



2014 – Shower/Laundry Facilities

Included in the request for the married student dormitory in 2012 was the need for shower and ablution facilities. In talking with the TLS Board, it was decided to dismiss the idea of adding flush toilets within the building, but the need for shower and laundry was necessary.



Once again the Schaches were invited to manage this need so at the beginning of the School year in 2014, they found themselves travelling to PNG. Roy's nephew and wife, Robert and Julie Minge from South Australia, came to help with the project for three weeks. The project went so well that not only a facility for the married dorm (picture left) was completed, but a smaller unit was able to be erected for the single student dorm. All this would not have been possible without the help and support from the church community, Mapai Transport, seminary

volunteers, and Robert and Julie Minge.

2015 – Mess Hall

PNGMS soon received additional requests from the TLS Principal and Board, and the PNGMS Board approved several of these. A major priority was the maintenance and renovations to the existing Mess Hall, which, over the thirty past years, had seen much deterioration and neglect.

This was by far the biggest and most expensive renovation project that Roy had undertaken. The resident missionary, Rev. Jeffery Horn and Roy had previously submitted a grant request to the Indiana LWML for \$12,000.00 to assist the funds from PNGMS for this project. What a Blessing!

Rev. Dr. Ron and Mary Anne Rall and daughter Margaret were already at Birip and using the residence as a base for workshops and continuing education classes at the various out-stations of the church. Margaret however chose to help Roy and the carpenters with the project for as long as her visit allowed.

The dining room was in such bad shape that the floor had to be pulled up and bearers and floor joists replaced as needed. The substructure also had to be levelled before the floor was re-nailed into position. The walls were stripped of their covering, some windows removed, others rebuilt, and the entry door completely rehashed. Once the structural framework was completed, a new plywood floor, walls, ceiling, and electrical were installed.



The cooking area also received a new food storage area, double sinks, hot and cold running water from two new “Tuffa” tanks and a roof mounted solar water system. Both cooking and dining areas were then painted - floors got a special coating of pavement paint and walls and ceilings were painted with high quality paints. The exterior was covered with vertical V-crimp sheet metal and many cement sidewalks were poured to eliminate dirt being trod into the facility.

2016 – Single Students Dormitory

In 2016 it was back to PNG again for the Schaches to repair and improve the dormitory conditions for the single students. This time Gary and Charla Wolff together with son Kaleb came from Illinois to assist with the project.

The building was completely gutted of old wall covering materials (pit-pit), and plywood interior walls and ceilings were installed. One has to remember that these old buildings were built using the foot and inch measuring method. PNG now uses the metric system and all building materials are in metric; ie. 4’0” is equivalent to 1,200mm which is ¾” narrower. This resulted in placing extra wooden members at corrected spacing for joining the plywood sheets. New electrical wiring and lights had to be installed and a couple of double power outlets were installed for students to charge their mobile phones. Floors received new floor-mat coverings and walls and ceilings were painted.



The exterior of the building was covered with vertical V-crimp metal sheeting, water tanks were replaced or refurbished, cement walkways were poured, and windows repaired.

2017 – Married Students Dormitory

The project in 2017 was similar in scope to the 2016 work, so not much more can describe the work to be done. The building was constructed by none-trained carpenters, so many short-cuts were involved. As well as Roy's workforce, another trained carpenter from Liagama generously donated four of his trained men for two weeks. This year Gary and Charla Wolff and daughter Bronwyn came to assist. As Bronwyn was a nurse, she helped Judy with the medical needs of the people.

2018 – Teachers Residences

On May 7, 2018 Roy and Judy returned from a nine-week mission trip to Timothy Lutheran Seminary (TLS), Birip. For Roy, this trip involved the repairs and improvements to the exterior of the four Seminary Teachers' houses. For Judy, the trip not only involved the necessary housework, but she also wanted to get medical and dental assistance from the Provincial Hospital in Wabag for the seminary students. We arrived on a Friday night, and on Monday morning there were workmen waiting to start work.

The Teacher's houses consisted of a duplex and two stand-alone residences, all of which hadn't seen any maintenance or paint since the mid 80's. Roy had four carpenters of previous years return for work and two new men for training.

The houses involved showed various needs for maintenance. The duplex had a lot of rotten lumber and exterior hardboard, rusted guttering and rusted shower walls, broken water pumps, plumbing and louver windows, and roof-top tanks that had rusted. The Principal's house had similar problems, but also needed a new Tuffa water tank and a new septic system. The other single residence had only pit-pit weave on the outside so that had to be replaced with vertical "V"-crimp metal sheets (picture at left). The roof also leaked so new sheets replaced those that were rusted through, and the roof was painted with roof paint.

We were pleased that local lumber was available for the project. Also, this was the third trip Gary and Charla Wolff made to assist with the repair work. has become an excellent help with



2019 – Christian Educational New Books

On February 14, 2019, Roy and Judy Schache left Warrensburg, Missouri for another building project at Timothy Lutheran Seminary (TLS), sponsored by the Papua New Guinea Mission Society. The project criteria involved erecting a new permanent structure connected to the present double classroom to house all the Christian literature books, and to raze, salvage, and store materials from the old dormitories that were still standing

We were welcomed at TLS by all at the seminary personnel and even previous carpenters waiting for employment for the project. While waiting for the delivery of the project lumber and time for the concrete work

to cure, the first of the three dorms was razed, and the salvaged material placed in a section of an old dorm to be used as a future workshop. Since the construction noise would interrupt class activities, it was decided to relocate the classes that occupied the double classroom

By the time the concrete work had cured a little and the lumber was delivered, Vic and Helen Walters (nee Jenke) had arrived from Australia for a 3-week workcation. Unfortunately, a tropical cyclone in the Torres



Straight caused multiple days of rain with only an occasional break and sunshine. It didn't take all that long to erect the three walls and place the roof on the new section (picture left), but to join together the two sections of the roof profiles, we needed a full day of sunshine. That day finally came and although

clouds were threatening, the rain hung off until the valleys, roofing iron and ridge-cap were temporarily put in place.

When the interior shelving was completed, it was time to carry the cartons of books from all the places they were stored, and assign them to a specific shelving section. In all, there were five different titles of books - *Tok Bilip*, *Liklik Katekism*, *Large Catechism*, *Baibel Stori Bilong ol Pikinini*, and *English Bible Stories in Pictures*.

2020 – New TLS Workshop

On January 7, 2020, Judy and Roy departed again for TLS in Papua New Guinea for the next portion of the project. Roy was ready to start work on the Monday on the building a permanent workshop for the Birip Station. Judy was eager to help Emily Rall who was there for a few weeks to conduct medical clinics, and also to continue these clinics until the supplies ran out. Throughout the duration of the various activities there were many visitors/volunteers including Emily Rall, Josiah Zeigler, Chris and Kapau Rall, and Daryl and Helen Miegel.

First, the four-room old dormitory that was left standing had to be leveled, straightened and aligned. Then work started on preparing foundation and concrete base work for the walls. A huge pine tree also had to be cut down and then sawn into lumber, some of which was used on the project. Roy also ordered and took delivery of several meters of 1 X 6 hard-wood from a Sawmill on the Kandep range. The rest of the lumber used to erect the framework was all salvaged lumber from the previous year's demolition work and the metal siding around the building was salvaged roofing iron from the same demolition.



A week or so later, the containers with the school library books arrived. Once these were positioned, the Ralls did a great job sorting and distributing the contents, and after one container was emptied, Roy was able to store excess project materials in it. Also added to the project work was the preparation and positioning of two Tuffa water tanks. Many thanks to Mapai Transport for providing transportation from Mt. Hagen to the project, with concrete mix, containers, and tanks.

Throughout our stay, Judy kept busy continuing the medical service, a Health Fair including dental checks, trips to the Wabag Hospital, helping at HLIS, and the Saturday Women's Bible Study. As always, the Schaches were blessed through this trip and we pray that the Lord will bless our efforts through the work accomplished.

Roy and Judy Schache. Papua New Guinea Missionaries

Judy Marie Loth-Schache. RN
St. Luke's Hospital, Kansas City 1962
1964 – 1979
Missionary Nurse

Roy Maxwell Schache BS, MS, EdSp
Central Missouri University, 1979 - 1995
1966 – 1979
Missionary Saw-miller/Carpenter

After leaving the PNG mission field, Judy worked at Western Missouri Medical Center in surgery and later worked for the Johnson County Community Health Center. She officially retired in 2012, but continues to help as needed.

Roy pursued his formal education at University of Central Missouri in 1979 with a BS degree in Education, followed by a MS in Vocational Education. Half-way through the Masters program, he was offered a beginning full-time position as assistant instructor in the department of Manufacturing and Construction. After completing the EdSp degree, he accepted the position of program Coordinator for Construction Management. He officially retired in 2007.