

Rall PNG Visits Report, 2019

Term One: February and March

We arrived in PNG on Feb. 2nd in time to prepare for hosting the LCMS communications team and plan an agenda for them. All the missionaries on the field assisted in accompanying them to as many places as possible in the 11 days they were with us.

My primary focus was teaching at the Seminary: *Wok Pasto* with the 1st Year students, Minor Prophets with 2nd Year students, and *Autim Tok* (preaching) with 4th Year students - 12 contact hours of teaching each week. I also worked with the teachers to do some curriculum revision that would begin with Term 2. The primary goal was to eliminate night classes so that the students would have no more than 6 hours of classes per day. I also encouraged the teachers to develop a "handbook" for each course so that we could get away from the overuse of exercise books.

There were multiple opportunities to preach:

- Congregations: Lenki, Yaramanda, Tole, Kundis, Wabag, Birip, Komaitis, Pokari, Pandabus and Papayuku
- High Schools: Pausa (3 times), HLIS, Sir Tei Abal (Wabag) and Sirunki
- Chapel services: Birip (8 times), HLIS
- Jacob Luke's Anniversary Service at Kundis
- Workshops: Papayuku and Lenki
- Funerals: Yaramanda (Wasia), Birip and Amapyaka

We worked together with GLC leadership to develop some grant requests related to the special bequest (\$84,000) given to Timothy Seminary. I wrote three tracts/brochures to expose the false prophet, Moses Kili and these were widely distributed throughout the GLC.

During Term 3 (July 15 – Sept. 12) I will be teaching classes on Revelation, Genesis and the Pastoral Epistles.

We have begun working with the Four-Square Church at Wapenamanda to print/reprint some commentaries and other useful documents for pastors, evangelists, and seminary students. Four Square has a good printing operation.

Term Three: July and August

We left the U.S. on July, 10, 2019 and spent that weekend in Port Moresby at the Korobosea Congregation. I did a workshop on Saturday and preached on Sunday morning for the English and Pidgin services. We traveled on to Mt. Hagen and then Birip on Monday, July 15th. I preached for the opening service at the Seminary for Term 3 on July 17th and taught Work Pastor 2 to the first year class, Genesis to the 2nd years and Revelation to the 4th year class during Term 3.

On Sundays during our 10 weeks in PNG, I was privileged to preach at Irelya, Birip (3 times), the Birip Enga congregation, Pogera, Yaramanda, and Tarua as well as the 70th Anniversary service held at Irelya on a Tuesday, 3 Wednesday evening services at Birip, Pausa High School devotion (twice), Sir Tei Abel High School, Lakolama for the dedication of Jacob Luke's new enterprise, a funeral service at Tambul, and a weekend study/workshop at Tambitanis. Other workshops were held at Korobosea, Tambitanis, Pogera, Sirunki, Tarua and Kandep. It's easy to keep busy while in PNG!

We had a meeting of the Bible school teachers and decided to create a Theological Education Board to set some important policies for how Bible Schools should operate. Our second TEB meeting decided upon 5 schools for the next year, including new ones at Kandep and Tarua. Tambul and Munduku will be closed for the 2020 school year due to lack of students at one and fighting at the other. The importance of the Bible Schools can't be overstated because they are feeder schools for the seminary and the need for strong pastors is paramount!

There are many challenges from the Moses Kili group and other movements. Although we had planned to meet with Moses Kili in Sirunki, he was unavailable on the date that he had confirmed. We hope to have that meeting early next year. Because there is always a need for workshops in outer areas, such as Wanekipa (Hewa) and Malamanda (Nete), we will be going to PNG 4 weeks before Term 1 starts so that we can be available for visiting those areas. Prayers are needed for the mission stations such as the Hewa, Penale, Sepik, Munduku, Yaim and the Nete. Pray also for the efforts to encourage both bishops to retire so that the church might be united with a Synod meeting in 2020. This idea was put forth by Governor Ipatas at the Anniversary Celebration at Irelya in July and most people seemed to support it, including Bishop Nik.