

Rall Trip to the GLCPNG 2014

This trip was the first time we took a "team" with us to experience the ministry of the Gutnius Lutheran Church. We were accompanied by our associate pastor, Bill Wilson, his wife Brenda, their daughter Molly (who is a Lutheran schoolteacher in Phoenix) and Joann Cotton, one of Timothy's "het meris." We flew Philippine Airlines out of Los Angeles to Manila, where we had a 16 hour layover— enough time to get a tour of the city and stop for a visit at Concordia Children's Society—an orphanage started by the missionaries of the LCMS in cooperation with the Lutheran Church of the Philippines. U.S. donations to the orphanage are sent through Timothy so it was good to get an up close and personal look at the orphanage.

We were met in Port Moresby by most of the PNG contingent that visited the U.S. last year for the Seattle Bung. They took us to breakfast, before sending us off to Mt. Hagen. We were met in Mt. Hagen by Anton Lutz and Jeff Horn because we needed two vehicles to transport the six of us along with a pile of luggage!

We got settled in at Birip on Friday, January 31st. We traveled to Tole congregation on Sunday, where I preached. Jacob Luke was there and it was a great introduction to PNG life for our team.

Sunday evening, Feb. 2nd, was the opening service for the pastors' Conference at Birip. Pastor Wilson preached at the opening service. We had about 60-70 pastors for this workshop on preaching. I taught two sessions on Monday on Law and Gospel in Preaching. Jeff Horn and John Nathan taught some breakout sessions on other preaching topics.

We left on Monday for the Saka area where we did a workshop at Efesus, located at one end of the Saka valley. We had planned to do another session at Raiakama, but David Piso let it be known that we were not welcome in that area, so we drove back to Birip. It was apparent that we WERE welcome by the people of Raiakama and they seemed embarrassed to have to tell us not to stay. They served us a great meal and we left the area.

In summary, the other workshops were at the following stations/places:

Feb. 4,5	Pogera (Pogera/Paiela circuit)
Feb. 6,7	Muritaka
Feb. 9	Preached at Kinding (Hagen circuit)
Feb. 9,10	Kinding (Hagen, Tarua circuits)
Feb. 11,12	Wakumare
Feb. 13,14	Sirunki
Feb. 15	Papayuku (preached at funeral service for MLS student's wife)
Feb. 17	Talyakosa
Feb. 19-21	Wanakipa (Hewa circuit - see photo on page 6)
Feb. 23	Preached at Wapenamanda
Feb. 25-27	Munduku (East Sepik)
Feb. 28	to Moresby
Mar. 2	Preached at Korobosea Congregation, Port Moresby

Every place we went, the people were very accommodating. We slept in pastors' houses, clinics, guest houses and apartments (in Moresby—owned by Timothy and Jennifer Pyakalia). Of course, we stayed in the lower house at Birip and it was great to have that as our home base.

We were really blessed when Andui (the Moresby pilot) gave us K2,500 for "expenses." We were able to use that for our flight to Wanakipa (picture below) and then to also pay for a flight to Munduku. It allowed me to reach two areas that hardly ever have any opportunities for continuing education courses. It also enabled us to bring back 2 Hewa students and 1 Munduku student for the seminary. We distributed 300 copies of each of 4 booklets to evangelists and pastors. These booklets cost \$1500 to print. We were able to use funds from Timothy and a friend to pay for the printing. The booklets were titled: *Baptism* by Otto Hintze, *Work of the Holy Spirit* by Gary Teske, *Lotu and Liturgy* and *Stewardship* by myself. The books were much appreciated and we could have used many more copies of each one.

One night before we left PNG, Sir Pato and his family took us to a wonderful Chinese restaurant and on another night we went to the Holiday Inn for dinner with the Pyakalias, Margaret and Paul Mai, and John Umbu Pupu. John handed us an envelope with K2,000 for use in the next round of classes. Thank you, members of the PNGMS, for this opportunity to provide continuing education for these pastors who so desperately need it!

