

Martin and Marie Dicke—Missionaries Serving the Lord in Papua New Guinea



New Movie to Fight SARV: "Peter and Grace Make a Difference"

By Martin Dicke

Officially the Coronavirus pandemic does not seem to have had much of an impact on the people of Papua New Guinea. Considering the health care system there, the predictions were that if it reached PNG it could spread like wildfire and have devastating effects on vast swaths of the population. The Prime Minister placed restrictions on travel to and from

China shortly after President Trump did and implemented some additional travel restrictions and lockdowns. Things are slowly opening up, but travel restrictions remain in place. Thankfully to date the country has had only 15 official cases with no Covid deaths.

The country however is still struggling to effectively address the scourge of Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence (SARV) otherwise known as Sanguma. These are instances where upon a death, a woman or man or sometimes now even a child is accused of being a sorcerer or sorceress and causing the death. Justice is swift and implemented without due process or mercy by men of the tribe who torture the accused and often kill them. Tragically there continues to be some SARV instances in the Enga Province.

In 2018 the LCMS missionaries in PNG issued a theological statement strongly condemning this practice and offering God's grace and forgiveness to those who repent of it. The purpose was also to encourage and equip

Christians to speak against it. Now one of our LCMS missionaries, Anton Lutz (below), has helped complete a movie addressing the issue.

A leading voice against SARV at both the provincial and national level, Anton wrote a book several years ago to equip children to stand against SARV. With the help of a youth leader and her children in Bougainville,

they have made this story into a movie. It tells of a boy and a girl who when confronted with a SARV incident in their community learn how to respond to it. To view the movie, please visit YouTube and search for the title *Peter and Grace Make a Difference*. Please pray for the victims of SARV and for an end to this horrific practice and share this story with anyone who might be interested in joining us in prayer.

Thank you for your interest in our mission work. To contact us, please write to martin.dicke@lcms.org.

For information on our ministry or to support us, please visit:

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