

Martin and Marie Dicke—Missionaries Serving the Lord in Asia and PNG

July/August 2021
Volume 6, Issue 1



Presentations and Lecture/Demonstration Recitals in Taiwan

By Martin Dicke

The road back to Papua New Guinea still remains very difficult. For entry into the country PNG is now requiring that travelers be vaccinated and also quarantined for three weeks at an approved hotel with Covid tests at the end of each week, all at the traveler's expense. Australia, our usual path to PNG, is still in panic/lockdown mode and beginning to employ totalitarian tactics to enforce vaccinations and their health declarations. So it is very difficult if not impossible to travel through Australia.



LCMS Asia Regional Office in Chiayi, Taiwan.

LCMS Asia Regional Director Pastor Charles Ferry, has changed the focus of my service and asked me to serve the Asia Region as a Music Specialist. I will be based in the US working remotely on worship/music resource projects, and travel overseas as opportunities arise and travel restrictions allow.

Most recently I was in Taiwan for three months at the Asia Regional Office in Chiayi (see picture below left) to work with the China Evangelical Lutheran Church. After much difficulty, I was able to secure a 90-day work visa for Taiwan. Travel was not allowed in February, but restrictions were lifted in March. I was therefore able to spend April-June in Taiwan.

After two weeks of quarantine, I worked with Barbara Rebenitsch making final preparations for nine different workshops and lecture/demonstration recitals on worship and music. That was quite intense and difficult because Chinese is such a difficult language. Mandarin Chinese is a tonal language so words must be spoken with the precise

tone or they are meaningless or become completely different words. Just as we were to begin traveling the country offering the presentations, a lockdown was issued because of an increase in Covid cases in Taipei. It was then decided to use the recording studio at the Asia Regional Office to offer the presentations online via Zoom and YouTube.

Altogether I offered 10 presentations and lecture / demonstration recitals to the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC). They are available on the CELC YouTube page. Below is a list of the presentations that were given and some information about them. On the back are some more pictures from my visit to Taiwan.

Taiwan Lectures, Seminars, and Workshops

1. May 22—Proclaiming God's Grace and Mercy in Song: The Living Legacy of Lutheran Hymnody

An introduction to Martin Luther's hymns and the great legacy of song that followed. The stories and theology of 13

hymns from the new *Chinese Lutheran Service Book* were discussed and then sung in Chinese by Pastor Alex Wu and his wife Ruth. The CELC was also encouraged to follow Luther's example and write their own.

2. May 29—The Eternal Song: The Songs and Music of the Bible

Provided an overview of the Biblical theology of music, the Songs of the Bible, and what they mean for us.

3. June 5—Handel's *Messiah*: Biblical, Christological, and Eschatological

An overview of one of the greatest musical works of all time, one that tells the entire salvation story.

4. June 6—An Overview of the Book of Psalms: Understanding the Song Jesus Sang

The psalms of the Old Testament are very important. They shape our worship and our theology. Jesus sang them with His disciples and used them to battle Satan and endure the pain of the cross. Ways of singing the psalms were demonstrated.

5. June 12—The Story of Anna Magdalena Bach: Faithful Wife and Mother

A lecture/demonstration recital which interspersed music from the famous Anna Magdalena's notebooks with the story of her life and the Bach family. It covered their life, music, tragedies, joys, and faith.

6. June 13—Singing the Music of the Angels: The Great Hymns of Christmas and Easter

Provided background on the Good News and Biblical basis of the great hymns of Christmas and Easter that proclaim it.

7. June 19—The Lasting Legacy of the Great Lutheran Composers

This presentation was a practical history of the great Lutheran heritage of music featuring the music of Johann Walter, musical adviser to Martin Luther; Michael Praetorius; Johann Pachelbel; Georg Frideric Handel; Johann Sebastian Bach; and Felix Mendelssohn among others.

8. June 20—The Tabernacle: Jesus is Our High Priest

What does God say about worship? Beginning with Hebrews 9-10, Isaiah 6, and Zechariah 3, this presentation provided an overview God's instructions for the Tabernacle of the Children of Israel and in so doing a deeper of understanding of the Divine Service.

9. June 26—Piano Workshop for Church Musicians

Pianos are the main instrument for churches in Taiwan. This workshop provided some music and practical suggestions for church pianists.

10. June 27—Question and Answer Session

I also provided music for the regular worship services at the Asia Regional Office, worked daily with the children, and gave some private lessons. In discussions with the musicians of the CELC we also identified projects that we can work on going forward to provide resources for their musicians and train their children.

Soli Deo Gloria!



Top: Pastor Charles Ferry and his family at Salvation Lutheran; Middle: Strategy meeting; Bottom: Getting ready for a recording session in the Recording Studio at the Asia Regional Office.



To contact us, please write to martin.dicke@lcms.org or:

Martin and Marie Dicke
4173 S Andes Way
Aurora, CO 80013

Please support the missionary service of Martin and Marie Dicke with a monthly, quarterly, or yearly giving plan or with a one-time gift. Visit lcms.org/dicke or call LCMS Mission Advancement at (888) 843-5267.

Alternatively, you can send checks payable to the LCMS with "PNG/ Dickes" on the Memo Line to:

LCMS Mission Advancement
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122-7226

You may also visit our dear friends at missioncentral.us/dicke or send your gifts to:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034