

Martin and Marie Dicke—Missionaries Serving the Asia Region

Christmas Greetings in the Name of the Christ Child

By Martin Dicke

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas! Thank you for your prayers and support. We continue to serve the Lord as best we can despite the current difficulties. Here are a few updates.

LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION PROJECTS

During the lockdowns I worked with the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF—www.lhfmissions.org) to edit and prepare six books for publication for the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Gutnius (Good News) Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea. LHF translates and publishes Lutheran theological books and worship resources for churches worldwide. I am happy to report that the editing of the sixth book was completed a few

months ago and that all six books have now been printed. LHF prints their books in Malaysia. They are now preparing to ship the books to PNG. Unfortunately, shipping costs have risen exponentially due to the pandemic. Please pray that all goes well with the shipping and distribution of the books.

“REFORMATION” IS BAPTIZED IN PNG

Thankfully, despite the many challenges of the past year the mission of the Church is going forward. Here is a wonderful story from Papua New Guinea about a little boy with a special name that went missing right before his baptismal service. The story was posted on Facebook last month.

“During the Reformation Sunday (31 October) special service at the

Concordia Lutheran Church Lakolam, a child prepared for baptism had sneaked off. No one knew of this child until his mother realized that her boy had missed baptism when she was busy to baptise her baby.

“Soon after the baptismal service, Pastor Mark Maliso of the Papayukeu Circuit made a remark saying one of those children baptized would have been named Reformation (Rifomesen as in Pidgin). This was to remember the great day and event (nailing of the 95 Thesis) by Doctor Martin Luther on 31 October 1517 in Wittenberg, Germany, that sparked the Protestant Reformation and birth of the Lutheran Church.

“Many thought it was a good suggestion but the point was missed. The child’s mother found his son had wandered away in the midst of the service. She brought him to the pastor later the week and today (Sunday) he got his

baptism. When the pastor asked for his name for baptism, the mother replied ‘Rifomesen’ (i.e. Reformation).

“In Lakolam village, Enga and maybe PNG, we will have someone by the name of ‘Rifomesen.’ Here in this photo with ‘Rifomesen’ is his mother flanked by two elders after his baptism by Pastor Joseph Yopo. It was indeed a miracle.”



Earlier this year I was privileged to spend three months with the Ferry family in Taiwan. They are currently on Home Service. We had a chance to visit with them a few weeks ago when they passed through (see picture at right). Please keep them in your prayers. Pray also for all those who live and serve in Taiwan. The Chinese Communist Party is increasing their military incursions into Taiwan territory, which has become a cause for concern among many.



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