

PAPUA NEW GUINEA SUNDAY

April 24th, 2022



Left to right, Keith Holste, Gary Teske, Emily Grebel and Amy Truhe at their farewell party following a visitation to the Kote District in late September, 2019

The partnership between the Central States Synod and the Kote District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea remains strong in spite of being tested by the pandemic during the past year. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to have young Papua New Guineans working as camp counselors at Camp Tomah Shinga as we had hoped, and there were no visitations to Papua New Guinea since 2019.

Our sisters and brothers in Papua New Guinea have faced adversity in the past 2 years. In late 2020 Pastor Jonati Metu, president of the district died suddenly of a heart attack. And, even though Papua New Guinea is somewhat off the beaten path, Covid 19 found its way there and continues to sicken and kill in a country with far fewer medical resources than we have access to here in America.

Even so, we are happy to report that over the school year of 2020-2021 our congregations raised almost \$10,000 to help the congregations of the Kote District purchase new Sunday School materials. Those funds have been sent to Papua New Guinea where they will supplement the money raised by the district and enable them to purchase the Sunday School materials.

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Keith Holste speaks to a gathering of students at the Lutheran School near Finschhafen during our visitation in 2019. Papua New Guinea is a country with many children which explains the need for Sunday School materials.

We have been able to maintain contact with the district in Papua New Guinea primarily by email and Pastor Walter Teunzac of the Kote district contributed a devotion that was included in the Synod's weekly E-newsletter during the Epiphany Season. We invite your prayers for our siblings in Christ on this Sunday.

Pray for newly elected district president Erena Waraga who was recently elected to that office following the death of Jonati Metu.

Pray for the people of Papua New Guinea as they now face the threat of Covid in their cities, villages and countryside.

Pray for this resource rich country as they seek to develop their natural resources in responsible ways that benefit all and lead to lasting development.

Pray for the children who will be growing in faith through the use of the Sunday School materials that you helped them acquire.

We also invite you to have a special offering or make a special contribution to the Companion Synod Ministry. There is new leadership in the Kote District and we are seeking contributions to assist a delegation to travel to Papua New Guinea to meet the new district president, renew relationships and see what more we can do together.