



That They May Know YOU



“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3

The Newsletter of Pastor Larry and Tina Matro, serving in Papua New Guinea and Oceania

July 2017

Meet Seminarian Kandata Frank Malak!

While most people call him “Frank,” he prefers his baptized name “Kandata.” His father, Malak, was a pastor and he named his three sons: Tipingi (“The Light”); Ipata (“He is coming”) and Kandata (“We will see it.”). His father met the first missionaries who came to his area and was involved in early evangelistic work in the Porgera and Paiela areas in the Enga province. His family (4 sisters and 2 brothers) are all married and live close to his home area. When the family gathers there is a crowd with 54 in attendance!



While his two brothers are involved in work in the private sector, his oldest brother encouraged Kandata to attend Seminary so that someone could continue the work their father began as a pastor. But, it took a few years for him to be convinced to study for the Holy Ministry. After finishing high school he went to the university and studied dentistry. Upon graduation he asked to be placed in his home area because he wanted to help with his church that he saw was struggling from church political and theological pressures.



He began applying to enter the seminary in 2009, but his application kept getting lost in the mail. But, rather than become discouraged, he persisted and finally did a phone interview and was accepted! He began his seminary education at Martin Luther Seminary (MLS) in 2017. The program will take 6 years to complete, which will mean that Kandata will be about 38 when he graduates and becomes a pastor.

He is engaged to another student at the seminary, Nispel Was (sitting behind him), who is the daughter of Pastor Joseph Was, a former colleague of Larry’s when he taught at Timothy Seminary many years ago. Nispel is working on a Diploma in Theology at MLS so that she can work with Sunday school and women’s ministries in the Gutnius Lutheran Church.



Kandata has enjoyed his first months at MLS, although the blend of students from different walks of life and interests has been a challenge at times. He especially likes the Library where he can check out and read many books that expand his English proficiency and help him learn more about the Bible and Lutheran theology.

Thank you for your prayers, your support and words of encouragement! We are about to begin our 2 month “road trip.” Please pray for safety, good attendance and good responses as we share about the work in PNG and joy as we travel around America!

Please send any changes to your address or email, as well as regular correspondence, to us at:

larry.matro@lcmsintl.org. God bless you!

Pastor Larry and Tina Matro

To support the LCMS through the work of **Pastor Larry Matro**, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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