



PASTOR MURRAY & TRACY SMITH

Serving as a lecturer
at Senior Flierl Seminary,
Logaweng, PNG (supported by his wife Tracy)

murray.smith@lca.org.au

*“Stand firm and hold to the traditions
that you were taught by us, either by
our spoken word or by our letter.”*

2 Thessalonians 2:15



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About **MURRAY SMITH**

In the LCA many of us understand mission work to be about the 'going' and the 'teaching' as described by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20, in order to bring Christ to the world. However, for those engaged in mission the view is often reversed, finding that they learn more than they could ever have imagined, and seeing Christ present in unexpected ways. In accepting the call to serve at Senior Flierl Seminary in Logaweng, Papua New Guinea, it is this second view that comes to mind for me. It is humbling to follow so many faithful witnesses to the gospel of Christ into a place that has embraced the reality of 'being saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth' (2 Thess 2:13).

It is a joy and honour to be part of this continuing partnership with the church in PNG as we join them in the mission of the gospel.

After five cherished years at ALC and nearly eleven years in parish ministry, I seemed to be heading along an expected pathway when this call came as an unexpected and yet very welcome surprise! What a privilege to be called to serve the ELC-PNG, and assist in the training of pastors to 'stand firm and hold to the traditions [apostolic teachings] that they were taught by us ['my predecessors']', either by our word or by our letter' (2 Thess 2:15).

With support from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, along with LCA International Mission and our friends and family, I take up this call together with my wife Tracy to serve our faithful brothers and sisters in the ELC-PNG who remain, 'like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither, in all that he does, he prospers' (Psalm 1:3).