

Newsletter: 5 July 2021

Term 3 is starting. For us, this always means a busy time. This term will be a little different, in that Milka will be doing a Ministry Practicum, called a vicarage program, at Nawae Lutheran High School. Her studies will finally hit the road, as she works with the chaplain to minister to students and women's programs in the area. Nawae is on the outskirts of Lae, so some travel is involved, meaning long days ahead.



Commissioning for Ministry Practicum

We will be challenged with juggling family and work this term. Kelly continues to explore the world in new ways, keeping us on our toes. We give thanks for a bright and mostly happy child.

For mine, teaching continues to be rewarding, with a Masters program filling up more of my time. With fewer missionaries in country, I also have taken on greater responsibility with Overseeing the Missionary Services office, something that grinds on me at times, but nevertheless, is important work. I happy to hear that we will have another Australian coming to teach at SFS seminary, Murray Smith and his wife Tracey in the near future. We also have quite a number of German Missionaries coming into the country in the next 6 months. This will bolster our numbers a little and bring us back to the average we have had over the last few years. We pray that there travels go along smoothly enough.



Doctrine Class

We recently were fortunate to take some leave and explore a new part of the country. We spent 4 days with missionaries at Busama for a retreat, before celebrating Milka's birthday with a trip to Namatanai (New Ireland Province). We visited her sister who is a teacher at the High School there. We enjoyed the adventure of travel, even though it was extremely difficult to keep our toddler seated on a plane. We also enjoyed being away from the fishbowl that Lae can sometimes be.



Enjoying time in the sun at Busama

On the ground, Covid 19 continues to hamper us, although I am not sure where I would rather be; in PNG with less security in terms of health care, or in Australia, with more restrictions and lockdowns looming at each and every outbreak. It has made air travel twice as expensive, as well as increased living costs across the board. This makes it very difficult for people on the ground who live from day to day. The flow on effect is an increase in desperate means to attain what is considered valuable. Less money for school fees is one direct way it affects our community. MLS has struggled financially, and tatters on a very fine edge.



MLS Chapel

Our planned journey home in October may yet take a few more turns before we can finally meet our family in Australia. Passports for Milka and Kelly have arrived. Visa's and vaccinations are our next challenge. We pray the Lord give us patience in finally being able to make that trip.

May glad songs of salvation be in your tents (which tend to be tight spaces ;-)) today! (Ps 118:15)