

PAPUA NEW GUINEA SUNDAY

February 12th, 2023



*This is the combined participants from the Central States Synod and the Kote district who participated in a consultation in Papua New Guinea in late 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 years. Due to the pandemic there have been no visitations either to or from Papua New Guinea since late 2019 when a team from the synod participated in a consultation in Papua New Guinea together with representatives from the other three synods who have companion ties to PNG. However, we have continued to communicate and now that the Covid pandemic is easing, there are plans for a visitation to Papua New Guinea in 2024. Let me share with you the most recent communication from the president of the Kote District.

***Greetings to all of our friends in the USA. God be with you all.***

*We are currently fighting a plan by a gold mining company called Wapi/Golpu to build a pipeline that will dump mine waste in the waters of the huon gulf. Our district has joined with the national church in objecting to this plan as it would threaten the waters that are a primary source of food for a great many of our people.*

*We appreciate the money collected by your synod to help us purchase new Sunday School materials. Our circuits are now working to raise our portion of the funds so that the materials can be printed.*

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*The visitation team from the Central States Synod gathered with the District Council of the Kote District during discussions about where, when, and how we can be partners in ministry.*

*The covid pandemic is easing and while some of the cities and towns still have problems, we in the Kote District are doing well. Thank you for thinking of us and for your prayers.*

*The big earthquake last September did affect our district. There were no deaths but some houses and buildings were destroyed or damaged.*

*Our district hosted the national women's conference last September and in September, 2023 we will host the national youth conference.*

*We send to you, all our friends, Christmas and New Year's greetings. God has given us the best present, Jesus Christ. So now we together can spread the love of God during the Christmas season and the new year. Don't think of us as being far apart. The love of Jesus Christ unites us and binds us together as one.*

**Pastor Erena Waraga, president, Kote District,**

Congregations are encouraged to include our companion Christians in Papua New Guinea in the prayers of the people. Please see the president's letter for prayer concerns.

We also invite you to have a special offering or make a special contribution to the Companion Synod Ministry.

See the companion synod web page [www.css-elca.org/companion-synods](http://www.css-elca.org/companion-synods) for more information.