

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Matthew 2:1-2

CRAZY MEN FROM THE WEST

As told by Pastor Maiyupe Par

This is just a humorous story (*from Papua New Guinea*). We were sitting around the outer walls of the church building in Heldsbach, (*Finschhafen region of Papua New Guinea*) when 3 men walked in and sat down next to Pastor Boneo. They were Sam Sorenu, Pastor Rificare and Papa Obosec. They all looked the same sitting in chairs next to each other. They all had white hair, long beards and a little bald spot on their heads. The president of the Kote District, the late Beka Kosieng, jokingly said of the 3 men, "In the Bible we hear the story of the 3 wisemen who came from the East to see the baby Jesus. Here we have 3 crazy wisemen who come from the west." Everyone looked at the 3 old men and they died laughing. The 3 men played along with the joke and everyone in the church roared with laughter.

However, later we reflected and talked about this funny story and about the wisemen from the East. What country did the wisemen come from? Did they come from Babylon? If they came from Babylon, how did they figure out that this new star signaled the birth of the king of Judah? We didn't have answers to these questions. However, someone sitting in the corner of the church replied, "These wisemen, they weren't from the tribe of Judah, but even so, God revealed to them that a new King had arrived in Judah. And this new King was the king of all people in every country. I think that it was for this reason that God showed them this star." And so it was that we all thought, "Yes, these wisemen from the east represent us, and it was on our behalf that they traveled so far to worship Jesus and give him presents. It is true that God is the parent of all people and Jesus is the King of every country in the world.

So, what about this talk about "wisemen from the east" and "crazy men from the west"? I think we can say, "We become wise in the ways of God when God reveals to us all of the ways that God works to help and bless us. God hasn't chosen just one group or tribe or race of people. God loves everyone, and wants everyone to have faith in God and to worship God. Jesus is King of all the crazy people too.