



Sr. Mary Seibert, MSC

I was born in Defiance Ohio the youngest sibling with five older brothers.

I completed high school and then three years' preparation for vows at St, Michael's. Because I had dreamed of being a foreign missionary, I headed to Papua New Guinea after completing Nurse Training in 1956. I made my Final Profession as an MSC Sister in Vunapope, ENB, Papua New Guinea.

I completed a midwifery course in Australia and then was assigned to Lihir Island where I was the only trained medical person serving about 5,000 people scattered in 24 villages over 4 small islands. The nearest doctor was 5 hours by boat and then 6 hours by car. I traveled up to five hours on the "St. Robert", which was a 40-foot diesel engine work boat, to visit each village a few times yearly to vaccinate the babies. visit the sick, etc.



In 1973 the bishop asked me to be Health Secretary which meant responsibility for a school of nursing and nine small rural hospitals. I visited the nurses by plane and sea, arranged retreats and workshops, and enlisted overseas volunteers to aid our sisters in teaching the nursing students until the Papua New Guinea nurses were trained as nurse educators.

In 1978 I was transferred to Lemakot Health Center on New Ireland where I recruited volunteers from various catholic and other organizations to help with the training and operation of the health work. We needed to update the nursing program. This required better classrooms and student and staff living quarters, so we applied to several organizations in USA and in Germany and received the funds needed.

Two other MSC Sisters also ran a vocational School training young women in domestic skills such as cooking, sewing, cleaning, gardening and other arts.

From December 1, 1990 to March 1993 I was based in Kavieng as the secretary for Bishop Karl Hesse and then Bishop Ambrose Kiapseni, who as a schoolboy milked the cows and carried the pastor's meals.

In 1993 Sr. Xavier, MSC was appointed as our first native PNG Provincial Superior. IN 1994 a volcanic eruption destroyed/buried our residence. We moved to another area and rebuilt with the help of generous American and German organizations. A group of experienced native men proudly did the construction. From November 1996 till January 19, 2000 I lived with Sisters Xavier and Josephine in Vunamalml ("Place of Peace") in our new MSC Provincial building.



In January of 2000 we handed leadership over to the new indigenous leadership team and I returned to the USA province. In 2002 I began ministering on four Native American reservations in Southern California providing religious education for the children and adults.

I also worked in the Circus ministry from 2015-2017. This ministry required living in a travel trailer and travelling with a variety of circuses across the states. On one circus I combed the lama for his act and on another I sold souvenirs. In the Circus Ministry you do whatever is needed and enjoy the people and the performances.

In 2017 I moved to St. Michael's Convent where I now live. I am thankful for my fellow MSC Sisters, for my family, and for all who have prayed for and supported me in so many ways over these past 71 years of ministry. May God bless and reward you!