

# border crossings

issue  
11

Stories from the Board for Mission of the Lutheran Church of Australia

## Another mustard seed **miracle**

Sabah

## **Hands on**

Papua New Guinea

## Africans bring new **life**

to congregations

## Sudanese Deaconesses

Traralgon, Victoria

## Research in Melanesia

Something to  
**pray**  
about

October 2011

What's inside & welcome...

- 3 We're partners**  
Neville Otto
- 4 Another mustard seed miracle**  
Sabah
- 5 Pad Thai**  
Recipe
- 6 Hands-on**  
Papua New Guinea
- 8 Arrivals from Africa bring life to congregations**  
Victoria and Tasmania
- 8 Called to serve: Sudanese Deaconesses**  
Traralgon, Victoria
- 9 Small steps in partnership**  
Burundi
- 10 Prayer points**
- 11 Melanesian culture and society**  
Research
- 12 Getting involved**  
Volunteer opportunities



You give them something to

# eat

**How do you feel** when you see people around you every day slavishly striving to fill their empty lives with all manner of stuff, feverishly climbing the ladder of success, leading empty lives of quiet desperation?

**How do you feel** when you see the people in front of you in your TV coming starving and desperate to the refugee camps of Kenya, coming from war-torn, drought-affected countries?

*When Jesus saw a large crowd he had compassion (a pain in the gut) on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things... By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him... "Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages to buy themselves something to eat." But he answered, "You give them something to eat."*

It's so easy to be overwhelmed by the needs of those in front of us, in our faces, surrounding us on all sides. It's so easy for us to tell them to go away. And it's so easy for us to give up when we look at what we feel is the little that we might have to offer in terms of our wealth, our time, our abilities or our limited faith – so easy to be like the disciples and say, "But how far will that go?"

To each one of us followers of his Jesus says, "You give them something to eat."

Love them as I have loved you! And just as he did when he fed the five thousand with that small offering of five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus takes what we have to offer and multiplies our offering of love and time and compassion. He takes the message of hope we carry within us and uses it to feed a world of people who are not only desperate for food and water but are also starving for his love and grace. 🌱

**Glenice Hartwich**

Project Officer **Board for Mission**  
Lutheran Church of Australia

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# we're partners



GOSPEL  
PARTNERSHIPS  
AND GOSPEL  
PARTNERING!

THAT'S US!

THAT'S  
THE LCA IN  
MISSION!

'WHAT!?'

WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?'

DO I HEAR  
YOU SAY?

Sure, there's no direct mention of the word 'mission' in the terms 'gospel partnerships' and 'gospel partnering'. But consider these amazing things God is doing as his Spirit points people to Jesus:

- In Cambodia we meet several new Lutheran churches that started independently coming together to share and to work together for the sake of the people in that land: churches that are supported by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches working with churches supported by International Lutheran Council (ILC) member churches. Can this be? You bet! Come and see!
- Long-term LCA partnerships developing with churches in Indonesia and PNG as the LCA Board for Mission works closely with Lutheran Education Australia and Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) to support the growth of church schools in PNG and Indonesia
- Celebrations in October to commemorate 125 years of gospel partnering between Australian and PNG Lutherans
- LCA districts, congregations and the Board for Mission working together with ALWS to support African people who are new to this land
- Individual disciples and small teams of disciples volunteering to serve in partner churches overseas and in Australia, serving Christ by serving alongside partners where they are
- A new Indonesian congregation being started, involving a partnership between Indonesia, Australian Lutheran College, the SA District, the Pasadena congregation and the Board for Mission

I could go on. But, as you can see, 'gospel partnerships' expresses well the story of Lutherans working together for the sake of the gospel and the people we are called to serve as our neighbours. But it's not just any sort of partnering but a special partnering in the gospel as Jesus and the good news of his death and resurrection create new life!

Gospel partnerships – how is God calling you and your congregation, parish, school?

Gospel partnering – God has something wonderful in store for you and for others as you follow Jesus in going to the people and places he leads you to.

'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 1:3–6).

PS. Since I penned this piece, news has come of flooding in the Nan province of Thailand, one of our partner church countries, where LCA missionaries Simon and Oiy Mackenzie and their son Aussie live. The Mackenzie's rental home in the city of Nan was flooded, as were the homes of many people in that city. I ask your prayer support for the people of this region, and especially for the church and the pastors and lay people who serve there. Please pray for Pastor Simon, Oiy and Aussie, as well as Pastor Amnuay and his family, as they bring the gospel of hope and new life in Jesus to the people. 🌍

**Pastor Neville Otto**  
Director **Board for Mission** Lutheran  
Church of Australia





## another mustard seed miracle

For a week we have been at Sabah Theological Seminary (STS) at Kota Kinabalu

in Sabah, making plans to set up a Lutheran Study Centre at the request of the Lutheran bishops of Malaysia and Singapore. Seeding finances are provided through a generous endowment from a member of the LCA. This centre is to serve students who come to STS from many parts of South East Asia and to educate people for church leadership in the region. Planning is well under way so we jump at the invitation to be taken on a two-day trip.

We are driving to Kudat, about 190 kilometres north of Kota Kinabalu. Normal speed is possible on some stretches of the road. Elsewhere progress is slow. Brahman cattle meander leisurely across the road that runs between rice paddies. This is the cowboy territory of the Bajau tribe. Then steep ascents through mountain passes, washaways that reduce the road to a strip of potholes, and narrow bridges make the going really slow.

Eating local corn, fried in the husk over a brazier at roadside stalls, is a treat. And those creamy little bananas are especially delicious for banana-starved Australians – about sixty cents a kilo here, not fifteen dollars! It's hot and sticky in July but the sights are magnificent; mountain ridges and plains display a rich palette of varying greens. Our guide, Dr Wilfred John Samuel, Vice-President of Sabah Theological Seminary in Kota Kinabalu (and a graduate of ALC in Adelaide), is taking us to visit the headquarters of the Protestant Church of Sabah (PCS).

Never heard of the PCS? Well, neither have we until now. We soon learn how the mustard seed has produced another miracle here among the Rungus tribespeople, who were headhunters not so long ago. These parts in the very north of Borneo are now seventy percent Christian – in a Muslim country. 'This is Lutheran country, as far as you can see', says Dr Wilfred, as we near the end of the trip north. That's because the PCS is a member of the Lutheran World Federation.

Christian missionaries brought the gospel to the Rungus people in the middle of last century, only decades ago. They came from Europe and also from the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM). But the daughter church, with 42,000 members, has now outgrown the mother church and is still growing.







At church headquarters we meet the leaders of the PCS, President Jimmy Asam and Secretary Sopirid Masandul, captivated by their warm welcome and excellent English. The building is very basic, reflecting the fact that the PCS is materially poor. But you would never know it from talking to these men. They want us to know how the church next door is full of hundreds of young people every Sunday morning, how student numbers at the Bible Training Centre are up this year.

You would not easily recognise the jumble of rough buildings south of Kudat as a Bible College. Just slab huts and bare concrete set in the eternal green of the forest – termites live here too! The Principal, Rev Jonius, and his wife, Pastor Rosnie, radiate the same friendly warmth and are happy that they have fourteen students this year. We see some of these dedicated teenagers, who come straight out of high school, studying in the basic library that has a few feet of shelving to house the small collection of study materials. But they all look happy. We meet one student outside and are struck first by the message on his T-shirt ('Jesus in me'), then by his beaming smile, and then by his excellent English.

These young people study for two years and graduate for service in their congregations without prospect of ever receiving a salary. Tuition and boarding fees amount to about sixty-five dollars a month. If only we could on the spot pay all fees for all present students! A few will get LWF or BCCM scholarships to go south to the big seminary in Kota Kinabalu to study for ordained pastoral ministry.

Back in Kota Kinabalu next day we eagerly catch up with Principal Dr Thu En Yu, since he and his wife Brenda were missionaries among the Rungus people from 1972 to 1981, before he was called to be the new bishop of the BCCM. Mrs Thu admits to shedding more than a few tears when she was brought, as a bride, from her home in the teeming metropolis of Hong Kong to the steamy heat and isolation of North Borneo. Our admiration for these dear friends increases as we hear how she produced a family with minimal medical assistance, and how Dr Thu walked hours on end to visit some fifty villages; there were no roads, so no vehicles.

We remain inspired by such stories of sacrifice and dedication. And we will always remember the gentle Christian friends of the PCS, who radiate a joyful peace and contentment.

**Dr Vic and Val Pfitzner**

# Pad Thai

## Quick and easy to make and so tasty!

### Ingredients

- 200g dry Pad Thai rice noodles
- 400g cooked/ boiled chicken (chopped finely)
- 250g cooked prawn meat (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 4 small onions, peeled and sliced
- 1 capsicum sliced
- 1 tsp chilli flakes / or 2 fresh green chillies finely chopped
- 1-2 tbsp peanut oil (can be substituted)
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- 2 tbsp tamarind paste
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 2 limes, juiced
- 1/4 bunch of green shallots, trimmed and sliced
- 2 tbsp chopped chives
- 1/2 cup of unsalted, roasted peanuts, finely chopped
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups bean sprouts (washed)
- 1 cup coriander leaves (washed) to garnish

### Method

- Place Pad Thai noodles into boiling water, cook for 6-8 minutes until soft then drain.
- Heat oil in wok and fry onions and garlic until transparent.
- Add all remaining ingredients except the egg, bean sprouts and peanuts and continue to fry.
- Add egg slowly and mix.
- Add bean sprouts and continue to fry for 30 seconds.
- Garnish with peanuts and coriander and serve hot.

**Serves 4**







*For the past two years, Stu Robertson, friend and encourager, has creatively prepared inspirational and captivating newsletters on the life and volunteer work of **Stan and Gwen Dudgeon** as they work as volunteers in Papua New Guinea. Stu shares his insights and images gleaned over these past two years as he has shared in the journey of Stan and Gwen from the 'distance' of his home in Brisbane.*

**Papua New Guinea.** It conjures up a stack of visuals in under a minute, doesn't it? Marketers call these 'top of mind' images. Randomly un-prioritised, seemingly trivial concepts of this independent neighbour of ours, under an hour away by high-speed boat from the very tip of Australia.

What's yours? My quick ones, in no particular order, are steamy jungles; palm trees brushing back and forth on golden beach sands; that Aussie soldier with a blindfold being gently led along the path by 'fuzzy-wuzzy angels'; the Kokoda Trail (or Track, depending on whose version you want to stick with); mist swirling around Mt Hagen; Missionary Aviation Fellowship planes and their incredibly short landing strips. The last? A picture of my dad, khaki sleeves rolled up, crouching with his mates outside their canvas tent during World War II.

All these have nothing to do with Stan and Gwen Dudgeon, except for the fact that this was where my mind was two years ago when the Dudgeons told me they had accepted the invitation to leave their Brisbane home to travel to Karkar Island.

Where's Karkar? Initially I naively thought it was the home of the Phantom, the Skull Cave and his loyal Pygmy friends – but a more intellectual colleague of mine put down his coffee cup and stared at me in a slightly unnerving way.

Karkar Island is about thirty kilometres off Madang. It comes complete with its own dormant (we hope) volcano and gritty mineral sandy beaches. It's oval-shaped and located in the Bismarck Sea. It has a population of 'about' fifty thousand, mostly Catholics and Lutherans, who speak either or both of the two languages, Waskia and Takia. Neighbouring islands are Bagabag and Manam, if you wanted to check the globe. Stan and Gwen opted for the 'hands-on' role in the refurbishment of the Gaubin Hospital. They are there to make a difference – a real difference in making a 'sick hospital' better.

Rusty see-through roofs, murky wade-through sewage are just two of the more 'attractive' features of this wonderful old, slightly post-World War II hospital (built by Dr Ed Tschärke, the late dedicated and long-serving Australian) as the effects of longevity and equatorial climate fight for

their own kind of medical residency.

Yet if there's one thing I've picked up from the safety of a Brisbane chair, it's the sheer patience of the Dudgeons and their devotion to the real reason they do what they do. Stan's a bit of a wag really. Seeing the irony of a situation is a specialty. Usually a wry smile comes on his face and a small giggle ushers forth. Here's what he wrote recently about the disgusting Sister Gau at the hospital.

*I met Sister Gau soon after arriving at Gaubin – fell head over heels: she was gorgeous. I found out that she'd been here many years, so was at the point of retiring, her old body wearing out. I felt that it was amazing that she could even keep going, but she did. I think it was one day in March that one of the guys found her, and it was plain to see that work for her was no more. I can remember respectful discussions about her future – she was a respected member, having served for so long at the hospital. She was here when the Tschärkes were here and worked with them for a number of years. Since then I hadn't seen her around the hospital, but every now and again I'd go by and just say a few words,*





*just like I've been doing lately for Ulabin ('All a bin'), as he was in bed with a broken leg.*

*Anyway, to get back to Sister Gau, on the 5th of November I went by her room. There was putrid smoke everywhere and a lot of noise. I started to get excited as I saw through the smoke. It turned out that all the smoke was coming out of the tractor's exhaust, and of course the tractor was making the noise.*

As you have just picked up, Sister Gau is the name of a 1960s Massey Ferguson tractor that is used for everything at the hospital. The story in their #10 Karkar Newsletter touched a nerve over the world, with offers of parts, service manuals and practical suggestions. They still need help with it, by the way. Mostly money, so they can get the parts on the mainland.

Now Gwen is quite a lady. She has the patience of...well, you know the story.

Her raw perspective on project matters and her succinctness with words is a quality that Stan appreciates. Especially as he feels he gets the truth, nice or not – but another opinion to consider. Gwen's personal ministry reveals the heart of a woman the Saviour clearly handpicked for Karkar: her encouragement, grace, perseverance with the Island ladies, teaching healthy cooking with the available fresh produce, helping them to be independent through learning to sew and by simply loving them for who they are, where they are.

Incidentally, Gwen and Stan, both retired teachers, have been involved with Emmaus Walk Movement in Queensland for some twenty years, inspiring everyday Christians to deepen their faith and go back to their own denominations to inspire others. So encouragement, patience and perseverance are no strangers to the Dudgeon household – wherever that household ends up

being relocated. Stan was born in PNG and lived there for many of the early, formative years of his life, so I guess that gives him something of an advantage in knowing the PNG way of thinking and culture.

Through several events that occurred prior to their arrival, and the recent death of Don Kudan, a great Lutheran Health Services director, the knock-on effect is being felt now, and the money supply from the PNG government has dwindled, with the result that the Dudgeons reluctantly have had to accept the latest scenario, that they will be returning home in December 2011 and may not return to Karkar to complete what they began.

Pity – so much done, so much to do. Then again, nothing takes the Lord by surprise, does it? He has something in mind. 🌿

**Stu Robertson**



## Arrivals from **Africa** bring new life to congregations

The arrival of people from Africa into LCA congregations in Victoria and Tasmania, which started about four years ago, has brought much joy to congregation members, creating many opportunities to share worship and fellowship with the new arrivals. At the same time it has created challenges for the diminishing and aging congregations.

In spite of cultural differences between the two groups and complex resettlement issues for the newcomers, the influx has brought a new and invigorated focus for the LCA's Victorian District. Research undertaken by the District in 2009 and 2010 showed the need for a person in a dedicated role to assist the congregations and to coordinate a united approach for African Mission and Ministry. **Pamela Dalglish** was appointed to the position of Community

Development Facilitator, working directly with Pastor Allan Heppner (Pastor for Congregational Support) and the pastors and members of congregations with African communities. She will also be working closely with the African Mission and Ministry Reference Group.

Pamela's passion for serving in the church and the African community comes from a personal sense of responsibility to give something back to the community and from the joy she feels in "walking with people" so they can fulfil their dreams. Pamela says, "I have been blessed and privileged in my life; my support and contribution may do the same for others."

If you're living in Victoria, Pamela and Pastor Heppner are the first points of contact for any questions people may have in relation to African ministry and community support. If you wish to provide support or have ideas on how to assist in the area of African Mission and Ministry, please contact Pamela or Allan.

**Pamela can be contacted** via email at [pamela.dalglish@vic.lca.org.au](mailto:pamela.dalglish@vic.lca.org.au) or by phone on 03 9236 1200 or mobile 0488 333 535.



**Sarah and friends**



**Sudanese deaconesses in Traralgon, Victoria**

## Called to serve

**Mary Akech, Mary Nyanguok, Martha Chotper and Gloria Jieny** were recently installed as deaconesses at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Traralgon, Victoria, after being nominated and approved for this role by the congregation. This was in recognition of their voluntary work and the training they had already completed in the area of care and service within the congregation. They were presented with a Luther rose badge.

In the LCA, deaconesses have in the past been recognised for special work in congregations in the area of service and care.

In churches of various denominations in Sudan there is a strong tradition

of having women's groups. Remnants of that tradition have come to Australian shores through the immigration of Sudanese Christian women. Within the women's groups there are leaders who function as deaconesses. These women wear a special uniform – usually a blue robe, sometimes with a white scarf – and a badge of some sort. The function of these groups is to hold Bible studies, encourage women in their various vocations, and visit the sick and needy.

This kind of women's group has been functioning at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for some time. However, it had not been formally recognised, and neither had the work of the deaconesses. The difference between this group and the women's guild at Traralgon mainly has to do with the ethnic makeup of the groups but also how the groups are structured. 🌍



**Sudanese Sunday School**





## Small steps in Burundi partnership

Recent communication from leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burundi (ELC Burundi) expresses their gratitude for the support of partners from around the globe as these partners join together to encourage and support the new and emerging Lutheran Church in Burundi. These words of thanks and appreciation are extended to you! Through the LCA Board for Mission, your gifts have been used to support the ordination of the ELC Burundi's first three pastors. Prior to their ordination earlier this year these men - Pastor Salvator Nduwayo, Pastor Nicodeme Nahishakiye and Pastor Elie Nzeyimana went through an accelerated training program from 2007 to 2010 supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of

Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burundi is active in three of seventeen Burundian provinces: Bujumbura, Gitega and Cankuzo.

Despite poor church infrastructure in some locations, services are carried out regularly. In Gitega classrooms are rented out for services. Two plots, one in Cankuzo and one in Bujumbura, have been purchased and funds are currently being raised for church construction on these plots.

Building on the relationship already established through Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) and its work in Burundi through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Burundi and ELC Burundi the LCA Board for Mission is taking small steps to build the partnership. In recent weeks additional funds have been sent for scholarships for the three pastors as they prepare to now engage in more formal theological education.

What a privilege we have in the LCA to partner with the people of Burundi as they not only work with Jesus to build his church in Burundi but also work to rebuild their lives again as their country settles back to a more stable situation following the cessation of civil war. 🌍

### Words of Appreciation

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burundi conveys its profound gratitude to all contributors. Among others, the Rwandan and Congolese trainers, Spirit of Joy and Faith Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church of Australia and Bavaria Lutheran Church in Germany. We are still growing and still facing a lot of challenges. We welcome all partners and supporters who are willing to lend a hand. No matter what, God our provider will sustain his ministry through us. We hope for the continued growth of our church here in Burundi.*



**A highlight of African ministry in Geelong this year has been the induction of James Thuok Ruei as pastoral assistant in the St John's congregation as a step in his journey to become a pastor in the Lutheran Church of Australia.**

## African pastoral assistant inducted in Geelong

In December last year James, together with his wife Mary and baby daughter Nyangath, proudly attended the graduation ceremony at Australian Lutheran College (ALC) in Adelaide, where he received his Diploma of Theology. He is now looking forward to becoming part of the community at ALC when he is finally able to continue his studies there in the future.

At present James is working with Pastor Mark Blackwell and the lay assistants in Geelong to gain practical experience in visiting, participation in worship and service preparation, attending school

chapel and meetings of the lay assistants and the Church Council, and participating in Bible study and confirmation lessons. At the same time he is continuing his part-time studies at the Reformed Theological College in Geelong and is being supported by Norma and Peter Koehne.

Dave Nordbrock is working with James in reading and discussing the Bible readings for the Sunday services, and the congregation was pleased to have James recently take a part in the Sunday service. 🌍



# fresh expressions

## Mission Shaped Ministry course

Have you heard it, felt it? The niggling feeling that there is more to church than looking after our own needs, more than discussing what type of service we want, more than trying to revamp our programs so fewer leave our doors and more Christians swap to our church.

If you have, you're not alone. I believe God's Spirit is stirring the hearts of many of our people to look at ways of seeing outside our church walls so that, by our very nature, we live and are mission.

**What is a mission shaped ministry (msm) course? And will it change anything?** An msm course is being piloted in Adelaide and Canberra over the next three months. It's based on a UK course that is being adapted to the Australian context.

At its heart is the concept of identifying and encouraging those who hear the call to join God in mission into their local communities, to reach, in love, those who as yet don't know Christ. The course does this by providing the knowledge and support to congregations to send teams out into their local communities to establish new ways of being church or ways of creating Fresh Expressions of church while being supported by the congregation. It's an acknowledgment that, as God's church, we are mission, not for one hour a week in a 'church' building but each day of our lives in our communities.

The msm course helps people identify their community needs, helps them listen to what God is already doing in their community, and encourages them to develop Fresh Expression teams that are engaged with their community.

The Uniting, Anglican and Lutheran churches have agreed to work

together in supporting the course, and our msm team of five in SA has a dynamic and diverse background. Forty-six people (seven of whom are Lutheran) have taken up the challenge of enrolling in the pilot course, which began in late July. The group meets on Wednesday evenings for a 14-week period. It is the first time, that we are aware of, that the three churches in Australia have come together to foster and empower mission teams and not just talk about theology.

A goal of mine is to see our church begin to gather the resources of people who are passionate and trained in reaching out into their communities, people who share a vision of what God is doing in our communities right now, people who see outside their church walls and have purpose, hope and the joy of walking beside others as they come to know Christ and his love.

We have a wonderful history of God blessing our churches. We need to thank God for these blessings. Our culture has changed, though, and people rarely walk through our church doors anymore to reconnect with Christ. The truth is that many don't know Christ.

**Can an msm course make a difference?** Yes, if it encourages people to see the love God has for all people and the purpose he has for his church.

Do you hear the call? If you'd like to know about the next msm course, or you are after someone to chat to your congregation or group about mission into your community (in SA), contact Nevin (mission facilitator) at [nevin.nitschke@lca.org.au](mailto:nevin.nitschke@lca.org.au), or mobile 0430 457 779.

**Nevin Nitschke**  
Mission Facilitator LCA SA District



get involved in  
God's mission through  
prayer

### Please pray for...

- Stan Dudgeon and his wife Gwen serving on Karkar Island, PNG for two years to manage the reconstruction and restoration of Gaubin hospital
- Nick Schwarz, serving as a research assistant with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG
- Nicole Graham, serving as a home school teacher on Karkar Island, PNG
- Pastor Greg Schiller, as he takes on his new role as advisor in the Evangelism Department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG in Lae)
- Pastor Simon, Oiy and Nopakorn Mackenzie, our missionary family serving in the Nan Province, Thailand
- For Rev Anmouy and the evangelist of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand (ELCT) as they share the good news of Jesus Christ with the Lua people in the Nan Province, Thailand
- Simon King as he serves as in the volunteer role of Program Coordinator for the mission to Lua people in Nan Province, Thailand
- Sally Lim - Lutheran Church of Singapore (LCS) as she takes up the role of Director for Mission of LCS and coordinator of Lutheran World Mission Cambodia and continues the work begun under the leadership of



# Researching **Malanesian** culture and society



It is now two years since I came back to Goroka to work at the Melanesian Institute (MI). I say 'back to Goroka' because I also spent ten years of my childhood in this town. The MI is a research and teaching institute run by four big churches in PNG: the Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran, Anglican and United Churches. Over the forty years of the Institute's life, it has compiled a large body of research into traditional cultures of PNG (and neighbouring parts of Melanesia) and the experiences of modern-day people as they cope with cultural change and 'development'.

I am a member of the MI's research team, which is headed by a sociologist who is also an Italian Catholic priest. During my time here I have spent much of my time on two tasks.

Shortly after I arrived in 2009, the director of the Institute asked me to create a handbook for Papua New Guinean Christians on thinking critically about sorcery and witchcraft. Many people in PNG still attribute bad events (especially untimely deaths) to sorcery or witchcraft. Just as in Europe a few hundred years ago, it is mostly women who are the scapegoats. They are accused of causing bad events by evil witchcraft and are tortured brutally and mercilessly killed. This happens frequently. Between 2003 and 2008 the MI's research team collected lots of information about people's magical beliefs and produced two academic books, but we also wanted to produce a book for less highly educated people. This handbook is now finished and is being printed in two languages: simple English and Tok Pisin.

MI's work on sorcery and witchcraft has prompted people to take the issue seriously. It has influenced the PNG government to review the Sorcery Act, the law governing 'crimes that involve evil magic'. This review is still under way. We hope these handbooks will continue to have a good influence and will help curb the evil of wrongful accusations.

My second task has been to help with research into the views of Christians from the smaller but rapidly growing Evangelical and Pentecostal churches about the HIV and AIDS epidemic in PNG. Some HIV workers from government, NGOs and other churches criticised these smaller churches for things their people were allegedly saying and doing about HIV. For example, some Christian fundamentalists were criticised for being judgmental towards people who are HIV positive and thereby worsening their suffering. Some Pentecostals were criticised for advertising faith healings to boost their memberships and incomes, and some for allegedly claiming that faith healing is conditional upon giving up hospital treatment. This research is now finished, and the 2011 issue of the MI's publication *Point* will report the findings. I wrote some chapters for the report and helped others from non-English-speaking backgrounds to write theirs.

In 2012, MI will continue research on disability in PNG, and it looks as if we'll investigate some aspects of the multi-billion-dollar Exxon-Mobil-backed Liquefied Natural Gas project in PNG's Southern Highlands. This mega-project is predicted to dramatically increase PNG's national income. How the costs and benefits of this project are distributed is an important question for PNG. I look forward to helping answer this question over my next two years here.

*Em tasol.*

**Nick Schwarz**

*Dr William Chang to establish a holistic mission and ministry in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia*

- Warren Schirmer as he serves in the volunteer role of Program Coordinator for the Cambodia mission program of the LCA Board for Mission together with the Lutheran Church in Singapore and other overseas partner Churches
- Leaders and members of our partner Churches in Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Malaysia, Sabah, Thailand and Indonesia
- Leaders and members of the emerging Churches in the Mekong region as they share the love of Jesus Christ with people in their countries - often oppressed and in hostile situations
- Pastors, leaders and people of the Chinese and Asian Lutheran churches in Australia and LCA pastor, Rev Brian Shek as he coordinates and supports the Chinese ministry of the LCA
- Pastors and leaders of the emerging African congregations in the Lutheran Church of Australia
- The pastors and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burundi
- Hanna Schulz as she studies in Melbourne at Wycliffe, Kangaroo Ground in preparation for life as a fulltime Lutheran Bible Translator. For God's direction to the language group, location and for the provision of a translation partner
- LCA Scholarship recipients

- o Rev Dendy Sidauruk, Indonesia (Adelaide)
- o Noa Sokhom, Cambodia (studying at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong)
- o Kristiani Sipahutar, (training in education for blind students), Indonesia
- o Various students from Mentawi Islands, Indonesia
- o Javentus Pasaribu, Indonesia (Abdi Sabda seminary)
- o Jufri Simorangkir, Indonesia
- o Pastors and evangelists at Lutheran Seminary of Thailand (LST), Thailand
- o Rosmah studying at the Theological Seminary of Sabah (STS) and her boys Jimie and Joshua
- o Young people from Mentawi island, Indonesia receiving music scholarships
  - o Rev Abraham Hutasoit, Indonesia (Adelaide)
- For the members of the Prison Ministry team of Abdi Sabda Seminary in Medan, Indonesia as they go into the prisons each week to take the love of Jesus to inmates with words and actions
- Congregations and schools developing mission partnerships with overseas partner churches
- Australian Lutheran World Service as they seek to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" while building the capacity of people groups and churches to respond to the needs of people in their region
- The LCA Board for Mission, ALWS and LEA

*as they seek to support and build the capacity of Lutheran schools in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to deliver quality, Christ-centered education to the young people in their care*

- The growing partnerships with Lutheran Education Australia, LCA Board for Mission and Australian Lutheran World Service and as they seek to encourage Service Learning in Lutheran Schools
- The Lutheran Laypeople's League as they join together with the Board for Mission in various programs to support the mission and ministry of our overseas partner Churches
- For God to open our eyes to see the "fields that are ripe for the harvest" (John 4:35)
- For a mighty group of people of prayer in the LCA to pray for God's mission and the reign of God to be extended throughout Australia and New Zealand and the world
- For workers for the harvest that is all around us - in our homes, in Australia and overseas (Matthew 9:38)
- For the love, justice and compassion of Jesus Christ to grow in each one of us and a willingness for us to go and join him wherever he opens our eyes to see the work that he is already doing in the lives of others
- "Lord, renew your church, begin with me"



# Mission Response form

You are invited to join in God's mission in the world by supporting the LCA's Board for Mission work through our partner churches.

Please tick the people and projects you would like to support and write the amount of your gifts in the spaces provided

## I would like to support the following

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission work carried out by Simon and Oiy Mackenzie in Thailand  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission work carried out by Greg Schiller in Papua New Guinea (PNG)  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support for the restoration of Gaubin Hospital on Karkar island, PNG   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for PNG   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships (church partners in Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia, Burundi, Malaysia, PNG, Sabah and Thailand) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth work programs in Sabah   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission outreach to Kubu tribal people in Indonesia  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanages in Indonesia  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LCA/LLL projects in Indonesia  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible translation (LBTA)   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission outreach to indigenous people (Orang Asli) in Malaysia   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships for children of pastors in PNG  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training of evangelists and church leaders in China (partnership program with BCCM, Sabah)                   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seminaries in Sabah, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and PNG   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical mission work in PNG  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books for the seminary libraries of our overseas partner churches  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prison ministry team of Abdi Sabda Seminary, Indonesia   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry and mission work in Cambodia, in partnership with Lutheran Church in Singapore                      | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Giraffe courses  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homes for neglected and abused children in Malaysia  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bethany and Luther Ria Homes for disabled people in Malaysia   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yapentra school for blind students in Indonesia  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore International Seafarers' Mission   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore Thai Good News Centre  | \$ _____ |

## Payment Options

If you would like to sponsor one or more of the above mission projects, you can do so in one of the following ways:

### Online or by Electronic Funds Transfer

Please contact the BfM on 08 8267 7334 for more details

### Credit Card or Cheque

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (cheques payable to *Board for Mission*)

Please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card no. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Your details

☐ Please send me a receipt

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed form to:** BfM, 197 Archer St, North Adelaide SA 5006

*Donations to LCA Board for Mission are not tax deductible.*

Getting involved...

## volunteer opportunities

The opportunities and places are many and the experience - life-changing!

Have you considered volunteering in mission with one of our overseas partner churches?

### Malaysia

- Bethany Home and Rumah Luther Ria (schools / homes for people with disabilities) – teachers with 'special' education qualifications; pastors or people able to provide spiritual care and encouragement for the staff and children; adults and young adults needed for practical service
- Rumah Chrestus (home for abused children)
- Rumah Hope (home for orphans, abused and neglected children)
- Rumah Love and Care (home for aged people)
- Teaching English to the indigenous children and adults (Orang Asli)

### Sabah

- Teachers of English, music and computing at the Grace Centre (3 schools for the "undocumented" children – from the families of migrant workers and illegal immigrants in Sabah)
- Practical service at Jireh Foster Home for neglected, underprivileged and abused children

### Indonesia

- Teaching English in the schools
- Teaching English (in the seminaries)
- Practical service at Yapentra School for blind students in Medan
- Teaching English for the pastors', leaders' and seminary students' courses
- Teaching English and practical help in various orphanages

### Papua New Guinea

- Librarian to catalogue donated books in the seminary libraries

**Consider encouraging your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group to become personally involved in a mission partnership.**

### Papua New Guinea

- Congregation willing to pray for, support and partner with Pastor Greg Schiller as he serves in Lae
- Congregation to congregation partnership
- Youth group exchange and youth music/ministry teams

- Maintenance teams in various locations
- Teachers for youth ministry leaders' and pastors' courses
- Partnership with Lutheran school

### Thailand

- Congregations willing to pray for, support and partner with Pastor Simon Mackenzie and his wife Oiy as they serve in the Nan province in northern Thailand

### Indonesia

- Partnership with Lutheran school
- Regional partnership
- Partnership with an orphanage
- Support for Indonesian scholarship recipients studying at Australian Lutheran College (ALC) or in-country

### Malaysia

- Youth partnership
- Congregation to congregation
- Supporting a scholarship recipient
- Supporting Bethany Home and Rumah Luther Ria Homes for people with disabilities

### Singapore

- Supporting a scholarship recipient

### Cambodia

- Partnership with Lutheran Church Singapore working in teams in Cambodia

### Sabah

- Youth group participation in youth camp ministry
- Supporting students studying for pastoral and lay ministry
- Supporting lecturers at the seminary (Sabah Theological Seminary)

If you would like to know how you can volunteer in mission overseas or if you would like to begin to understand how your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group can partner in mission, please contact the Board for Mission: **Email [bfm@lca.org.au](mailto:bfm@lca.org.au) or Phone (08) 8267 7334**

*The Board for Mission will endeavor where possible to help to provide opportunities for individuals to serve as volunteers. However this is not always possible due to Australian Government (DAFT) travel warnings for certain countries and the changing needs of the institutions of the partner Churches.*