

BORDER CROSSINGS



global partners · local church



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**

global partners · local church

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PARTNERS IN REFLECTING JESUS' LOVE



'So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others' (Philippians 2:1–2,4 – ESV).

Within Paul's letter to the Philippians is the theme of unity in partnership. This spans from Paul's second missionary journey to his imprisonment in Rome.

This truly reciprocal partnership is one in which, as Paul and the Philippian church have fellowship in God's grace, they are loving, serving, faithful and considerate of one another. Paul and the Philippians share complementary strengths and give each other the opportunity, means and space to fulfil their mission together. Their bond is in Jesus Christ, which enables them to share in the mutual goal of the advancement of the gospel.

Like Paul and the Philippians, you, as a member of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand, along with communities in Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, have different strengths to offer and different areas needing support.

We pray this edition of Border Crossings encourages you in partnership with our brothers and sisters overseas, united in love. The gospel is the message about Christ's humble, self-giving love. We pray through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that we will live our lives in partnership in a way that reflects the gospel, so others see in us the humility and self-giving love of Jesus.

Erin Kerber

Program Officer LCA International Mission

The LCA has two arms reaching out across the borders of our country to share Jesus' love – LCA International Mission and Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS).

LCA International Mission has the responsibility for mission and evangelism so that, through the work of the Holy Spirit and in partnership with others, we can bring the life-changing news of the gospel to people overseas and cross-culturally in Australia.

Through LCA International Mission you are enabling Jesus' love to come to life in the lives of many people across the borders of our country and particularly in our near-neighbour countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

Lenten prayer guide



Watch out for the 40 days Lenten prayer guide for 2018, which will be available in time for Lent next year to download from our website or in hard copy format from the LCA International Mission office (see top of page for contact details).



TEAMING UP TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

The mission statement of Ipswich Lutheran Church is 'To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known'. To fulfil this mission, we embarked on a journey with LCA International Mission to find a partner church in a developing country.

We felt a clear call from God to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Myanmar (ELCM or Lutheran Bethlehem Church).

Myanmar (formerly Burma) is a country just emerging from decades of military rule and beginning to find its feet in the 21st century. It is 85 per cent Buddhist.

Earlier this year I travelled with Ipswich members Martin and Pauline Oldfield and Erin Kerber from LCA International Mission to the city of Yangon to formalise the partnership. This was a joyous time as we got to know President Pastor Jensen Andrews, his son Luke and several members of Lutheran Bethlehem Church. This remarkable congregation was founded in 1878 and we are the first Lutheran congregation to partner with them!

We were privileged and humbled to visit two of the villages in which they have established mission activities.

The first village was about two hours south of Yangon, and on a very hot, humid day we travelled by car, canoe, motorbike and on foot to a small farming community where local members had set up an activity area under tarpaulins.

We were greeted by a happy gathering of nearly 200 women and children (the men were working in the fields), many of whom had walked for several hours to attend.

The period between the dry and the wet season is a difficult time for these families and we were privileged to be able to provide each family with enough rice and oil for about a week.

The second village was five hours north of Yangon. This is a relatively new and unique mission centre for ELCM. It is primarily an Indian village but there is tension between Burmese and Indian people, and this was the first time that they had come together. The feeling within this group was one of interested but reserved observation rather than the joy we saw at the first village.

An ELCM evangelist, who was forced to learn Hindi as a child, now sees his personal mission as going into this Hindustani village and sharing Christ with them in their native language. Pastor Andrews and I, together with two evangelists, prayed for healing for many of the local people.

We did see real joy when we made our last visit to a small village where we were able to witness Pastor Andrews baptising 10 members of one family. These were the first baptisms in this village since its recent cleansing from all Hindu idols. I was honoured to be able to share a word of encouragement with villagers from Romans 6. We worshipped with them and the singing and music was sheer joy!

We left thanking God for the opportunity to build relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the exciting possibilities of ways this partnership will continue to grow God's Kingdom in a place where Jesus is so desperately needed.

Pastor Ben Hentschke is the Associate Pastor at Ipswich Lutheran Church, Queensland.



If you, your congregation or school would like to know how you can Connect to the mission of God with one of the LCA's International Mission partnerships, please contact Erin Kerber at erin.kerber@lca.org.au or phone 08 8267 7300

Reaching out TO MALAYSIA'S CHILDREN

The Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) has an exciting vision. It wants to reach out to families with young children and share the message of God's love. This may sound easy but it is very challenging in a non-Christian majority community.

Christians are free to worship within their own church but it is illegal to try to convert a Muslim person. Malaysian Lutherans have come to realise, however, that there are opportunities to share the gospel by building relationships with the families of children attending Lutheran kindergartens. A decision has been made to focus on education so more children attend a Lutheran school and the gospel is shared with their families.

The LCA is partnering with LCM and providing support for the project and we are blessed to be able to offer support and advice to members of the new Lutheran education committee in Malaysia and other Lutheran educators. The initial plan is for existing Lutheran kindergartens to form a network. The ultimate dream is to establish an education system of colleges for students of all ages.

It is a miracle the Malaysian government approved a new Lutheran church being built in Mont Kiara, Kuala Lumpur, and for the establishment of a new pilot project kindergarten on the building's lower level. The kindergarten will open next year – another miracle as another church/kindergarten is still waiting for approval years after its completion

and the students are still located in temporary shipping containers!

The new Mont Kiara kindergarten will use the Australian Early Years Framework as well as the local Malaysian Education Department curriculum. The children will be busy learning through play and will learn in three languages – Malay, English and Mandarin. The Mont Kiara kindergarten will also be a learning centre for teachers and assistants.

LCA International Mission provided scholarships for the director and assistant director of the Mont Kiara kindergarten to visit Australia and spend time in our kindergartens. This gave them an understanding of Lutheran education in Australia and time to plan the curriculum they will implement at Mont Kiara.

We recently visited Lutheran kindergartens in Kuala Lumpur, and met with LCM Bishop Aaron Yap and members of the education committee. It was a joy to see the enthusiasm of the kindy students and staff.

We also were given the opportunity to be keynote speakers at a conference to launch Lutheran Education Malaysia. More than 70 people participated, many of whom were staff members in kindergartens. It was very moving to hear that a group had travelled from close to the Thai border, leaving at 2.00am so they could attend! The workshops focused on Lutheran theology and the way it informs all aspects of Lutheran education.



We will continue to work with Lutheran Education Malaysia and assist with the ongoing professional development of kindergarten staff, particularly in Lutheran theology and policies relating to maintaining a safe school environment. LCM is very appreciative of the support of LCA International Mission and Lutheran Education Australia.

It is so exciting to know that many families in Malaysia will hear about God's love for them through Lutheran kindergartens and schools and that the Lutheran Church in Malaysia has responded so positively to Jesus' words: 'Let the children come to me'.

Pastor John and Ilene Thiel are volunteer LCA International Mission mentors for Lutheran Education Malaysia.

GOD IS OPENING GLOBAL DOORS



God is opening doors for the gospel to be made known throughout the world. And we are privileged to be part of what God is doing through the journey with our Lutheran mission partner churches in Indonesia and Japan.

LCA International Mission has partnered with LCA Reconciliation Ministry to provide short-term scholarships for three overseas Lutheran pastors. Rev Dr Jon Raihman Sipayung and Rev Rio Pendi Nababan from Indonesia were in Australia for eight weeks, while Rev Shigeo Sueoka from Japan visited for five weeks.

Having Dr Jon and Pastor Rio in Australia built on the biblical reconciliation training I led in Indonesia with my son, James, in 2015.

Dr Jon is a member of the Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (GKPS) and lectures at Abdi Sabda Theological College in Medan. Pastor Rio is a parish pastor in HKI, the (Huria Kristen Indonesia) Indonesian Christian Church, and is doing post-graduate studies at Abdi Sabda. Pastor Sueoka of the Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC) is pastor of two congregations and serves as Chairman of KELC's mission strategy and theological committees.

Our international guests visited Tarrington Parish, Victoria, where a reconciliation peacemaking team provides opportunities for people to grow, and Tarrington Lutheran School, where biblical reconciliation has guided teachers and children to live a lifestyle of confession and forgiveness.

The scholarship trio also visited Redeemer Toowoomba, Queensland, where members are taking a two-year Bible study journey to support spiritual health and outreach; and participated at the Western Australian District Pastors Conference, where the focus was biblical reconciliation in a pastor's life.

The scholarship also addressed ways of introducing and nurturing what was learnt by each recipient in his home ministries.

Our international guests received basic knowledge in Christian peacemaking, teaching others biblical reconciliation and preparation to serve those who are in conflict.

Pastor Sueoka is thankful God has opened doors for him to strengthen his relationship with God based on the theology of the cross, and to develop skills in bringing forgiveness among people. He is looking forward to God working through him to fill his church with God's peace in the midst of the world's suffering.

Dr Jon's hope is for God to deepen his skills in biblical reconciliation and to apply it in serving ecumenical students, and in his lectures at Abdi Sabda College. He also hopes God will allow him to study further to learn how to build reconciliation ministry in all Lutheran churches in Indonesia.

Pastor Rio said: 'What I am learning is very important for people in my church to become reconciled. I can see the need for biblical teaching in my church'.

It is a joy to share the gift of biblical reconciliation ministry. While we have similar situations to our mission partner churches, there is great blessing in learning about different cultures in connecting the gospel with people.

Please pray for our international guests, their families and their churches. We thank God for building a network of people who nurture lifestyles of confession and forgiveness and proclaim the gospel.

Thank you God for opening doors, for building and blessing our journey together in a ministry that brings clarity of the gospel as people live out their faith in Jesus.

As Pastor Rio says: 'mantap!', which means 'awesome, wonderful'!

Pastor Paul Kerber is the LCA's Assistant to the Bishop – Reconciliation Ministry.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH TO BRING MEDICAL CARE

We are excited to share with you our project of supplying medical care in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with Wycliffe Bible Translators and its partner SIL International (originally Summer Institute of Linguistics).

My wife Anke is a physiotherapist, while I am a general practitioner, and we have two sons, Jeremy and Benjamin. Anke and I have been keen on serving in PNG ever since our medical/physiotherapy electives in Wewak on New Guinea island's northern coast in 2005. That year, we had come to PNG from our native Germany towards the end of our respective studies to experience the exciting and challenging world of medical care in a developing country.

When leaving Germany, little did we know that those 40 days in PNG were to serve as a primer for our adventure in mission work. On returning to Germany, we had no doubt that we had a mission now and that there was a life plan for us. In hindsight, we can see where God was in the action, guiding and protecting us.

Twelve years have passed since, which we filled with finishing studies, moving to Australia, completing specialist training, and starting our family. The time is now right for us to step out in faith by returning to PNG to work in our respective professions and provide care to locals and missionaries alike.

We are particularly excited that we have been able to start a relationship with Wycliffe Bible Translators, as we had intense contact with missionaries serving with Wycliffe's partner SIL in 2005. Living with them and seeing how their Christian faith translated into their lives, where every word, every handshake and every deed was motivated by faith lived to the fullest, inspired us beyond description.

So in a way, we feel by working for SIL that our PNG story has come full circle. We thank Glenice Hartwich from LCA International Mission for pointing us in SIL's direction when we contacted her some time ago about how to get into mission work in PNG.

So what's the plan? Currently, we are working on getting ready for deployment to SIL's mission hub in Ukarumpa in PNG's Eastern Highlands. Ideally, we would like to depart sometime next year. We will be based in the Ukarumpa clinic and our children will be able to attend the local school there. Currently we are aiming for approximately two years of deployment.

SIL volunteers rely on donations and support from individuals and organisations, as it is not paid work. For the next months, our focus will be on building relationships with congregations and individuals to grow our support base and get the word out. As Lutherans we are thrilled to have LCA on board as a major supporter and as German ex-pats, we are also able to tap into connections in Europe, so it will be a truly international project.

We are yet to formally join Wycliffe as members, so more information on how to support us will be provided down the track. God bless!



Patrick and Anke are members at St Mark's Lutheran Church, Mount Barker, South Australia. If you are interested in learning more about what they will be doing in PNG, please contact Nevin Nitschke at nevin.nitschke@lca.org.au or phone 08 8267 7300, or contact Patrick and Anke Sprau directly at sprau.mission@gmail.com

JOIN IN GOD'S MISSION

Through LCA International Mission, Lutherans in Australia and New Zealand are following our Lord Jesus Christ in his mission to make disciples of all nations.

1 PRAY

Many of our partner churches are working in new territory for the kingdom of God, and spiritual attack is their everyday reality. As a member of a congregation, school, or family, or as a couple or individual, please commit to praying for our partners in mission.



I'M JOINING IN
GOD'S MISSION BY
praying for

- Michael (Mick) Hauser, as he serves as a lecturer at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae, Papua New Guinea
- Hanna Schulz, as she continues in the ministry of Bible translation for the Kobe people in the Gulf Province of Papua New Guinea
- Margaret Mickan, Bible translator and linguist in the Northern Territory, as she retires
- Nathan and Stacey, as they serve in West Asia
- Bishops, leaders and members of our overseas Lutheran partner churches in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea, as they share the love of Jesus Christ with people in their regions
- The Provisional Orang Asli (indigenous people) District, a newly established district of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia
- Strengthening of the partnership between Concordia College, St. John's Campus and the teachers and schools of the Siassi District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
- Mr Ridwin Purba, National Education Secretary for the Lutheran churches in Indonesia, and Dr Neville Highett, LCA International Mission education consultant, as they help to support the education reform in the schools of the Lutheran churches in Indonesia
- Pastor Amnuay and the evangelists sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the Lua people in Thailand's Nan Province
- Chak Mun, a Field Coordinator from the Lutheran Church in Singapore, supporting projects and programs of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia
- The ministry team and people of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia, as they continue to share the gospel with their families and the people of their schools, universities, villages, rural areas and the city of Phnom Penh
- Strengthening of the partnership between Ipswich Lutheran Church, Queensland, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar
- LCA International Mission Volunteer Program Assistants Colin and Ruth Hayter (Papua New Guinea), and Warren and Marianne Schirmer, and David Pietsch (Cambodia)
- People willing to serve as volunteers in and with our overseas partner churches
- For the love, justice and compassion of Jesus Christ to grow in each one of us
- For the willingness for us to join our heavenly Father wherever he opens our eyes, to see the work that he is already doing in the lives of others through the Holy Spirit

For regular prayer point updates, check out the LCA International Mission website www.lcamission.org.au/join-gods-mission/pray/
They can also be accessed via the monthly LCA eNews – to sign up, go to www.lca.org.au/enews

'Lord, renew your church, begin with me!'



2 GIVE

We take great care of your financial gifts. You can be confident they will assist our partner Lutheran churches to bring the good news of Jesus to their communities.



I'M JOINING IN
GOD'S MISSION BY
giving to...

... LCA International Mission's work with our partner churches
(Please indicate the people and projects you would like to support and write the amount of your gift/s in the spaces provided.)

- ☐ Teaching ministry by Mick Hauser in **Papua New Guinea (PNG)** \$ _____
- ☐ Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for **PNG** \$ _____
- ☐ LCA lecturers to teach courses in **Lutheran overseas partner churches** \$ _____
- ☐ Scholarships for pastors and teachers of **Lutheran overseas partner churches** \$ _____
- ☐ School and ministry training rooms, Phnom Penh, Lutheran Church in **Cambodia** \$ _____
- ☐ Bethany Home for young people with disabilities in **Malaysia** \$ _____
- ☐ Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in **Malaysia** \$ _____
- ☐ Youth ministry program in Sabah, **Malaysia** \$ _____
- ☐ Mission work carried out with the Lua people in Nan Province, **Thailand** \$ _____
- ☐ Prison ministry in **Indonesia** \$ _____
- ☐ Books for the seminary libraries (for **overseas partner churches**) \$ _____
- ☐ Publication of Lutheran literature in **Indonesia** \$ _____
- ☐ Ministry in the Mekong region South-East Asia (through **Mekong Mission Forum**) \$ _____
- ☐ LCA lecturers to teach courses in **Myanmar** \$ _____
- ☐ **LCA International Mission** – sharing the stories of God's mission \$ _____
- ☐ I would like to become a partner with LCA International Mission (please send me information)
☐ Pray ☐ Give ☐ Connect ☐ Go
- ☐ I would like to leave a bequest for LCA International Mission in my will (please send me information)

You can support one or more of the above mission projects in any of the following ways:

- online at www.lca.org.au/international-mission/act-now/donate/ (credit card)
- OR fill out the form below (credit card or cheque)
- OR Electronic Funds Transfer; please contact LCA International Mission on **08 8267 7300** for more details

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____
(cheques payable to LCA International Mission)

Please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card no

Expiry / CCV

Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

_____ P/C _____

Email _____

Phone _____

☐ Please send me a receipt

Please send this completed form to **LCA International Mission**,
197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006

Want more? You can experience firsthand how God's love is coming to life through the word-and-action gospel work of our partner churches. Please talk to us about volunteering opportunities – and be prepared to be changed forever.



I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION BY volunteering

CAMBODIA

- Teach English at the Rainbow Student Hostel (Phnom Penh)
- Teach English and computing at the Life Centre (Phum Krus)
- Teach English at Tang Krang

INDONESIA

- Teach English to students at STT HKBP Seminary, Pematangsiantar
- Teach conversational English at the Bible Frau School, which trains young women to preach and teach
- Teach handcrafts, English and vocational 'ed' for street people at the HKBP Caritas centre in Pematangsiantar
- Teach English and help in the library at the Deaconess School, a well-run school in the heart of North Sumatra
- Teach English to lecturers/students in an audio room at Abdi Sabda Seminary

THAILAND

- Teach English or use music, art, sport, special education or IT skills at Home of Praise, a pre-school for children living in the slums of Bangkok
- Teach English or use handcraft or café skills at Home of Grace, a home where young unmarried women and their infants can be cared for
- Teach English in local schools in Nan Province – no qualifications needed

MALAYSIA

- Work with people with special needs, including speech/physical therapy, craft skills, music, sport, nursing, special education or pastoral care at Bethany Home
- Teach conversational English at one of four schools in rural Sabah, working with students and teaching staff to improve their English skills

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Teach theology or English at Martin Luther Seminary – please note, this role is also suitable for secondary teachers with a Diploma in Theology
- Partner with a men's ministry group in PNG to share their love for Jesus while also doing some maintenance work at Lae Guest House

SINGAPORE

- Teach English at the Thai Good News Center

MYANMAR

- Lead women's ministry topics at conferences held in Yangon to improve the leadership skills of women in the church
- Assist with planting crops in local villages
- Lecture or teach in mission, agriculture and farming at the Lutheran Bible Training Institute, Mawbi
- Teach English, IT or business management for the Lutheran Bethlehem Church, Myanmar Lutheran Church or the Lutheran Church of Myanmar

WHAT TO DO NEXT ...

If you would like to know more about volunteering in mission overseas, check out our website www.lca.org.au/international-mission or contact Nevin Nitschke (LCA International Mission Program Officer) at nevin.nitschke@lca.org.au or lcaim@lca.org.au or phone 08 8267 7300



SERVES 6

BUTTER CHICKEN

(mild chicken curry)

Ingredients

- 1 kg chicken (diced)
- 2 onions (diced)
- 2 tbsp oil
- 75 g butter
- Butter chicken paste (I like Patak's)
- 2 tsp ginger (grated)
- 2 tsp garlic (chopped)
- 300 ml water
- 400 g tinned tomatoes (or tomato puree)
- 300 ml cream (light)
- 1 tsp sugar (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Method

Heat oil and butter in pan and fry onion until soft.

Add ginger, garlic and butter chicken paste and cook for 2 minutes.

Add 100 ml of the water and simmer until water has almost evaporated.

Add chicken and cook until sealed.

Add diced tomatoes and remaining 200 ml of water, simmer uncovered for 15 minutes.

Add cream (and sugar if needed), gently simmer for 4 minutes.

Season to taste.

Serve with rice and naan bread.