

# LCA Parish Nurse News

No 130 May 2018



## Resources for Goroka hospital

Equipment, furnishings and fittings from two Adelaide hospitals will shortly be on their way as a gift to the hospital in Goroka in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea (pictured). Most of the Parish Nurses serving in Goroka are staff members at this hospital, including the Director of Nursing, Sonia Korowi.

The project, which is expected to fill two small shipping containers, is being coordinated by Pastor Len Tschärke, who served for a number of years as a missionary in the Goroka area. The local coordinator in Goroka is Sonia Korowi.



Pastor Len Tschärke



Sonia Korowi

The items to be shipped include two electric hot water systems, two washing machines, two industrial clothes dryers, one electric food warmer, one dish washer, an industrial cooker, stainless steel bench tops, mattresses and high grade hospital

linen. They come from two sources: the old Royal Adelaide Hospital, and a Catholic hospital in suburban Adelaide. Much is in near-new condition. Before shipping, compatibility of the equipment with local power sources is being checked.

Pastor Tschärke is organising payment of the cost of purchasing the containers, and the cost of shipping the goods to Lae. From there, locals will be responsible for transporting the containers to Goroka. Smaller containers have been chosen so they can negotiate the narrow, winding Highlands Highway.

Already Pastor Tschärke has received a gift of \$5000 from one donor to help offset costs, as well as \$4500 from the Magill congregation in suburban Adelaide, which he served as a pastor for some years. A further \$600 is needed.

An account has been opened with the Lutheran Laypeople's League, and anyone willing to assist with this project may forward a cheque made out to 'Goroka Hospital Project' to Pastor Tschärke at 6 Katamara Rd, Fairview Park, SA 5126.

## 25 years of care at Glenelg

Last September, St Paul's Lutheran Community Care at Glenelg, an Adelaide beach-side suburb, marked its 25 years of operation at a thanksgiving service at the St Paul's church. Former and present community care volunteers gathered to celebrate the centre's achievements over the past quarter century.

Throughout this time it has been a safe place where people suffering hardship have found support and been welcomed. Its current coordinator is Registered Nurse, Helen Swift. In 2012 Helen completed the LCA's *Introduction to Pastoral Care Nursing* course at Pasadsena in suburban Adelaide.

Helen said the centre at Glenelg had grown from humble beginnings, and maintained its vision to reflect God's love in the community.

'There was no church office (in 1992)', she said, 'so if people in need sought assistance for emergency relief, they would have to visit the manse.'

It soon became obvious to a small group of congregational members that people were struggling in the wider community to put food on their tables. They also observed the need for food and clothing was on the increase.

A community care centre in the church's Martin Luther House building was soon opened, but questions were raised as to who would finance the project. There were no readily available funds and the congregation was not able to support the venture financially.

The idea of an op-shop was raised and was established with the aim to sell affordable clothing to generate funds. This op-shop is still supporting many members of the public today.

Helen said that *St Paul's* continues to do what it did 25 years ago, treating all people of different backgrounds with dignity and respect.

'Today we still provide emergency food parcels, clothing from the op-shop, household goods and pharmaceutical requirements', she said.

'Our clients share with us their stories of hardship, disappointments, abuse, financial concerns and any other matters that are troubling them, knowing that where we can help, we will.'

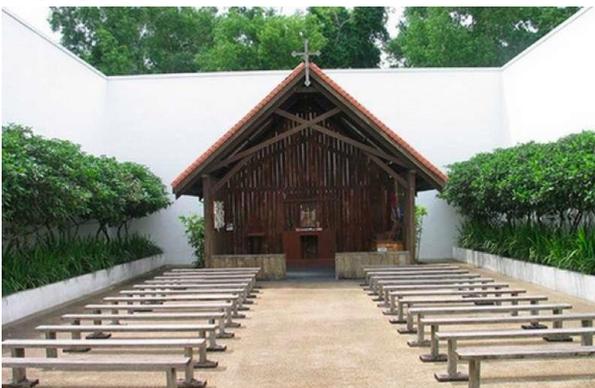
'We give thanks to our heavenly Father, that he inspired those few congregational members back in 1992 to establish a community care centre, so that we here at *St Paul's* can continue the work that God has called us to do.'

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## LPNI study tours



Itineraries and registration forms are now available for the 2019 study tour to Singapore. The tour is scheduled for 3-9 October. The program includes a tour of the island, with a visit to the site of the World War II prison museum and chapel at Changi (pictured).



There will be a seminar at the Redeemer Lutheran church; local pastors will be invited to the after-

noon session of the seminar so they can learn about the Pastoral Care Nurse ministry.

The 2020 study tour will be to Alice Springs. Details are still being planned, but it will include a visit to the Royal Flying Doctor base, to the Lutheran Mission at Herrmannsburg, and to tourist sites such as Standley Chasm and Uluru.



Robert J Wiebuch