

global partners local church NOVEMBER 2014

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**Border Crossings** Official publication of LCA Mission International



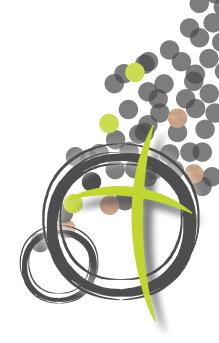
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Take my glasses off me, and my world is blurred—very blurred! I can't see what's right in front of me. Only those things which are bright and bold or make a lot of noise attract my attention.

The same goes for my spiritual sight. Take off my 'prayer glasses' and deplete my time spent in God's Word, and my spiritual vision is blurred—very blurred. Work tasks, busyness and the noises of other 'important' duties get my attention. How easy it is for me at these times to miss the activity of God in the world and among the people he places right in front of me. How easy it is for me to get caught up in the busyness of work (even church work and activities) and many other 'important' tasks that shout for my attention. How easy it is for me to lose sight of Jesus and his Spirit at work in people.

Jesus' words speak clearly in these times: 'Well, I'm telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what's right in front of you. These Samaritan fields are ripe. It's harvest time!' (John 4:34-38 MESSAGE), and: 'On your knees and pray for harvest hands' (Matthew 9:35-38 MESSAGE).

I'm praying for clear vision and eyes wide open for me and for you ... to have eyes to see where Jesus is working, and to join him in his mission in the world, wherever that is.

Program Officer

LCA Mission International





'After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no-one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb' (Rev 7:9 NIV).

These are of course John's words as he sees the heavenly worship on the Lord's Day. They also vividly describe what I saw as I worshipped in Phnom Penh early in 2013 at the opening of the City Church of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia. That day we were privileged to see 35 people of all ages baptised into God's family. We were a congregation of people from rural and urban Cambodia, from Singapore and other Asian nations, from Europe, and yes, even from Australia.

My great joy and inspiration as LCA
Mission Director has been to see the
reality of heavenly worship on earth
with people from so many other lands
and languages.

For all of us—you and me and sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world—this is the picture of heavenly worship today, of people whose sins have been forgiven because of the Lamb who was slain and who live new and eternal life through the free gift of God given in this Jesus.

This is our reality. The fears of terrorism, of the devil, of the world and of our own sinful selves can often threaten us. Our own selfishness and inward focus are constant threats. But God, by his Spirit, keeps on coming, keeps on calling us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the Lamb at the centre of the throne. And there we find again that we are not alone. There we find people like us, from every nation, tribe and language.

My great joy and inspiration as LCA Mission Director has been to see the reality of heavenly worship on earth with people from so many other lands and languages.

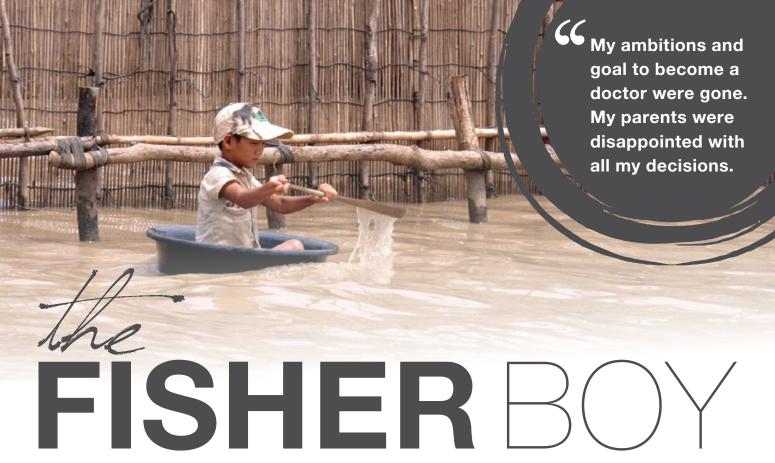
I encourage you too to know that in our neighbourhood in Papua New Guinea, in Indonesia, in Singapore, in Malaysia and now also in the Mekong countries such as Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia, we are part of a wonderful congregation of Lutheran Christians. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus and keep learning how to walk with them and with Christians in the northern hemisphere to bring the good news of Jesus to the many millions of people who do not yet know him as Saviour.

The joy of the Lord's salvation as people come to saving faith! That's what I witnessed in Phnom Penh, and the work of the gospel continues there today. I ask for your continued partnership support as LCA Mission International continues to partner with other Lutheran Christians there and in PNG and elsewhere in Asia. To God be all glory!

'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for 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' (Phil 1:3–6 NIV).

### **Pastor Neville Otto**

Mission Director Lutheran Church of Australia



Just as God had his eye on the baby Moses in a floating basket, so God had his eye on a young boy in a floating village.

It's 1980. Azaria Chamberlain disappears from a campsite at Ayers Rock. John Lennon is assassinated. Mount St Helens erupts, killing over 60 people. And in Cambodia, where over two million people had died under Pol Pot's barbaric Khmer Rouge regime, now Vietnamese armed forces are invading.

Far from the news headlines, on 15 December 1980, in the Cambodian province of Pursat, Daniel Tina Orn is born into an impoverished family, struggling to survive in a hostile situation. After Daniel's birth, the family lives in a floating house on Tonlé Sap Lake.

Daniel shares some of his story. 'There were nine of us in the family. I was the oldest child. My older brother had passed away due to malnutrition when he was only one month old. Later, one of my sisters died. That was at the time after the Pol Pot regime. My parents sent me to school only in 1990, when I was nine years old. My studies were disrupted two years later and I had to work as a fisher boy to help support my family.'

Daniel was able to go back to school again in 1993. He excelled in his studies and was promoted to higher levels. He was a hardworking student and wanted to be a doctor. In high school, a friend shared the gospel with Daniel.

'He shared with me many things about Jesus, whom he called Lord', Daniel recalls. 'One day he gave me a tract called "Life's Destiny". The content gripped my heart. I was unsure about my destiny after life on Earth and that made me interested to read and learn more about God.

'God opened my eyes. I could not deny the declaration about sin in Romans 3:23 and 6:23. I realised I could not do anything to save myself. But, by grace, the sinless Jesus died in my place and rose again three days later.'

On 16 April 1998 Daniel admitted he was a sinner and that Jesus was his Lord and Saviour. He was baptised on 21 August that year.

After he had completed high school, Daniel was challenged by his former pastor to study at the Bible college in Phnom Penh City.

Daniel felt the call of God and enrolled in the Cambodia Bible Baptist College.

'I graduated in 2004 and began ministry in the Kampong Thum province, where I served for three years', he says. 'My ambitions and goal to become a doctor were gone. 'My parents were disappointed with all my decisions.'

In 2005 the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) established ministry in Cambodia, commencing with medical mission clinics. Daniel was invited by LCS pastor and mission team leader, Dr William Chang, to join the ministry as a translator. This ministry and mission continued to grow, and soon a ministry centre was established in Phum Krus. At the beginning of 2010 the Lutheran Church of Cambodia was established. A hostel ministry in Phnom Penh began in 2011, and in 2013 a new building to accommodate up to 60 tertiary students was dedicated.

Daniel continues: 'The Lutheran Church in Cambodia's two congregations have many dynamic youth, who are reaching out to people in three provinces. The great many needs of people in Cambodia require an holistic approach to ministry, meeting both physical and spiritual needs of the people.'

As the church grows, these challenges become more acute, and pastors and leaders will need to be continually equipped. Daniel is studying at Phnom Penh Bible College, while at the same time continuing to oversee the ministry program of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia.

As a member of the LCA, you have partnered with Pastor Daniel and the other ministry leaders of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia, and with the Lutheran Church in Singapore, in the next exciting step in God's mission for the people of Cambodia. This year, through your generous giving, land has been purchased alongside the Rainbow student hostel and City Church in Phnom Penh. There are plans to build a Lutheran pre-school and ministry training rooms on this land. Mission is always the people's focus.

Pastor Daniel has been there from the beginning, watching God's mission unfold before his eyes. The baby, born into poverty, who became a fisher boy to feed his family, is now a fisher of men, and feeding God's family.

'I am one of the founding staff members of the church', says Pastor Daniel. 'I have always considered myself a part of the Lutheran family, and my commitment is to serve the church as long as my service is needed.'



Pastor Daniel (pictured here praying with a lady

in her home in Phum Krus village) is married to Sreypov, and they are blessed with three children: Naomi, David and Christian.

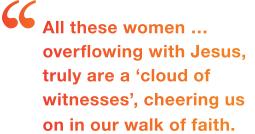
They serve together with Mrs Sally Lim/Kee (pictured) from the Lutheran Church in Singapore, Pastor Mose Lat in Phum Krus in Kampong Chhnang province, and Pastor Vibol Khit at the Rainbow Hostel and City Church in Phnom Penh.

You are invited to join them and our Cambodian brothers and sisters in God's mission to people who are so open to the good news of Jesus Christ. (Learn how: pages 11 and 12.)



## 





There has been careful planning by the local conference committee, supported with finance provided by local politicians. In a never-ending stream, people from the host district come to the conference daily, carrying loads of fresh vegetables, sweet potatoes, and animals. Makeshift accommodation structures and 'huas kuk' (kitchens) spread out across the undulating landscape, providing places for the people to gather after the sessions.

What a joy to see how God has taken the offering of service of many people (local and overseas) and grown this ministry among the women of PNG into a huge host of faithful believers. They love Jesus, and love to serve him in their homes and communities. Some are dedicated to serve without pay as teachers in the five Meri Wok (women's work) training schools of ELCPNG.

All these women (and men and young people), overflowing with Jesus, truly are a 'cloud of witnesses', cheering us on in our walk of faith.





LWA President Tanna Mackenzie shares some precious memories with Lulan Kae. Tanna was a teacher in Siassi in the early 1970s. Lulan is a national Meri Wok (women's work) training school coordinator.

# Building THE BACKBONE

For several decades Lutheran women from Australia and other countries served in PNG training schools and as teachers in the districts and churches of ELCPNG. Mainly they were deaconesses, teachers or the wives of expatriate staff serving as missionaries. Many served in Meri Wok (similar to the LCA's lay ministry, but exclusively for women).

These days, ministry among women is carried out fully by the many and dedicated women of the ELCPNG. The women are the backbone of faith formation, building strong foundations of faith in the women themselves and through them in the families and communities of ELCPNG.

Recently Narelle Bowden-Ford (former ALWS staff member who served in PNG) has provided expertise for the development of Meri Wok's fiveyear strategic plan. Lutheran Women of Australia (LWA) have financially supported the new curriculum, which is being developed for use within the five Women's Work training schools of ELCPNG.

LWA also support the LCA's partnership with ELCPNG through the provision of funds for solar panels for rural and remote health clinics, scholarships for the education of children of pastors, and practical birthing kits for mothers in remote regions of PNG.

The LCA, through LCA Mission International, continues to walk with the people of ELCPNG through the work of Pastor Greg Schiller at Ogelbeng Seminary, Nick Schwarz at the Melanesian Institute, and Hanna Schulz as a Bible translator. It also assists through capacity-building in education through the Lutheran Education Department of ELCPNG, scholarships for PNG ministry staff, support for seminaries' libraries, and support for the office of the bishop.



## OPE principals

LCA Mission International has identified the need to work with partner churches to develop capacity of individuals within each country of operation. The partnerships, which are formally documented, are based on needs identified by local people but within the scope of LCA Mission International's capacity to assist.

The National Committee of Lutheran World Federation in Indonesia is the church communion in Indonesia. At a meeting of the committee in 2010, leaders outlined the need for joint support in education within the member churches. A prime function of this mission initiative is to improve the quality of school education managed by the thirteen member Lutheran churches in Indonesia. An education secretary was appointed, who works with a reference group.

In partnership with LCA Mission International, my work as a consultant focuses on building the leadership capacity of a core group of principals. These principals have undertaken a series of workshops on school improvement, and a sub-group visited high-achieving Christian schools in Jakarta. Several principals also came to Australia to attend the national Lutheran school conference (ACLE) in Brisbane in 2013.

Progress is being made and teacher methodology is changing, with classroom structures going from one large group to smaller settings. However, given the size of the classes, it is difficult to make the changes. In the classroom pictured above, there are three children to each desk and 60 students in the class. The teachers in this school are to be congratulated, however, because, despite the cramped conditions, their students achieved a 100% pass rate in the national examinations.

### Neville Highett LCA education consultant



The **LLL Overseas Mission Fund** provides ongoing funds to the LCA to support programs overseas, which are carried out through the collaborative partnership of LCA Mission International, ALWS and Lutheran Education Australia.

One beneficiary is the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Community Development Studies in Medan, Indonesia, which provides vital training to local communities in sustainable practices for land use, healthy living and basic human rights.

The education component is built around supporting a coordinated approach to help the thirteen Lutheran synods in Indonesia, and the Lutheran Education department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea, to improve their education services.

Through mentoring support provided by the LCA education consultant, Dr Neville Highett, we are able to walk together with our brothers and sisters in Indonesia and PNG as they provide Christ-centered education to people involved in teaching young people.

LCA Mission International thanks the LLL and its depositors for their ongoing partnership in the gospel.



Neville Highett LCA education consultant

# AHOLY LING UNSETTLING This and launhter of language

Our family's growing cross-cultural awareness and engagement took a big step forwards in July. Together with Sonia's cousin Vicki, we spent two weeks at Panti Asuhan (literally, 'house of help') Debora in northern Sumatra, Indonesia.

LCA Mission International volunteer Rosemary Winderlich took us all under her wing—no small feat with five children aged between four and twelve! But Rosemary's ten years of visiting Debora, and many more in cross-cultural ministry, meant we were in good hands.

While we had planned to offer English and sewing lessons, our main focus was just learning from and being together with the house parents and fifteen or so kids: eating, sleeping, playing, helping where we could, and building friendships.

Some memories: Toby and Josiah playing endless games of soccer, cards and chess ... Cheeky Dermawan offering Jemimah some 'tomato and salt' to have with her meal, and then his raucous laughter as she discovers it's hot sambal! ... Noah and Micah building cities and roads with Ando and Judika out of dirt, sticks and bricks ... Sharing life stories while doing dishes ... Devotions together about the fruit of the Spirit ...

The vulnerability and laughter of language learning ... Cultural dance, and constant singing ... Hugs, tearful goodbyes, photos and more photos, and promises to write.

the Kingdom.

Boundary crossing with a young family is filled with challenges but, equally, of unique opportunities for experiencing

Our trip was awash with amazing scenery and cultural experiences, yet it is the relational encounters that have been most formational and enduring. We never did get to those lessons we had planned, but that was quite okay. Learning through relationships was the lesson.

Boundary crossing with a young family is filled with challenges but, equally, of unique opportunities for experiencing the Kingdom. The 'holy unsettling' we have felt together upon our return was an important part of that.

There's a chunk of our hearts left at Debora. Our 'new normal' includes sharing memories, praying for people, writing letters, and thinking about how and when we might return.

Bruce and Sonia Hulme (with Jemimah, Josiah, Toby, Micah and Noah)





We want to get to know each child and their caregivers, and develop a relationship and ongoing friendship.

At Rumah Chrestus, a home in Malaysia for children who have been orphaned or abused, some of the littlies say that prayer is the best part of living there. That's not surprising really, since Rumah Chrestus means Home of Christ, and the presence of the living Christ is strongly felt in this home, thanks to the Christian nurture of former housemother Maligga and new caregivers Maria, Esther and Rev Punitharaja.

But no matter how powerful the witness of their caregivers, when a group of Jesus-loving adults from a country far, far away gets involved in the children's lives, that can have a huge impact on their faith and overall development.

The Manawatu Parish, on New Zealand's North Island, is developing a partnership with Rumah Chrestus, a home of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia (ELCM) caring for ten children aged from five to eighteen.

'We want to help the mission of Rumah Chrestus as much as we possibly can—supporting those who help to rescue children from harm, restoring broken hearts and spirits, and rekindling hope for a brighter future for each child', says Chrissie Jurgens, a member of the Manawatu mission partnership team. 'We want to get to know each child and their caregivers, and develop a relationship and ongoing friendship.

'We will commit to partnering with them, coming together in a relationship of love and trust. We will support them through prayer, care, some financial help, and regular communication. We hope to visit, share our skills, assist with identified projects and develop a strong bond of friendship.'

The Manawatu Parish has a good idea of what they are committing to, having previous experience in an overseas mission partnership (Hephata Home of the HKBP church in Indonesia; the boys pictured above are from this home). So they can confidently encourage other congregations of the LCA/LCNZ to take up the challenge.

'We live a life of extreme privilege', says Chrissie. 'To give something of ourselves and what we have is absolutely humbling—when you see the joy, smiles and gratitude of those to whom we have given. God loves his people and therefore we should too.

'I believe I can speak for each member who has been closely involved in our overseas mission partnership—that in sharing God's love in this way we have gained joy and a strengthening of our own personal faith.

'So, I leave you with the question ... why wouldn't you?'

The LCA recognises that partnerships with its overseas partners is vital for its ministry and mission. Each party has its own special contribution to make and each can be energised by others.

To learn more about LCA Mission International and opportunities to partner in God's mission, please contact Glenice Hartwich on 08 8267 7334 or email Icami@lca.org.au



- Planning for the next stages of the land development (Lutheran pre-school and ministry training rooms) in Phnom Penh
- Pastors Daniel, Mose and Vibol and their families, and ministry support staff Sohpal, Raskmei serving in Cambodia with Lutheran World Mission (LWM) and Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC)
- Students of the Rainbow hostel and City Church of the LCC, as they study and live out their faith in the hostel and their places of learning
- Sally Lim, Coordinator for Mission of Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) and coordinator of Lutheran World Mission, Cambodia
- Pastors Daniel Orn (LCC) and Vannarith Chhim of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia (ELCC) as they work collaboratively in the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Cambodia (FLCC)
- Hanna Schulz, translator with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBTA) as she and her translation partners discern where God will use them to translate the Bible into a local language in Papua New Guinea
- Margaret Mickan, translator with LBTA in Northern Territory
- Pastor Greg Schiller, lecturer at Ogelbeng Seminary of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)
- Nick Schwarz, research assistant with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG
- The staff of the Melanesian Institute as they teach and seek to provide relevant details about the culture and spiritual life of the people in PNG, which helps to inform the churches for their ministry in the country
- Pastor Amnouy and the evangelists of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT), working in the Nan Province, Thailand
- Staff of Home of Praise (for children in the slums of Bangkok) and Home of Grace (home for unwed mothers) in Thailand
- 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
- LCA Mission International Program Assistants: Colin and Ruth Hayter, PNG (volunteers), and Warren and Marianne Schirmer, Cambodia (volunteers)
- 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 Asian ministry of the LCA
- Pastors and leaders of the emerging African congregations in the LCA
- For God to open our eyes to see the 'fields that are ripe for the harvest' (John 4:35)
- 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!

For regular prayer point updates, check out the LCA Mission International website **www.lcamission.org.au/act-now/pray/**They can also be accessed via the fortnightly LCA eNews (to sign up, go to **www.lca.org.au/enews**).

## I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION "by volunteering"

The opportunities and places are many, and the experience is life changing!

### **MALAYSIA**

- Bethany Home (school / 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 Luther Ria—school for people with disabilities
- Rumah Chrestus—home for abused children
- Rumah Hope—home for orphans, abused and neglected children
- Teaching English in Sabah in the schools for 'undocumented children' or in youth ministry programs

### **CAMBODIA**

 Teaching English at the Rainbow Student Hostel (Phnom Penh) or English and computing at the Life Centre (Phum Krus)

### **THAILAND**

- Home of Praise—day-care centre for infants and after school programs for children and young people
- Home of Grace—for unwed mothers and their babies

### **INDONESIA**

- Teaching English in the schools and seminaries
- Teaching English and practical help in orphanages

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

 Builder/handyman able to help with maintenance, and construction work



Your school, congregation, youth or fellowship group can become personally involved in a mission partnership:

- Annual youth and children's ministry camps in Cambodia
- Partnership with a Lutheran school in Indonesia
- Partnership with an orphanage in Malaysia or Indonesia

### WHAT TO DO NEXT ...

If you would like to know more about volunteering in mission overseas, or how your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group can partner in mission, check out our website www.lcamission.org.au or contact LCA Mission International at lcami@lca.org.au or on 08 8267 7334.

### I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION

... LCA Mission International'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.)

an	a write the amount of your gifts in the spaces pro	viaca.)
0	Land development, Phnom Penh, Lutheran Church in Cambodia	\$
$\bigcirc$	Rainbow hostel ministry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia	\$
$\bigcirc$	Bethany Home for disabled young people in Malaysia	\$
$\bigcirc$	Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in Malaysia	\$
$\bigcirc$	Youth ministry program in Sabah, Malaysia	\$
$\bigcirc$	Mission work carried out in the Nan Province, Thailand	\$
$\bigcirc$	Home of Praise, Thailand	\$
Ŏ	Ministry carried out by Greg Schiller in Papua New Guinea (PNG)	\$
$\bigcirc$	Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for PNG	\$
$\bigcirc$	Scholarships for children of pastors in PNG	\$
Ŏ	Prison ministry in Indonesia	\$
$\bigcirc$	Bible translation (LBTA) Hanna Schulz	\$
$\bigcirc$	Bible translation (LBTA) Margaret Mickan	\$
$\bigcirc$	Scholarships (for overseas partner churches)	\$
$\bigcirc$	Books for the seminary libraries (for overseas partner churches)	\$
$\bigcirc$	Debora Orphanage in Indonesia	\$
$\bigcirc$	Publication of Lutheran literature in Indonesia	\$
$\bigcirc$	Ministry in the Mekong region (through Mekong Mission Forum)	\$
$\bigcirc$	Roof reconstruction and cross on the Myanmar Lutheran Church	\$
$\bigcirc$	LCA lecturers to teach courses in Myanmar	\$
Ō	LCA lecturers to tech courses in Lutheran overseas partner churches	\$
0	LCA Mission International–sharing the stories of God's mission	\$

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

- online at www.lcamission.org.au/act-now/donate/ (credit card)
- OR fill out the form below (credit card or cheque)
- OR Electronic Funds Transfer; please contact LCA MI on 08 8267 7334 for more details

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

Please debit my Visa Mastercard		
Card no		
Expiry CCV CCV		
Amount \$		
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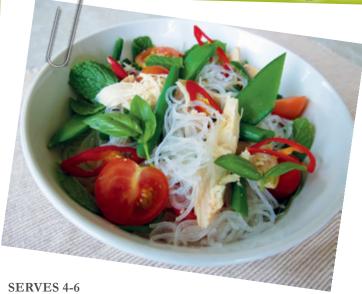
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O Please send me a receipt

Please send this completed form to **LCA Mission International** 

197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006





## THAI CHICKEN SALAD quick and very tasty

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 cooked or BBQ chicken; skinned, boned and shredded

200g thin rice noodles

200g snow peas, topped and tailed

200g green beans, topped and tailed and cut in half

4 spring onions, thinly sliced

250g punnet cherry tomatoes, halved

2 cups Thai basil leaves

2 cups mint leaves

Juice of 2 limes

2 tbsp grated palm sugar (or brown sugar)

3 tbsp fish sauce

3 tbsp sweet chilli sauce

2 long red chillies, finely chopped

2 tbsp chopped peanuts (optional)

### METHOD

- 1. Soak the rice noodles in boiling water for 4 minutes to soften. Drain, refresh in cold water and place in a bowl.
- Blanch snow peas and beans in boiling water for 2 minutes until just tender. Drain, refresh in cold water, then add to the bowl of noodles with the spring onions, cherry tomatoes, herbs and chicken.
- 3. In a separate bowl combine lime juice, sugar, fish sauce, sweet chilli sauce and chillies.
- 4. Drizzle sauce over salad, toss to combine, and serve garnished with chopped peanuts (optional).