



*global partners local church*

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# BORDER CROSSINGS

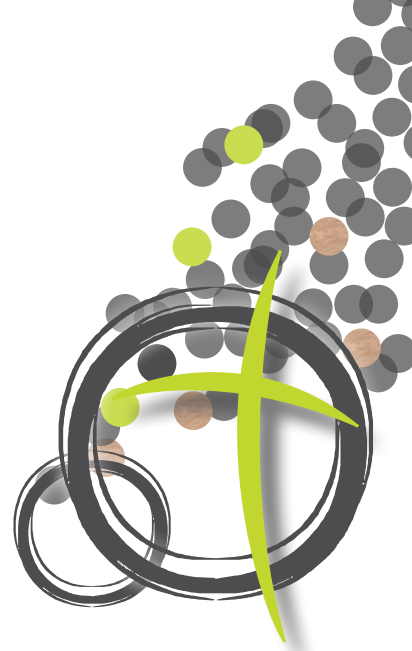
**Border Crossings**  
Official publication of  
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# THANKING GOD FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL



Every time you pray for mission work and workers in mission areas  
... every time you give your regular offerings to the work of the LCA  
and LCNZ  
... every time you volunteer through LCA Mission International  
(LCA MI) in one of our partner churches overseas or here in Australia  
... every time you give a special gift to support an overseas mission  
partnership program through LCA MI  
... you join in this gospel partnership.

As New Zealand and Australian Lutherans we are privileged to partner  
in God's mission in the world through the relationships we share with  
other Lutheran churches in the Asia Pacific region and around the globe.

*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).*

These words of St Paul to the Philippians apply to each and every  
Lutheran in Australia and New Zealand ... and they are words of  
thanks to God for you and for your partnership in the gospel.

Be encouraged and inspired as you read the stories in this edition  
of *Border Crossings* and know that your partnership in the gospel  
has eternal consequences.

Interim Mission Director  
Program Officer  
LCA Mission International





# Hearing in OUR LANGUAGE

**Then how is  
it that each of  
us hears them  
in our native  
language?**  
(Acts 2:8)

Glenice Hartwich (LCA Mission International) and Margaret Hunt (Grace congregation, Bridgewater SA), guests of the Myanmar Lutherans, watch as the Book of Acts comes alive before their very eyes. Here they watch hundreds of Hindustani people listening in awe to the good news of Jesus proclaimed in their own language, Hindi, for the very first time.

Brothers Jesurathnam and Victor had often wondered why their parents sent them to a school where Hindi was the language of instruction—unlike their friends who were able to attend the English school. This question was echoed by Anna, who had felt that she suffered from a similar choice her parents made for her. But God had plans that none of them could foresee.

Today Jesurathnam, Victor and Anna, together with Rev Jenson Andrew and other people from the Lutheran Bethlehem Church in Myanmar, are reliving something of the amazing story told in the book of Acts.

It all started in December 2013 when an elderly man from the Lutheran Bethlehem Church was in hospital in Yangon. Members of the church were at his bedside praying for his healing. A small Hindustani boy, from a rural village some five hours drive away, lay dying in the bed alongside, surrounded by grieving relatives. Looking enquiringly over at the elderly man and the Christians with him, the Hindustani family asked them what they were doing.

'We are followers of Jesus, and we are praying for this man', was Jesurathnam's confident answer in Hindi. 'Can you pray for our boy too?' was the response. Without hesitation they laid hands on the boy and gave witness to the life of Jesus, his love and power to save all people, and prayed for healing for the boy.

Returning to the hospital the following day to pray for their elderly member, the Lutheran Christians saw that the boy's bed was now empty. Thinking that he may have died, they were amazed to learn that he had recovered and had returned home to his village. The story of his remarkable recovery and the message of the Christians spread among the villagers and they sent word back to Yangon to Jesurathnam, Victor and their leader, Rev Jenson Andrews (President of the Lutheran Bethlehem Church, Myanmar), to come to their village to tell them about Jesus and to pray for them.

In February 2014 these evangelists, pastors and people from the Lutheran Bethlehem Church made their first visit to this group of Hindustani people living in a cluster of villages in rural Myanmar.





For two days they stayed with the people, sharing about Jesus and praying for the people who came with their many needs.

Then again, in the early hours of a November morning in 2014, this faithful band of Jesus' followers returned to the village of the small boy. A crowd had gathered in anticipation of the visit and pressed into the room, sitting cross-legged on the floor, listening intently to the message about Jesus, telling stories of their experiences of being healed following the first visit in February, and now coming forward for anointing and prayer. The guests were hosted with a meal of dahl, rice and an Indian curry. As they prepared to farewell those who came together, a group of local farmers lined up on motorbikes, ready to ferry the Lutheran Christians to another village.

For 20 minutes they rode over rutted roads that dissected rice paddies where the fields were ripe for the harvest. What confronted the group from Yangon was nothing short of a miracle. In this small Indian-like village, where cows roamed freely among the houses, they were led into a Hindustani temple still under construction. A crowd of over 500 men and women dressed in colourful saris came streaming in to hear about Jesus, to be anointed with oil and prayed for. People pressed forward asking for prayer for healing, confessing to drug and alcohol addictions, and praying prayers of repentance. As the message of Jesus was shared in Hindi with conviction and joy, people's lives were changed by the power of Holy Spirit.

Of all of the people in the Lutheran Bethlehem Church, only Jesurathnam, Victor and Anna can speak Hindi. God has turned their childhood anguish and humiliation into joy, as they can now use the Hindi language to share the message of Jesus Christ with these marginalised people of rural Myanmar—people who are hungry to know Jesus!



Using the Hindu she reluctantly learnt at school, Anna shares the gospel with a Hindustani girl.

The Lutheran Bethlehem Church is one of four Lutheran churches in Myanmar and is a member of the LWF (Lutheran World Federation) Federation of Lutheran Churches in Myanmar. Through our membership of the LWF Mekong Mission Forum and in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Malaysia, the LCA and LCNZ helps to build up the brothers and sisters in the faith in these four Myanmar churches, particularly through theological scholarships and training offered for women, pastors and evangelists.



Emmanuel had planned to become a doctor. But his father, Pastor Walter Yalem, had another idea.

'My father shared his wish for me to become a pastor', Emmanuel says. 'His words cancelled all my plans for life, and eventually brought me to Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, in 1999, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Theology in 2005.'

Emmanuel then served as a pastor for five years in his home district, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG), on the island of Siassi. His abilities to teach and share the faith were noticed by the ELCPNG leadership, and Emmanuel was offered an LCA Mission International (LCA MI) scholarship for Masters of Theological Studies at Australian Lutheran College (ALC) in 2013.

He returned to PNG and to Martin Luther Seminary in December 2014 and has commenced his ministry as a lecturer at the seminary, sharing the deep learnings he gained in Australia. Emmanuel's plans to become a medical doctor didn't eventuate. But today he brings the healing message of Jesus Christ to the seminary students and the people of the ELCPNG.

The LCA MI scholarship program is a collaborative effort with ALC, and is supported by individuals, congregations and Lutheran Women of Australia. Each year approximately five new scholarships are provided for varying lengths of stay and types of study at ALC, together with a number of in-country scholarships for study in seminaries in Asia.

Through this vital scholarship program, Lutherans in Australia and New Zealand are building up our brothers and sisters in the faith in our partner churches. The program is not just a one-way experience, however. In the LCA we are blessed through the life and ministry of these men and women. We learn from them, are built up in faith, and experience the joyful enthusiasm for the gospel which is so evident in their lives.



# WESTERN ASIA *is calling*

A beautiful but complex part of the world, western Asia is facing many challenges due to nearby conflict. Although this is a place where the good news first flourished, today fewer than 0.3 per cent of the people are followers of Jesus. The vast majority of the population follow Islam and this shapes their daily life and social encounters. People in western Asia need a positive Christian witness from people who will develop meaningful relationships and show love to all.

Natalie and Stephen first met in 2010 and were married just over a year later. As part of their honeymoon they served for four months in Malaysia in a school for people with disabilities. Here God sparked a passion to follow his call to serve those most marginalised in the world. After much prayer and consideration, they feel that God is leading them to move to western Asia in 2016 and to serve there long-term.

Upon arriving in western Asia, language study will be their initial focus, as they learn to participate in the culture. Natalie has been a teacher for seven years and for the last two years has specialised in teaching children with disabilities. She will use her experience to support locals working with people with disabilities, especially as they suffer rejection by society because of the belief that God has cursed them. Stephen's background is in software programming and project management. He will partner with organisations that serve both locals and refugees, utilising his administrative and technical skills.

This is an exciting opportunity for us in the LCA and LCNZ to join the work God is doing in this area. Please pray for Natalie and Stephen as they prepare to serve in western Asia. If you would like to learn more or financially support them, please contact LCA Mission International ([lcami@lca.org.au](mailto:lcami@lca.org.au) or 08 8267 7334).

Natalie and Stephen are working through Interserve. The LCA has a Memorandum of Understanding with Interserve as we partner in the work we are called to do in the world.





# where *love* comes to life IN THE FLOODWATERS OF CAMBODIA

Rising floodwaters engulfed the village of Koh Keo late last year, but 63-year-old widow Mom Kham had seen it all before, many times over. Each year monsoonal rains have brought isolation and havoc to Mom Kham's village and to villages in many parts of the Kampong Chhnang and other Cambodian provinces. As the floodwaters spread out across the low-lying areas, they wreaked havoc, ruined crops and caused untold damage to people's homes and livelihoods.

But those same floodwaters that had carried destruction and devastation to many people also became an avenue to bring them hope and help. Four tonnes of rice, hundreds of bottles of soy sauce and fish sauce and 200 kilograms of salt were loaded into boats by the young people and leaders of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia and Lutheran World Mission, then carried down the rivers and shared with Mom Kham and 192 families from Koh Keo and surrounding villages.

Mom Kham said, 'I live alone in a small house in this village. I am a farmer and when the floodwaters engulf my village, I can do nothing.

I cannot make any money to support myself. I just stay still in my house and wait for help, and wait for the floodwaters to recede. But today you come to fill my needs. I am very delighted to receive it. I'd like to thank God for this loved gift. Thank you for your kindness.'

But Mom Kham and the other families received more than rice, sauces and salt. They were also given a tract, 'Who is God', and were told about Jesus.

The flood relief program is a special part of the ministry of the Lutherans in Cambodia. Through this practical ministry in a time of great need, many people whose lives have been badly affected by the floodwaters get to see how Jesus' *love comes to life* in and through the people of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia.



# I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION

*...by praying for*

- Lutheran Christians in Myanmar as they share the faith in Jesus Christ
- LCA Mission International scholarship recipients studying in Adelaide, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea
- Students of the Rainbow hostel and City Church of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC), as they study and share Jesus' love with others 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 (LWM), Cambodia
- Pastors Daniel, Mose and Vibol and their families, and ministry support staff Sohpal, Raskmei serving in Cambodia with LWM and LCC
- Planning for the next stages of the land development (Lutheran pre-school and ministry training rooms) in Phnom Penh
- Pastor Greg Schiller, lecturer at Ogelbeng Seminary of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)
- The staff and faculty of all three seminaries in PNG: Ogelbeng, Martin Luther and Logaweng
- Nick and Meagan Schwarz, research assistant with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG, returning to PNG following their recent marriage
- 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
- Hanna Schulz, translator with Lutheran Bible Translators Australia (LBTA) as she begins her ministry of Bible translation for the Kobe people in the Gulf province of Papua New Guinea
- Margaret Mickan, translator with LBTA in the Northern Territory
- Natalie and Stephen as they prepare for service in another country and culture
- 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)
- 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/](http://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](http://www.lca.org.au/enews)).

# I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION

*...by volunteering*

**The opportunities and places are many, and the experience ... 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 of houses

# I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION

*...as a mission partner*

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](http://www.lcamission.org.au) or contact LCA Mission International at [lcami@lca.org.au](mailto:lcami@lca.org.au) or on **08 8267 7334**.



# I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION

*by giving to ...*

... 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.)

- ☐ Land development, Phnom Penh, Lutheran Church in **Cambodia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Rainbow hostel ministry in Phnom Penh, **Cambodia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Bethany Home for disabled young people in **Malaysia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in **Malaysia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Youth ministry program in Sabah, **Malaysia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Mission work carried out in the Nan Province, **Thailand** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Home of Praise, **Thailand** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Ministry carried out by Greg Schiller in **Papua New Guinea (PNG)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for **PNG** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Scholarships for children of pastors in **PNG** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prison ministry in **Indonesia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Bible translation (**LBTA**), Hanna Schulz \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Bible translation (**LBTA**), Margaret Mickan \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Scholarships (for overseas partner churches) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Books for the seminary libraries (for overseas partner churches) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Debora Orphanage in **Indonesia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Publication of Lutheran literature in **Indonesia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Ministry in the Mekong region (through **Mekong Mission Forum**) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ LCA lecturers to teach courses in **Myanmar** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ LCA lecturers to teach courses in **Lutheran overseas partner churches** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ LCA Mission International—sharing the stories of God's mission \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I would like to **become a partner with LCA Mission International** (please send me information)  
☐ Prayer ☐ Sponsorship ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ I would like to **leave a bequest for LCA 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.lcamission.org.au/act-now/donate/](http://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

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P/C \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me a receipt

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

*recipe*



SERVES 4-6

## CHAR KWAY TEOW

*quick and delicious*

### INGREDIENTS

- 200g chicken thighs, finely sliced
- 200g prawns, peeled and deveined
- 200g dried rice noodles (or 500g fresh noodles)
- 100g (1½–2 cups) bean sprouts
- 3 green shallots, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 red chilli, finely chopped and crushed
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 3 tbsp ketjap manis sauce
- 1 tbsp oyster sauce
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp black pepper
- Sprigs fresh coriander (garnish)
- Sliced chilli (garnish)
- Oil (rice or coconut oil) for cooking

### METHOD

1. Cook noodles following packet directions. Drain and transfer to heatproof bowl. Add small amount of oil to coat noodles.
2. Heat oil in wok. Add chilli, garlic and shallots. Stir-fry for 20 seconds. Increase heat, add sliced chicken and stir-fry 2 minutes. Add prawns and stir-fry for another 2 minutes.
3. Season with soy sauce, ketjap manis, oyster sauce, salt and pepper.
4. Add bean sprouts and stir-fry for 2 minutes. Add prepared noodles, stir-fry until well mixed and heated through.
5. Transfer to serving dish. Garnish with chilli and coriander.