

AGENDA 4.1

Board for Mission

MEMBERS

Peter Hage, John Henderson, Robert Hoff, Chey Mattner (resigned), Anita Synnott (interim Chair), Steven Wilksch (Chair, resigned)

Consultants: Glenice Hartwich, Tania Nelson

BACKGROUND

The LCA Department for International Mission is part of the Office of the Bishop.

The committee supports the LCA Bishop and will assist him carry out the following objects:

- a. accompany the international partner churches of the LCA as we together fulfill the mission command of Christ to 'go and make disciples of all peoples, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to keep all that Christ has commanded' (Matthew 28:19,20; also Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46–48; Acts 1:8);
- b. promote awareness of, interest in, and support for, the work of the church's international partners as we together carry out God's mission in their local contexts; and
- c. develop strategies and priorities for the church's engagement with overseas churches in support of mission in their local context.
- d. represent the church in relations with international church bodies and other agencies in connection with the LCA's mission.

The work for the Committee for International Mission (which replaced the Board for Mission in 2016), is carried out by the staff and volunteers of LCA International Mission and members of the LCA, in partnership with international Lutheran churches and mission agencies working in PNG, Singapore, Malaysia (East and West), Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Burundi.

ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST PLAN

GOAL 1

Through the work of the Holy Spirit and in partnership with others bring the life-changing news of the gospel to people overseas and cross-culturally in Australia

Planned Annual Activities/Outcomes

- An increased number of people are equipped to proclaim Christ and as a result an increased number of people come to faith in Jesus Christ

Achievement of Annual Activities/Outcomes

- **Strengthening of partnerships in the gospel** with Lutheran churches and mission agencies in Burundi, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia (East and West), Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Thailand through the following activities: regular annual attendance at joint consultations for partner church forums in all partner church relationships; Visits to the ministries and missions of the overseas partner churches; attendance of Bishop John Henderson and Glenice Hartwich at the LWF Assembly in Windhoek Namibia in 2017; representation by Robyn Kuchel at Women's conference in Indonesia, and by Mr Peter Schirmer at Reformation commemorations in Indonesia in 2017; representation at Martin Luther Seminary (Lae, PNG) Reformation Commemoration by Rev John and Tresma Strelan; attendance by Bishop John Henderson and Glenice Hartwich at the Asian Church Leaders Conference in Manila in 2017; Visits to Australia and the LCA in 2017 by ELC-PNG leaders, Rev Naoki Sugioka (Mission

director) of the Kiniki Evangelical Lutheran Church (Japan) and Rev Dr Traugott Farnbacher (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria / Mission One World).

- **Scholarships In-country** provided to partners in PNG, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand and Burundi. **2015:** 10; **2016:** 11 **2017:** 12
- **Scholarships in Australia** (at ALC and in Lutheran schools) to partners from Indonesia, Singapore, Nepal, Malaysia, Japan and Cambodia. **2015:** 5; **2016:** 8 (and 15 guests for Luther@500 conference); **2017:** 6
- Targeted short-term scholarships in Australia in **Reconciliation Ministry** for pastors and lecturers from Lutheran churches in Indonesia and Japan
- **LCA pastors and lay people, ALC lecturers teaching in overseas mission contexts:** **2015:** Michael Hauser commenced as full-time lay lecturer at Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, PNG; training in Reconciliation Ministry in Malaysia; training in Lutheran education in Indonesia; **2016:** training in Reconciliation Ministry in Indonesia; training in Lutheran education in Indonesia; 3 month lecturing in PNG at Ogelbeng Seminary; short course at Lutheran Seminary in Thailand; Lutheran Spirituality course in Singapore **2017:** short course for Reformation event in Malaysia; training in Lutheran education in Indonesia and Malaysia; teaching for Reformation event in PNG. In **2016 Pastor Greg Schiller** returned to Australia after more than 30 years of service as a missionary/lecturer/mentor working together with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in PNG. We give thanks to God for Greg and his gift of service. We give thanks to God for the following people who have served in the LCA International Mission **Volunteers in Mission program** together with our overseas partner churches and in Australia: **2015: Indonesia**, John and Mal Morgan, Helen Schubert, Rev Paul Lohe, Andy and Michelle Broom and daughters Catherine and Elizabeth, Matt Higgins and Anna Reichenbach; **Cambodia**, Barbara Smith; **Malaysia** Di Welk; **PNG** Dr Greg (and Christine) Lockwood. **2016: Malaysia** Kate Wilson, **Cambodia**, Barbara Smith, Sybil and Devon Dutschke **Indonesia** John and Mal Morgan; **Thailand** Brittany Whitfield, Hanna Schmidt and Dr Greg (and Christine) Lockwood; **Myanmar:** Kathy and Emily Bentead, Peter Ellis PNG; **Singapore**, Dr John Kleinig; **2017: Indonesia** Rosemary Winderlich, Tracy Smith and Belinda Peterson, Mal and John Morgan **PNG** Allan Hall, **Sabah** Sarah Dumid **Thailand** Georgia Anker **Cambodia**, Barbara Smith.

In **2016** Nick Schwarz together with wife Meagan, returned to Australia after 7 years as an LCA International Mission volunteer, serving as a research assistant and assistant director of the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG. We give thanks to God for Nick (and Meagan) and his gift of service.

Colin and Ruth Hayter (PNG), Warren and Marianne Schirmer (Cambodia) and David Pietsch (Cambodia) have served as **LCA International Mission Program Assistants** on a volunteer basis. Mr Peter Nitschke and the team of stamp cleaners for the **Stamps for Mission** program have continued to provide funds for mission work, through the sale of used stamps. We thank God for these people and their gift of service.

- The **School service learning program** has grown to include active partnerships with Australian Lutheran schools and schools and programs of Lutheran churches in Papua New Guinea (1), Indonesia (6), Malaysia (2) and Cambodia (2). These partnerships provide valuable learning experiences and growth in faith for all people involved in the partnerships.
- The **congregational mission partnership program** has grown to include the following LCA/NZ congregations and their partner church relationships and offering prayer, mission visits and active support : Barmera (SA), Dernancourt (SA), Epping (NSW), Woden (ACT), Ringwood (Vic) in **Cambodia**; Bridgewater (SA), Wellington (NZ) in **Thailand**; Grampians parish (Vic), Hahndorf St Pauls (SA), Horsham (Vic), Ringwood (Vic), Ipswich (Qld) in **PNG**; Manawatu(NZ), SHWALLY (SA) in **Malaysia**; and Ipswich (Qld) in **Myanmar**. In addition 20 LCA congregations have nominated a member to serve as an LCA International Mission **congregational representative** to invite their members to 'Go and Grow'.

- The LCA International Mission schools and congregational partnership programs and the volunteers in mission program enable people (young and older) to be aware of and to engage more personally in God's mission through our long established relationships with overseas partner churches (Go and Grow).
- Support for the **production of Lutheran theological literature** has continued strongly in partnership with Indonesian Lutheran churches and is strengthened through the LCA International Mission Sabbatical scholarship program in which Indonesian seminary lecturers are required to prepare material for publication in the 'Lutheran Identity' series.
- With the support from LCA International Mission and some overseas partner churches, the former LCA publication, '**Growing as God's People**' has now been translated into the Chinese, Malaysian, Indonesia and Lisu languages and a request has been received to also translate this into the Burmese language with the support of the Ipswich (Old) congregation. In addition the English version has now been revised with new artwork, re-edited by Rev David Strelan (one of the original LCA authors) and reprinted.
- **Consultancy in Lutheran education.** Since 2012 support from LCA International Mission in Indonesia has focussed on their Lutheran schools and development of the capacity of their school leaders. Education consultant, Dr Neville Highett and other LEA consultants, have offered seminars in Indonesia and in Australia which have focussed on developing the skills of principals and their staff to work collaboratively with their community on school improvement planning. Discussions commenced in 2017 for the expansion of this form of partnership assistance to be implemented in the Lutheran Education department of the ELC-PNG.
- LCA International Mission funds received from the LLL International Mission Fund has also been given to ALWS for support of the Centre for Development and Disaster Risk Management in Indonesia.
- LCA International Mission support for and involvement in the **Grow Leadership 'Cultivating Young leaders'** program in 2017 included funding 4 international participants in the program (2 from Indonesia and 2 from Cambodia), and all costs for all LCA and overseas participants and Grow leaders to travel to Cambodia and join together with the Lutheran Church in Cambodia for the 'Stretch and Grow' component.
- Direct support for outreach and theological training particularly in Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia has seen many people baptised and come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

GOAL 2

Commence with the transition of the Board for Mission to the Committee for International Mission under the Office of the Bishop

Planned Annual Activities/Outcomes

- Restructuring of the work of LCA International Mission office and successful orientation of two new Program Officers
- Successful transition from Board for Mission to Committee for International Mission
- The governance of LBTA and management of the staff of LBTA is finalised by a decision of the GCC; and proposals from the GCC decision regarding the operations of LBTA are enacted

Achievement of Annual Activities/Outcomes

- Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission (formerly Mission Director) leads the LCA International Mission team under the Office of the Bishop. The restructuring of the office of LCA International Mission is completed, with the successful orientation of new Program Officers, Ms Erin Kerber and Mr Nevin Nitschke. Administration duties of the office are carried out by LCA administration support services and through the revised roles of the program officers

- Committee for International Mission now operates as an advisory group
- Review of the operations of Lutheran Bible Translators Australia (LBTA) led to the wind up of LBTA and the transitioning of LBTA staff to sole membership of Wycliffe. This transition has been completed. Hanna Schulz continues as a bible translator for the Kope language group (and other associated groups) in PNG, and Margaret Mickan has retired from long term literacy work for the Kriol language in the NT. Currently other LCA members are preparing for full time service with Wycliffe. A worship service on 10th September 2017 at St Paul's Ferryden Park, SA, was held to give thanks to God for the work of Bible translation in the LCA and to give thanks to, and recognise the faithful service of both the translators and members of the former LBTA committee.

GOAL 3

Continue with the existing relationships with partner churches, people and the programs and projects in Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Malaysia (East and West), Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Australia

Planned Annual Activities/Outcomes

- Meetings and communication between leadership of partner churches and their specific ministry leaders regarding agreed partnership goals.
- Signed Memorandum of Understandings between the specific partner churches based on the agreed goals and taking into consideration 'best practice for partnerships as outlined in the LCA document 'Understanding partnerships in the LCA'.

Achievement of Annual Activities/Outcomes

- The outcomes of the work of the Holy Spirit with the LCA and its international mission partners are documented in the outcomes of Strategic Priority 1 as listed above
- Annual partnership meetings in-country for all partner church relationships and with mission networks
- Documentation has been developed for funding applications and program reporting by partner churches
- Given the sensitivity required in signing MoU's with another church on a church to church level, developments have taken place (at the request of overseas partner churches) for MoU's signed between the ELC Bavaria/ Mission One World and LCA International Mission; and Lutheran Education Australia and Lutheran Education Malaysia (a department of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia).

GOAL 4

Explore how the mission partnership in PNG can be altered to reduce risk and improve effectiveness

Planned Annual Activities/Outcomes

- Commence discussions with ELC-PNG leadership regarding their understanding of partnership (past, present and future)
- Commence discussions with the Lutheran Overseas Partner Church members together with the leadership of ELC-PNG and its other overseas partners to determine ways to work collaboratively in support of and in partnership with ELCPNG; and with the view that this is a work in progress.
- Establishment of a bilateral and renewed multilateral partnership agreements relating to ministry and mission in PNG

Achievement of Annual Activities/Outcomes

- The June 2017 visit of ELC-PNG Bishop Jack Urame, Church Secretary - Mr Bernard Kaisom and Director of Inter-Church Relations and Ecumenism - Rev Kinim Siloi to the LCA provided opportunity to have constructive discussions with the new leadership of the ELC-PNG

- Discussions on effective ways of partnering in the gospel in PNG continue with sensitivity and together with other Lutheran overseas partner churches who form the collective of LOPC and who have continued to meet in PNG on an annual basis at the ELC-PNG Partner's Forum and Consultation
- Discussions and research is underway for the development of a new bilateral partnership agreement with LCA and ELC-PNG, also at the request of Bishop Jack Urame

GOAL 5

Develop general criteria to assist in discerning when the LCA would seek to build a partnership or presence in mission in a new country

Planned Annual Activities/Outcomes

- Documents which list criteria and guidelines for determining the suitability and sustainability when invited to establish a new international mission partnership/program
- Documents which enable LCA International Mission staff to monitor and determine the effectiveness of existing international partnership programs

Achievement of Annual Activities/Outcomes

- A portfolio of documents for establishing, accessing and monitoring partnerships and programs with our overseas partner churches and for LCA congregation and school partnerships and volunteers is being developed and refined, to ensure partnerships which are: theologically grounded; nurture holistic and reciprocal relationships; enable innovation and creativity; operate in a culture of care; enable growing capacity; and provide reflective practice.
- Detailed 100-page Country Plans document revised and updated

GOAL 6

Building on the feasibility report prepared by Dr Ken Bartel (November 2012) and the initial relationship established by Rev Neville Otto with LUCCEA, determine if there are suitable partners for establishing relationships for working in mission in Africa

Planned Annual Activities/Outcomes

- Recommence discussions with LUCCEA, other international mission churches and agencies, and LCA African communities regarding possibilities for future working in mission in Africa
- Recommendation/s prepared in regard to the feasibility of the establishment of mission partnerships on the African continent together with the LCA

Achievement of Annual Activities/Outcomes

- The committee discussed the directive of Strategic Goal 6 and recommends that LCA International Mission does not have the capacity to carry out Strategic Goal 6 and that is not to be a priority in the current situation
- The possibility of formal relationships with partners in the African continent will be assessed using the list of criteria for determining suitability and sustainability using documents which are currently being finalised.

SUCSESSES

- People coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and being baptised into the family of God
- Restructuring of the office of LCA International Mission and successful continuation of the orientation of Program Officer into the complex relationships of the LCA's international mission partnership/relationships
- Expansion of the congregational and schools partnership programs and the volunteers in mission program

- Publication of Lutheran theological material for overseas partners
- Publication of 'Growing as God's people' into a growing number of languages
- Partnership with Reconciliation Ministries department to provide 'targeted' scholarships in reconciliation ministry
- Partnership with Grow Ministries in the Cultivating Young Leaders program
- Partnership with ALC to develop new forms of scholarships and for providing theological training for our overseas partners
- Successful transition from Board for Mission to Committee for International Mission
- Support from individuals and congregations for specific scholarships and programs
- Development of new and the strengthening of the methods of communication for LCA International Mission with the members of the LCA

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Need for more efficient and prompt support in the area of administration assistance under the new LCA structure. We understand that this is a work in progress.
- Loss of members to the Committee for International Mission
- Orientation of the members of the Committee for International Mission to the responsibilities of the role under the new structure

RISKS

Description of risk	Likelihood of risk occurring and potential impact for the ministry and LCA	Summary of action to mitigate the risk
Individuals (pastors and people), congregations and organisations developing their 'own' mission programs – seen as being from the LCA but not abiding by all LCA policies, professional standards and guidelines, and acting without due respect for our long established international relationships. These situations can also place team members and individuals in other countries at risk of harm and abuse and can cause harm to the reputation of the LCA.	<p>This situation - of others acting independently of the LCA is already a reality within the LCA and some international partnerships.</p> <p>Without due attention to professional standards and attention to cultural and partnership sensitivities, some of these people are placing people, our international relationships and the LCA reputation at risk when and if some issue/s present themselves.</p>	<p>Proactively continue to promote best practice in professional standards and cultural sensitivity. Continue to provide information and teaching in best practice in these matters to individuals, congregations and schools of the LCA.</p> <p>This is also an issue which needs to be considered by the GCC as a matter of concern and for 'pastoral discipline'.</p>
Potential internal conflict within ministries/ departments of the partner churches could affect the opportunities to partnering in effective ways.	<p>This is always very likely. Funding needs can be affected – and sometimes even decreased due to staff losses in a particular country/ministry.</p>	<p>Continue to maintain good/healthy relationships with partner churches and respective ministry leaders and other international mission partners in the various countries, in order to fully understand the situation/s as best as it is possible. This means continuing face to face visits where deeper relationships are formed and where a more accurate understanding of situations can be gained.</p>
Decreasing membership in the LCA could mean a decrease in donations and funding for international mission partnerships.	<p>The active membership of the LCA is decreasing.</p>	<p>Continue to share the stories of the LCA's engagement in international mission. Invite congregations, schools and individuals to partner in and with LCA International Mission and in partnership with our overseas partner churches. Regular and targeted promotion of specific ministry and mission opportunities.</p>

ALIGNMENT TO LCA STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2013–2018

- Increased number of people coming to know Jesus and make him known – particularly in Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar (LCA Strategic Priority 2. Goal 2 – point 5: Support the growth of new mission fields which God has already opened to us) and (LCA Strategic Priority 2. Goal 2 – point 7 – Continued support for overseas ministries carried out through effective church to church partnerships)
- Writing and publication of ‘Lutheran Identity’ material in Indonesia, support for the translation and printing of ‘Growing as God’s people’ into other languages (LCA Strategic Priority 2. Goal 2 – point 7 – Continued support for overseas ministries carried out through effective church to church partnerships)
- Evidenced reform of Lutheran education and schools in Indonesia and initial discussions with ELC-PNG to adopt this form of partnership for the Lutheran Education department in PNG (LCA Strategic Priority 2. Goal 2 – point 7 – Continued support for overseas ministries carried out through effective church to church partnerships)
- Theological training and capacity building in all partner churches (LCA Strategic Priority 2. Goal 2 – point 7 – Continued support for overseas ministries carried out through effective church to church partnerships)
- Michael Hauser as lay theologian at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae, PNG (LCA Strategic Priority 2. Goal 2 – point 7 – Continued support for overseas ministries carried out through effective church to church partnerships)
- Growing number of volunteers serving overseas in and with our partner churches and an increase in congregational mission partnerships (LCA Strategic Priority 1. Grow as God’s people - 3. Develop a strong culture of service in individuals, families and communities both locally and overseas, as a natural outworking of an active faith) (LCA Strategic Priority 2. Go as God’s people – 1. Develop a missional culture where individuals, families and communities are inspired, passionate and active in sharing the gospel in word and action)
- Continuing development of the Scholarship program – offering scholarships both in Australia and in-country (overseas) which help pastors and leaders to grow in faith and in their understanding of ‘Lutheran’ theology. And exploration of new ways of delivery of scholarship through ALC by ‘Distance’ (LCA Strategic Priority 2. Goal 2. – Encourage strong missional orientated leadership by supporting pastor, lay workers and other leaders to be effective ministers of Christ in a changing world)
- The development and implementation of a new structure for the Committee for International Mission and new management and staffing structure for the office of LCA International Mission. Review of LBTA and the wind up of the LBTA as a committee of the LCA. (LCA Strategic Priority 3. Enable us to Grow and Go. Governance and Leadership: A3 Improve Governance and Management structures)
- Enactment of the ‘LCA International Mission Communications and Engagement Plan 2015–2018’ (LCA Strategic Priority 3. Enable us to ‘Grow and Go’: B Communication and Engagement. B1 Increase enthusiasm for Mission by sharing how life is coming to life...)

COOPERATING LCA BOARDS AND AGENCIES

Office of the Bishop	LCA International Mission now works in and under the Office of the Bishop. This requires meetings of the Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission with both the Bishop and Secretary of the LCA for updates/ reporting on the international relationships and various situations. The Bishop is a member of the Committee for International Mission. Preparation and hosting of international guests.
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Australian Lutheran College (ALC)	ALC lecturers for overseas teaching assignments; working together to support scholarship recipients in Adelaide at ALC; development of new forms for providing scholarships (ie by 'Distance'); preliminary discussions on developing ALC 'Hubs' in overseas theological training institutions; given the opportunity to present to the graduating class of ALC on the LCA's international mission program; and orientation for the SMP's during their courses at ALC.
Board for Local Mission (BLM)	Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission is a consultant to the Committee for Cross-cultural ministry (a subcommittee of the Board for Local Mission). The executive officer of the Board for Local Mission is a consultant to the Committee for International Mission.
Grow Ministries	LCA International Mission provided funding, and ministry and cultural training support to Grow Ministries' staff and participants in the Grow Leadership program to visit Cambodia and participate in the Stretch and Grow segment of this program in 2016/2017. In addition LCA International Mission provided the funds for 4 international participants (2 from Indonesia and Cambodia) in the program to attend all sections
Lutheran Education Australia (LEA)	Worked together with LEA in and through their provision of consultancy in education to our overseas partner churches. LEA Board Chairman, Dr Neville Highett providing mentoring to the LWF National Education Secretary for Indonesian Lutheran Churches; in Malaysia with consultancy in the establishment of a Lutheran school system (Lutheran Education Malaysia), in providing the learning activities for LCA International Mission education scholarship recipients; and in ongoing discussions and preparation of appropriate resources to support the School service learning programs / partnerships between LCA International Mission partner churches and LEA schools. Mr Stephen Kroker (LEA Finance Secretary) has served as the Finance Secretary to LCA International Mission.
Reconciliation Ministries	Worked together with Rev Paul Kerber to provide successful 'targeted' scholarships in Reconciliation Ministry, and on-going support in this ministry for overseas partner churches.
Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS)	Work together ALWS in the areas of School Service Learning (and including LEA) shared resources where possible; in the facilitation of program funding for the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Community Development program in Indonesia. ALWS also works in and with the ELC-PNG. Chair of ALWS board serves on the Committee for International Mission.
LCA Communications	Linda Macqueen (LCA Communications Manager), Lisa McIntosh and LCA Communications staff have a vital partnership with LCA International Mission. This involves advice, development of resources, and opportunities to share the stories of God's activity in his mission in the world through The Lutheran, eNews, LCA website, 'Story of the Week', Go and Grow (in The Lutheran) as well as help in graphic design and editing of the Border Crossings magazine and the LCA International Mission website www.lcamission.org.au

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Alignment to LCA Strategic Priorities Expenditure	2017	2016	2015
1 Growing as God's People	495,629	691,728	646,037
2 Going as God's People	557,583	778,194	726,792
3 Enable us to Go & Grow	185,861	259,398	242,264
Total	1,239,073	1,729,320	1,615,093