

BORDER CROSSINGS



global partners · local church



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**

global partners · local church

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ALWAYS ON MY MIND



I've thought about you a lot over the past 12 years. Maybe I've met you in person, maybe not. However you've been on my mind and in my prayers. As I've sat in worship services spoken in Chinese, Indonesian, Khmer, Thai or some other foreign language; witnessed the baptisms of new believers, or the ordinations of women and men who have come to know Jesus and felt called into ministry in their Lutheran churches; and been surrounded by tens of thousands of Lutheran Christians worshipping Jesus in a Muslim country, you've been on my mind. I've wished so many times that you could have been with me to experience the joy of being with these followers of Jesus.

I have had the privilege to hear and see firsthand the brothers and sisters in our overseas partner churches, living out their faith in often difficult situations. I've seen many of the consequences of your prayers and your support through regular offerings and those special gifts that you have given to support the mission of God through LCA International Mission (formerly Board for Mission). Many times on your behalf I've received the thanks and joy of people who have said, 'Please thank the people of the LCA for their support and prayers'.

When you pray for the mission of the LCA or make your regular weekly offerings, these actions have eternal consequences. What a joy it will be, when you and I will join with these people from all tribes and nations around the throne of God.

The words of joy from Paul and Timothy to the Christians at Philippi have continued to be echoed for you throughout my time in the office of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) International Mission: '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). Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

My prayer is that we will also have the joy of receiving what our international partners have to teach us. We have so much to learn from our partners in the gospel.

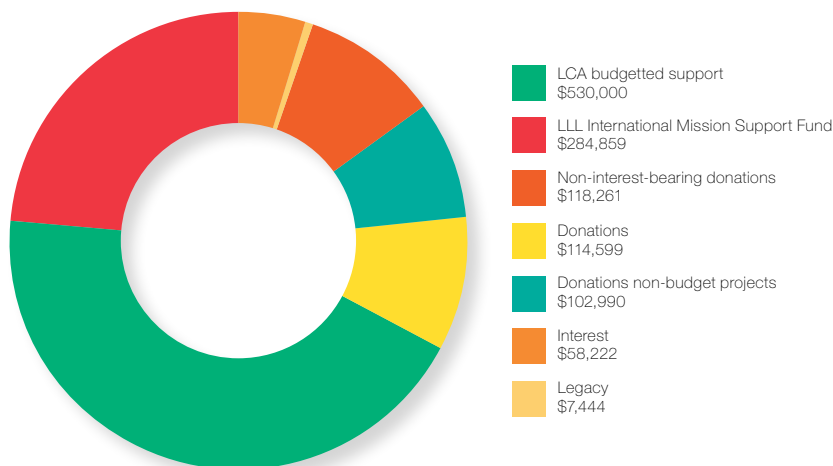
Glenice Hartwich

Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission
Lutheran Church of Australia

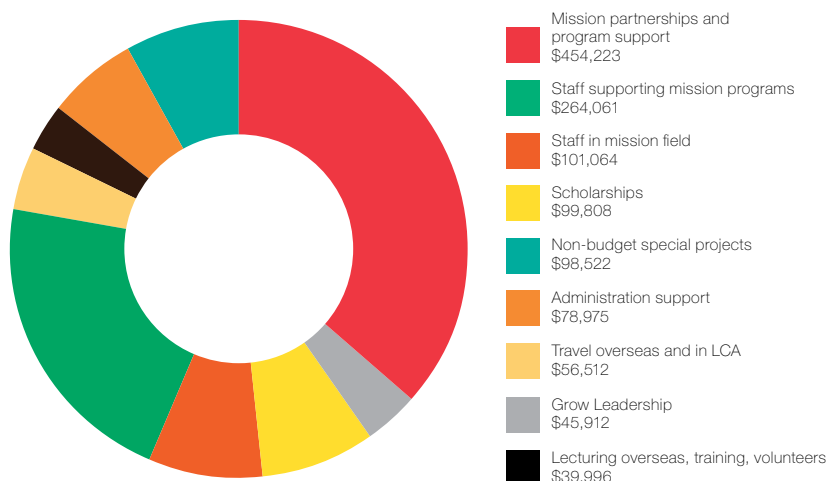
Glenice Hartwich will retire as the Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission at the end of November. Pastor Matt Anker has accepted the call to the position and commences orientation to the role on 6 August 2018.

We thank you...

Your support for God's mission



How your support has been used in God's mission



- Members of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand, for your partnership in the gospel
- Lutheran Women of Australia, for your faithful on-going partnership in mission
- Volunteers, who have given time and service, both in our country and overseas
- Lutheran schools, principals, students and teachers, for establishing and maintaining school partnerships
- LCA congregations, for establishing and maintaining sustainable partnerships with our overseas partners
- LCA congregation mission representatives, for sharing the inspiring stories of the work of LCA International Mission with people in your congregations
- The LLL and you as depositors, who have made significant financial gifts to support the work of God's mission through LCA International Mission and our overseas partner churches

Your prayers, your service, your giving and your partnership in mission through LCA International Mission have been used by God to change lives and bring the life-saving message of Jesus Christ to many people across the borders of our country. There are so many stories to tell of people who have come from fear and darkness into a living hope in Jesus Christ through your prayerful support.

Your partnership in the gospel has eternal consequences.



The LCA has two different 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.

Myanmar

HOW YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MYANMAR

by Rev Wolfgang Grieninger

Courses on Lutheran distinctions organised and sponsored by the Mekong Mission Forum (MMF) in Myanmar are having a profound impact on participants. One woman says: 'In general, we have many Bible studies but we hardly hear about Lutheran teaching. The Lutheran perspective is so enriching for us because often we ask, "Why do we do it in this way?", and you explained us why.'

Pastors and lay leaders from the four Lutheran church bodies that form the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Myanmar are invited to participate in the courses.

About 25 years ago, the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM), started to support the newly established Myanmar Lutheran Church. The urgent need for theological training of pastors and lay leaders arose and Mission Director of LCM Rev Dr Philip Tan organised courses. Then as theological consultant to LCM, I became involved in teaching about Lutheran distinctions.

What does the Lutheran church share with other Christian denominations? What are the reasons for being different in specific doctrines and practices? These questions are important in a country where many religions and Christian denominations compete for people's hearts and commitment.

Along the way, other Lutheran church bodies were invited and joined in this program. Together with partner churches from Europe, Asia and America, the LCA/NZ supports this program through the MMF. A practical side effect of the combined seminars is that pastors and lay leaders get to know each other beyond the boundaries of their own church bodies. Trust is built and steps towards closer cooperation are taken. This is just one example of how these seminars significantly impact Lutheran Christians in Myanmar.

Rev Wolfgang Grieninger, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, serves as consultant in South-East Asia. Your support through LCA International Mission for the Mekong Mission Forum and the Lutheran Church in Malaysia helps to enable the teaching that Wolfgang does in Myanmar.



YOUR PARTNER CHURCHES IN MYANMAR

Christian missionaries first came to Myanmar in the 1500s and again in the 18th century, but they saw no results for their labours. After American missionary Adoniram Judson arrived in 1813, six years passed before even one Burmese person turned to Christ. Other missionaries began serving in Myanmar and the gospel gradually spread, before most foreign workers were expelled in 1966. Myanmar is a country made up of people from 135 different ethnicities. A major religion is Buddhism, however many different faiths exist. The LCA/NZ's engagement in mission and ministry in Myanmar is very recent, but it's growing. LCA International Mission works in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) and with the LWF Mekong Mission Forum to help to build the theological capacity of women and men from the four Lutheran World Federation (LWF) churches represented in Myanmar (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar, Lutheran Church of Myanmar, Myanmar Lutheran Church and the Mara Evangelical Church).

Members of the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Myanmar are the following churches:

- Myanmar Lutheran Church: 3200 members, mainly Kumin-speaking people from Southern Chin State
- Lutheran Church of Myanmar: 2000 members from the Mizo-speaking people in the Northern Chin State
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar: 3000 members, oldest Lutheran Church in Myanmar, founded in Yangon by Tamil-speaking immigrants from India
- Mara Evangelical Church: about 22,500 members of the Mara people, located in Maraland in Central Chin State



ANDREW'S JOURNEY

Andrew Thinakaran was raised in a Hindu family and later became a Christian, joining the Lutheran Church eight years ago. He currently serves as an associate pastor while working towards ordination. Andrew shares his scholarship story ...

'This year I was offered an LCA International Mission scholarship to study at Australian Lutheran College (ALC). I was also writing an ordination thesis, and my Bishop Rev Terry Kee felt that the training at ALC would benefit me to understand the Lutheran distinctive, as well as give me space away from ministry to write my thesis.

'Though my time at ALC has been short, I have learnt more in this time about Lutheranism than I have over the years. Having knowledgeable and passionate lecturers to guide and shape me has been a real blessing.'

The following snippets from Andrew's life story show how God shaped his love for Jesus.

'When I was 16, a guy gave me a pamphlet with a simple message about

Jesus Christ. I remember praying the suggested prayer. The funny thing was there wasn't a statue or any idols to face while praying. So I faced a wall and prayed.

'I was troubled enough to ask everyone at work for their meaning in life. One guy said he would explain the answer if I met him weekly. I agreed. He used a book from The Navigator's discipleship series to guide me.

'A Muslim colleague wanted to introduce Islam to me. He discouraged me from attending church and pointed out "errors" in the Bible ... That made me search for answers. This grew my faith in Christ and the Bible. To this day, I tell people that the one who made me a strong Christian was a Muslim.'

Andrew Thinakaran is from Jurong Christian Church in Singapore (a congregation of the Lutheran Church in Singapore). Born a Hindu, Andrew converted to the Christian faith as an adult. His conversion testimony can be found at <http://jcc.lutheran.org.sg/ps-andrew-testimony/>

Singapore

The Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) is a mission-focused church with established mission areas in China, Mongolia, Thailand and Cambodia.

The partnership of the LCA/NZ with the LCS is considered a graduated partnership, in which both churches

join together in mission and ministry. The LCA/NZ supported the project of the LCS to illustrate and translate the LCA publication *Growing as God's People* into Chinese.

The partnership of the LCA/NZ and the LCS extends to supporting the ministry and mission of the emerging Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCO).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Your support makes it possible for **LCA International Mission** to provide scholarships to pastors and teachers of our international partner churches. These scholarships can be transformative in the life and faith of individuals and for the churches they come from. In the past three years your support has provided:

- **Scholarships in Australia** (at ALC and in Lutheran schools) have been provided to partners from Indonesia, Singapore, Nepal, Malaysia, Japan and Cambodia.
- **Scholarships in-country** have been provided to partners in PNG, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand and Burundi.

God uses moments in our life and relationships that shape us and draw us closer to him.

The LCA International Mission scholarships offered are part of our ongoing support for our partner churches. These scholarships enrich and strengthen our faith and that of our guests. We thank God for your support of the scholarship program.

MINISTRY THROUGH COMMUNITY

by **Tayla Priebbenow**

I sit, legs folded to the side,
on the floor of a family home.
Voices sing around me in words
I don't understand, but words
aren't needed to recognise
songs of praise.

Tomorrow is a day of great
significance in Krus village,
Kampong Chhnang province,
Cambodia. This home is the
second we've been welcomed
into for the day to share God's
word with village families. And
22 people, including children,
youth and adults of all ages, are
preparing to be baptised.

The significance of this hits me
as I watch each person come
forward, one by one. Some
whole families come, reminding
me of stories of household
baptisms in Acts. In a country
which is more than 95 per
cent Buddhist, to see so many
people come forward to become
children of a new family in Jesus
speaks to the powerful work that
God is doing in the hearts of his
people in Cambodia.

And here I have seen God
doing his work, not only through
individuals but even more so

through community. When home
visits are made, all the church
staff go, not just the pastor.
When food is prepared to feed
the children of the village, not
just our cook but also staff and
volunteers help chop, peel and
wash. When someone is sick
or in pain, whoever is around
will go and together we will
pray. And music practice for
Sunday doesn't just include
the musicians but anyone who
wants to join in and sing.

While we have one God, he
works in and through these
differences in culture to meet
his people, wherever they are.
There's no place he cannot
reach. Whether in Australia or
Buddhist Cambodia, his love is
reaching out.

*Tayla Priebbenow has recently
been in Cambodia for five
months serving as an LCA
International Mission volunteer
with the Lutheran Church in
Cambodia. Want to know
more? Then check out your
International Mission website
www.lca.org.au/international-mission,
click on 'Join God's
Mission' and 'Volunteer'.*

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION IN CAMBODIA

Your prayers and offerings support the work of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia. Its mission and ministry takes place primarily from four hubs: in Phnom Penh, at the City Church and the Rainbow hostel for students; in Phum Krus and surrounding villages, where there is a church and outreach centre; and at the new ministry centres in Tang Krang and Kandal. Today there are more than 330 baptised brothers and sisters in this church. Your partnership with the Lutheran Church in Cambodia enables pastors and evangelists to bring the good news of Jesus to people who have never heard about him before.





Malaysia

YOU'RE TOUCHING LIVES IN MALAYSIA

The LCA/NZ has relationships with Lutheran Churches in West Malaysia (Peninsula) and in East Malaysia (Sabah).

In West Malaysia the LCA/NZ has existing partnerships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (ELCM), which started as a mission to people of Tamil background and the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM), which began as a result of ministry and mission to people of Chinese heritage.

In East Malaysia the LCA/NZ has a long-term partnership with the Basel Christian Church in Malaysia (BCCM). More recently we have begun to develop a relationship in Sabah with the Protestant Church in Sabah (PCS).

THIS IS JOSIP WITH ME

by Rev Bob Kempe

Josip is a pastor of the Protestant Church in Sabah, Malaysia, and he is one of the students with whom I recently worked at the Sabah Theological Seminary (STS) in Kota Kinabalu. Josip is working towards his Master of Divinity, and my task was to act as his tutor in a guided study unit on Lutheran perspectives of pastoral care.

In the process, however, I came to know Josip a little, and was moved by him and his story. In many ways, I felt an affinity with him. At the same time, though, I was acutely aware of profound differences between his situation and mine.

Like me, Josip is a Christian pastor. But he lives in a country in which Christians – although they are not persecuted – are often discriminated against. This usually happens in very subtle, but nonetheless painful, ways. It is 'wrong' for a non-Christian to become a Christian, for example. Christians also find it difficult to get jobs over non-Christians and to be

granted visas in certain situations.

Like me, Josip is experienced in Christian mission in isolated contexts. But the challenges he faces are far greater than mine. He lives in a village in a somewhat remote area of Sabah. He and his people are poor, with houses that have no running water and either no electricity or an unreliable energy supply.

Like me, Josip is interested in Lutheran theology. However, his theological context and background are embedded in Reformed theology: 'Lutheran' is new and different for him. The Lutheran perspective on sacramental theology, for example, created considerable tension for him. He is attracted to that which is Lutheran, but he is committed to his own theological and spiritual roots.

It was a wonderful, rich experience for my wife Rae and me to spend six weeks with our brothers and sisters in a church that faces challenges similar to ours – but with a 'cutting

edge' to those challenges that we don't have.

I was impressed by the creative and daring ways in which they are addressing their challenges. We in Australia have as much, if not more, that we can learn from them about what it means to be 'church' in today's testing world.

Pastor Bob Kempe, accompanied by his wife Rae, served as a volunteer lecturer at the Lutheran Study Centre at Sabah Theological Seminary in February and March 2018. Your support for LCA International Mission has made it possible for this opportunity for sharing the gospel cross-culturally.



YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN INDONESIA

There are 13 Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches in Indonesia with an estimated membership of eight million people. LCA International Mission is developing relationships with all 13 churches, by working strategically through the Indonesian National Committee of LWF member churches. Many LCA International Mission scholarship recipients from Indonesia, who have studied at ALC, have gone on to serve their churches as key leaders.

RIDWIN'S 'THANK YOU' TO YOU

by Ridwin Purba

I feel blessed to work as the Education Secretary of LWF National Committee (KN-LWF) in Indonesia. I thank God and you that I am involved in helping to solve problems faced by church schools, principals, teachers and students.

When I started my role on 5 January 2012, my commitments included supporting the spiritual and professional growth of staff and leaders in Indonesian schools; promoting high standards of teaching; and coordinating international school partnerships with partner churches.

We eagerly work together for school improvement. School partnerships between Australian Lutheran schools and schools in Indonesia bring significant benefits. The partnership which began in 2012 between SMA GKPS 1 Pematangraya (Senior High School) and Navigator College at Port Lincoln, in South Australia, is of great value and continues to bring positive effects.

It is in line with what Paul says in Galatians 6:2: 'Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of

Christ'. Before the partnership, SMA GKPS 1 had only 140 students, but now it has 670 students and has improved in quality, too. They have also developed a teacher/student exchange which helps improve students' world views and English competencies. The benefits of the partnerships spread to the church communities, local people, church diaconal ministries and cross-cultural understandings. By 2017, through LCA International Mission and Lutheran Education Australia (LEA), six Australian Lutheran schools had developed school partnerships with Indonesian Lutheran Schools.

Thank you to you and to my mentor, LCA International Mission educational consultant Dr Neville Highett, for your support for strengthening Lutheran education and for your ongoing partnership with people of the Lutheran churches in Indonesia.

Mr Ridwin Purba is supported in his role through funds provided to LCA International Mission through the LLL International Mission Support Fund.



SCHOOL SERVICE LEARNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The **School Service Learning Program** has grown to include active **partnerships** between Australian Lutheran schools and schools and programs of Lutheran churches in **Papua New Guinea**: Concordia College, St John's Campus, Highgate South Australia; **Indonesia**: Endeavour College, Mawson Lakes South Australia; Faith Lutheran College, Tanunda South Australia; Grace Lutheran College, Caboolture Queensland; Immanuel Lutheran College, Buderim Queensland; Navigator College, Port Lincoln South Australia; St Martin's Lutheran College, Mount Gambier South Australia; Unity College, Murraylands, Murray Bridge South Australia; Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga Victoria; **Malaysia**: Immanuel College, Novar Gardens South Australia; Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Palmerston Northern Territory; **Cambodia**: Tatchilla Lutheran College, McLaren Vale South Australia; Pacific Lutheran College, Meridan Plains Queensland.

These partnerships provide valuable learning experiences and growth in faith for all people involved, both in Australia and overseas.

Papua New Guinea



SEASONS OF CHANGE

by Mick Hauser

PARTNERING WITH OUR PNG NEIGHBOURS

The LCA/NZ has a long, deep connection to ministry and mission in Papua New Guinea (PNG), spanning more than 130 years. Today we have Mick Hauser, serving as a lay theologian at Martin Luther Seminary. Hanna Schulz is serving as Bible translator with Wycliffe/Summer Institute of Linguistics, and several other LCA members are preparing to serve with Wycliffe.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) there is an estimated 1.5 million baptised Christians.

You support this partnership in many ways, including with resources and people for theological and educational capacity development, scholarships, and school and congregational partnerships.

A change of season is taking place in tropical Lae. The wet is about to become wetter. Seasons come and go, unnoticed at first, creeping up on us.

A new season in my life has crept up on me recently too. It is the call to ordination and the ministry of word and sacrament.

Just as the icy blast tells of winter and the blooms broadcast spring, I can only tell you of the call once it was upon me. It is in no small part due to the new context of living and serving in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Locals give honour to people by giving them a voice. Speech is emphasised and the praise of the outsider very much valued, as in Proverbs 27:2.

Personally I have always been uncomfortable as a public speaker. But my painful shyness has had to be held at bay to speak in a classroom or public forum in PNG. The people of PNG have

given me a voice when I did not have or deserve one.

Over time, my once-sound answer of 'no' to the question of a call to public ministry, became no answer in the light of God's promise to not only step with me, but also to step for me when I couldn't. The amount of times that my preparation for class was the 100m walk to the classroom from home has helped prepare me for the unexpected – including the answer of 'yes'. A resigned willingness has risen in my heart. Somehow, God does it. He changes people, grows them.

I am thankful for the opportunity to work towards ordination while still being able to work here in PNG.

A change also has occurred with my name, thanks to the local people. They seem most comfortable calling me 'Maik' (pronounced like Mike). I am already formally named 'Michael'

and informally 'Mick'. I also have a namesake, 'Myk', my gardener's son. Called 'Haus' around the seminary, he is 'Myk' when he goes back to the village. This is perhaps another example of how PNG people give honour. They have named him after me, but not in front of me, in case it confuses me. How can I not be confused? I answer to 'Haus' too!

Your generous giving to LCA International Mission enables Mick Hauser to serve as a lecturer in theology, Coordinator of the Masters program, and mentor and friend to students and lecturers at Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, PNG.

You're invited to donate to Mick Hauser's work, by going to www.lca.org.au/international-mission then clicking on 'Donate'. You can select Papua New Guinea from the list of projects, then Mick Hauser.



MINISTRY FOCUSES ON LUA PEOPLE

The LCA first joined the ministry in Thailand as a member of Lutheran Mission Thailand (LMT) – a consortium of mission agencies and partner Lutheran churches working in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT).

The LCA/NZ's partnership is concentrated mainly in the Nan province with the Lua people.

Today in the ELCT, there are more than 1200 baptised Lua members.

Significant funding for the program in Nan is contributed by LCA International Mission, together with support from individuals and congregations.

Other LCA International Mission funds go to the Lutheran Seminary in Thailand (LST) for the training of pastors and evangelists. Over many years, Lutheran Women of Australia (LWA) has also supported ELCT ministries.



Thailand

HEALTH PROJECT BRINGS HOPE

Dr Rova, a Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC) missionary in the Nan province of Thailand, coordinates the Mother and Child Healthcare program in the remote and impoverished Lua communities.

Many of the locals are immigrants and refugees from Laos and Myanmar and none of the local villages have hospitals or clinics. People face many problems with disease and sickness.

Together with her husband Rev Tovo, Dr Rova walks beside the Lua Lutheran evangelists you help sponsor and support. Proclaiming Jesus and servicing the Nan community go hand in hand for this couple from Madagascar.

Thai law doesn't allow Dr Rova to work as a foreign doctor but it does allow her to work as a volunteer. She regularly visits villages to check on children's health and to determine the essential support they need. 'In that moment', Dr Rova says, 'we meet children with sicknesses; we consult with them and provide medicines.'

'Several of them need food support, due to their parents' inability to afford food of any sort, so we have taken the decision to provide them with milk.'

'After our feedback this year when we went from village

to village to see the reality of these children and young girls' lives – they live with sick single mothers who can't work, or with grandparents who are sick, old and don't have resources – we understood that they really needed special support.

'Children's weights and health are monitored. Advice and support is given for flu treatment, dermatological disease, diet and the management of sickness. Adults with chronic health issues are checked for flu, heart and kidney disease, psychological disease, gynecological disease and stomach issues.'

The work of Dr Rova and Rev Tovo brings health to the villages and embeds these missionaries into their community because of their care and love. Faith, a future and freedom through the gospel, are alive and a growing part of the Nan community. This is just a part of the ministry and mission work that you partner in through your support for the Lua people.

Your support for the Lua evangelists working in the region enables the good news of Jesus to transform lives, as people come from fear and darkness into faith in Jesus Christ and are baptised into the Lutheran church. Through your partnership with LCA International Mission, you hold these people in your hands.

Stamps for Mission



MARKED FOR MINISTRY

by Peter Nitschke

Mr Ern Unger from Parkes in New South Wales headed the Stamps for Mission project for more than 60 years. He had many supporting volunteers, including youth groups that spent many evenings cleaning and sorting stamps.

I knew the Unger family at Parkes. Ern encouraged me to assist and ultimately take over responsibility for the Stamps for Mission program.

Some months later, I agreed on the condition that he would mentor me. The rest is history, as I accepted overall responsibility for the Stamps for Mission program in early 2003. The program has since become a fundraising arm of LCA International Mission.

Each year for the past 15 years, on average more than \$12,000 has been raised. The total raised to date is more than \$420,000. This is the result of hundreds of individuals and groups supporting this program. In fact, many of the youth of earlier generations are still actively involved, including several who are well into their 90s.

I encourage you to continue to collect stamps so that they can be sold to raise funds for LCA International Mission projects.

Did you know?

- Each dollar raised in Australia translates into up to 10 times as much in Asian projects.
- Australian sheet commemorative stamps are worth much more than the peel and stick version of the same stamp.
- Australian territory stamps (from Australian Antarctic Territory, Cocos and Keeling Islands, Christmas Island, or Norfolk Island) are more highly valued than Australian peel and stick stamps.
- Sheet stamps are much easier to clean than peel and stick stamps.
- Overseas stamps from all countries are welcome.
- All philatelic items are welcome, including mint and used stamps, first day covers, special postmarks, and pre-stamped envelopes.

What to do?

- Buy only sheet stamps (or concession stamps).
- Collect stamps on envelopes, or torn off, from local businesses or organisations, including where you work or volunteer. Just ask permission first.
- Send off regular consignments to me at 24 Gameau Road, Paradise SA 5075, or to the LCA churchwide office at 197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006. Please include the name and address of the sender. The stamps can still be on paper if you aren't able to clean them.

Thank you to each one of you who contributes to the work of LCA International Mission through the Stamps for Mission program. I praise and thank God for what can be done by many individuals working together.

Peter Nitschke is LCA/NZ Stamps for Mission Program Director.

SIMPLE STAMPS BRING BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS

The LCA/NZ's Stamps for Mission project has raised more than \$400,000, all donated to LCA International Mission programs and projects.

This is possible due to the volunteers who collect, clean, package and sell the stamps.

Stamps for Mission was established in

1938 through the efforts of Pastor Ted Koch and Mr Ern Unger. This year marks 10 years since LCA International Mission took over the Stamps for Mission project from Lutheran Youth of Australia.

If you would like to join in God's mission through the Stamps for Mission program, check out the LCA International Mission website: <http://www.lcamission.org.au/join-gods-mission/stamps-for-mission/>

CONSIDER A CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIP *for your congregation*

Lutheran congregations in Australia and New Zealand are being energised and encouraged in God's mission by partnering with overseas churches. They are discovering how much they learn and grow through the experience, as each partner enriches the other.

Partnerships can include:

- Praying for each other
- Exchange visits between partner groups
- Receiving newsletters and updates
- Fundraising for specific projects

LCA International Mission believes it is important to maintain sustainable partnerships when working in mission here and overseas. Therefore we encourage congregations to work together with overseas partner churches with whom LCA/NZ partnerships have already been established and where much of the groundwork in developing relationships has been done. We have a particular emphasis on supporting the Lutheran churches of our near neighbours Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Malaysia, Sabah, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar and Cambodia. It is our desire to see a strengthening of the relationships we have with these

churches, especially through more personal contact and interaction between members of the LCA/NZ and the partner churches.

The **congregational mission partnership program** has grown to currently include the following LCA/NZ congregations and their partner church relationships and offering prayer, mission visits and active support:

Cambodia – Barmera New Residence Lutheran Parish South Australia; Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Magill South Australia; St John's Lutheran Church, Dernancourt South Australia; Lifeway Lutheran Church, Epping New South Wales; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Woden Valley Australian Capital Territory; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ringwood Victoria; **Thailand** – St John's Lutheran Church, Wellington New Zealand; **PNG** – Grampians Lutheran Parish Victoria; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Hahndorf South Australia; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Horsham Victoria; Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrnambool Victoria; Ipswich Lutheran Church, Queensland; **Malaysia** – Manawatu Lutheran Parish, New Zealand; **Myanmar** – Ipswich Lutheran Church, Queensland.



CONSIDER BEING A LCA INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Congregational Representative

We invite all LCA/NZ congregations to nominate one member of their congregation to be their international mission representative. Maybe that person could be you. As part of this role, you will be emailed LCA International Mission eNews, receive copies of Border Crossings magazine, the monthly prayer calendar, volunteers newsletter and 40 Days Lenten prayer guide. As an international mission representative, you will be responsible for receiving and sending stamps for the Stamps for Mission program and will you will be regularly updated on what God is doing in and through our international partner churches. As an international mission representative you will have the privilege of sharing these exciting stories, information and prayer requests with the members of your congregation.

To date, 25 congregations have nominated their LCA International Mission representative. Thank you for your partnership in mission.

For more information or to nominate someone for the role, please contact Erin at the LCA International Mission office on 08 8267 7317 or at erin.kerber@lca.org.au



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

- 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
- Courses on Lutheran Distinctions that are organised and sponsored by the Mekong Mission Forum
- Dr Razafindrabe Rovaso and the medical ministry in northern Thailand
- Those who are on scholarships sponsored by LCA International Mission, both in their own countries and at Australian Lutheran College
- National Education Secretary for the Lutheran churches in Indonesia Mr Ridwin Purba, and LCA International Mission education consultant Dr Neville Highett, as they help to support the education reform in the schools of the Lutheran churches in Indonesia
- 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 Kope people in the Gulf Province of Papua New Guinea
- Nathan and Stacey, as they serve in West Asia
- Give thanks for the service of Peter Nitschke and the stamp cleaners for the Stamps for Mission program
- Those LCA congregations and schools which have partnerships with our overseas brothers and sisters
- Chak Mun, a field coordinator from the Lutheran Church in Singapore, supporting projects and programs of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia
- The LLL and everyone who donates for God's work to be done in Australia and overseas
- LCA International Mission volunteer Program Assistants Warren and Marianne Schirmer (Cambodia)
- Those from Australia and our partner churches who have been called into ministry and are studying at various seminaries
- Those people who have committed to serve as congregational representatives for LCA International Mission
- People willing to serve as volunteers in and with our overseas partner churches
- The love, justice and compassion of Jesus Christ to grow in each one of us
- 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.lca.org.au/international-mission/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!'

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 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, Medan
- Teach handcrafts, English and vocational 'ed' for street people at the HKBP Caritas centre in Pematangsiantar

THAILAND

- Teach English or use music, art, sport, special education or IT skills at Home of Praise, in the after-school care program 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

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; or volunteer to share any skills if you have a love for people
- Teaching theological courses at the Lutheran Study Centre, Sabah

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 and at other locations

SINGAPORE

- Teach English at the Thai Good News Center

MYANMAR

- Teach at the women's ministry conference held in Yangon to improve the Christian leadership and life skills of women in the churches
- 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 LCA International Mission Program Officer Nevin Nitschke at nevin.nitsckhe@lca.org.au or lcaim@lca.org.au or phone 08 8267 7300



VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF WHO HAVE SERVED OVERSEAS IN RECENT YEARS

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; three-month lecturing in PNG at Ogelbeng Seminary; short course at Lutheran Seminary in Thailand; Lutheran Spirituality course in Singapore **2017:** short course for a Reformation event in Malaysia; training in Lutheran education in Indonesia and Malaysia; teaching for a 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 of 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 Bensted; **PNG** – Peter Ellis; **Singapore** – Dr John Kleinig; **2017: Indonesia** – Rosemary Winderlich, Tracy Smith and Belinda Peterson, Mal and John Morgan; **PNG** – Arthur Hall; **Sabah** – Sarah Dumuid; **Thailand** – Georgia Anker; **Cambodia** – Barbara Smith; **2018: Indonesia** – Rosemary Winderlich, Carl and Sarah Richter; **Cambodia** – Tayla Priebbenow, Bronwyn Norsworthy; **Myanmar** – Pauline Simonsen; **Thailand** – Rev Michael Dutschke, Chris Sumner, Brittany Whitfield. **Australia** – Margaret Voigt, Joan and Kevin Koster, Helen Schubert, David and Ruth Craig. Colin and Ruth Hayter (PNG), Warren and Marianne Schirmer (Cambodia), David Pietsch (Cambodia), John and Ilene Thiel (Malaysia) have served as **LCA International Mission Program Assistants** on a volunteer basis.

In **2016 Nick Schwarz**, together with wife Meagan, returned to Australia after seven 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.

SERVES 4

INDONESIAN CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP (Soto Ayam)

A warming and healthy winter treat

Ingredients

1.4 kg whole chicken (or chicken drumsticks)
2 litres chicken stock
1 tbsp oil (peanut or olive)
4 garlic cloves, chopped
5 cm fresh ginger, peeled and grated
3 kaffir lime leaves
2 stems lemongrass, bruised and quartered
1 tsp ground turmeric
1 ½ tsp ground coriander
1 ½ tsp ground cumin
1 long chilli, chopped (optional)
1 ½ tsp sea salt
1 tsp black peppercorns
100 g vermicelli noodles
2 spring onions finely chopped (to serve)
1 cup bean sprouts (to serve)
¼ cup fresh coriander leaves (to serve)
4 hardboiled eggs (to serve)
Sambal oelek (ground chilli paste) (to serve)

Method

1. Add oil to large hot saucepan
2. Add ginger, garlic, turmeric, ground coriander, cumin and chilli and stir over heat
3. Add chicken and stir to coat
4. Add chicken stock, kaffir lime leaves and lemongrass, peppercorns and salt
5. Simmer uncovered for 1 ¼ hours or until meat is falling off the bone
6. Transfer chicken to plate. Set aside for 5 minutes to cool slightly
7. Remove meat from bone and chop coarsely
8. Drain stock and retain
9. Boil eggs, peel and quarter
10. Place noodles in a heatproof bowl and cover with boiling water. Allow to stand for 20 minutes. Drain
11. Divide noodles among bowls
12. Add chopped chicken to bowls
13. Add stock to bowls
14. Garnish with boiled egg pieces, bean sprouts, spring onions and fresh coriander
15. Serve with Sambal oelek (if desired)

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.



... 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 and by 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**) \$ _____
- ☐ Women's Ministry Conference 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



WAYS TO GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO LCA INTERNATIONAL MISSION THROUGH THE LLL:

1) NON-INTEREST-BEARING ACCOUNT

LLL account holders can provide additional support to LCA International Mission by nominating their account to be non-interest-bearing.

As a result, the LLL is able to provide a benefit to LCA International Mission based on 5 per cent of the total of all non-interest-bearing deposits nominated to International Mission.

An LLL non-interest-bearing account has the other usual features and access of an LLL Account. Non-interest-bearing instructions can be changed at any time in writing to the LLL.

For more information on non-interest-bearing accounts, visit the LLL website at www.lll.org.au or contact the LLL office on freecall 1800 556 457.

2) INTERNATIONAL MISSION SUPPORT FUND

The International Mission Support Fund Is an LLL permanent fund which provides an annual grant of 5 per cent to LCA International Mission. Your lasting gift (whether a legacy or donation) will generate an income stream long into the future, beyond your lifetime.

For more information about leaving a legacy to the LLL and LLL permanent funds, visit the LLL website at www.lll.org.au or contact the LLL office on freecall 1800 556 457.

