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CONNECT •

LCA INTERNATIONAL MISSION

We work with global partners to fulfil Christ's command to 'go and make disciples of all nations'.



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

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GOD'S PROMISE

Through his word, God calls his people to his mission field:

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.'

// Acts 1:8 (NIV)

God makes us his partners in the gospel, and he calls us to walk with other churches as they proclaim and witness to Jesus in their contexts. Together we rely on the sure promises of God in Christ as the way he calls people to saving faith and makes them his disciples.



We see a church where

- people are inspired, engaged, equipped and mobilised in God's mission, here in Australia and New Zealand and also overseas
- partnerships involving people locally and globally transform lives through the proclamation of the gospel internationally, and
- mutual transformation and growth in Christ takes place through interdependent partnerships.



MISSION

Through partnerships, **the Holy Spirit**
is bringing people to faith in Jesus
across the globe.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1

As we engage in God's mission we uphold the teachings and confessions of the LCA:

- We affirm that we are confessional Lutherans, and
- We believe the promise of God that the Holy Spirit works faith in peoples' lives through the proclamation of the Word of God and through the administration of the Sacraments.

2

As we engage in God's mission, our work in partnership is characterized by:

- Gospel-centred ministry,
- Holistic ministry; this involves both verbal proclamation and response to human need,
- Interdependence exhibiting, but not limited to, the characteristics of mutual respect, interdependence, and listening to and learning from each other (see Appendix 2: 'Understanding Partnership' for a fuller explanation),
- Sustainability (often evidenced by a gradual empowerment to build capacity),
- Cultural sensitivity, and
- Collaboration and cooperation within and between individuals, congregations, schools, aged care and other local ministries, districts and national departments of the LCA.

3

As we engage in God's mission we will be open to opportunities and adaptable where possible.

4

To ensure effective ministry LCA IM will prioritise its ministry focus:

LCA IM will prioritise its ministry focus on countries in Asia/Pacific with some support for mission in Central and Eastern Africa where:

- The LCA has connections to Lutheran churches through people who have come to Australia/New Zealand and with whom the LCA now ministers. In the case of Africa these connections will be based on recently established ministries in Australia,
- The LCA has long and established relationships in Asia/Pacific,
- The LCA has the resources and capacity to support the holistic ministry efforts of new partners primarily in the Asia/Pacific, and
- Collaboration and coordination with partners, both LCA and in the global Lutheran family, which will enhance the total ministry of the LCA and its overseas partners.

PRIORITY GROUPS

LCA International Mission will focus on programs that enhance the capacity of our partners in Australia, New Zealand and overseas to carry out holistic ministry, with a particular emphasis on working with all parts of the LCA to create a culture of mission in our church.

Characteristics of LCA partnerships

Partnerships will be characterised by

- mutual benefit
- shared vision
- quality
- sustainability
- two-way communication
- intentional inclusion
- understanding of common goals and clear expectations
- a clear, long-term strategy
- interpersonal and cultural sharing
- evaluative stages.

LCA International Mission believes that in most cases we can best serve in God's mission, working in partnership by supporting our partner churches through the work they are doing in their countries and with their nearby neighbours. We have a particular emphasis on supporting the mission and ministry of Lutheran churches in the neighbouring Asia/Pacific countries of Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia (West), Sabah (East Malaysia), Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Thailand.

A significant portion of our support to these churches is used to provide scholarships for the training of pastors. However, there are many other areas that are funded as well. It is our desire to see a strengthening of the relationships we have with these churches, especially through more personal contact and interaction with the members of the LCA and the partner churches.

LCA International Mission facilitates connections and the development of relationships between Lutheran communities here in Australia and New Zealand and also with the LCA's overseas partner churches.

LCA International Mission believes it is important to maintain sustainable partnerships when working in mission and ministry overseas and in Australia. Therefore we encourage congregations, schools and individuals to work together with the overseas partner churches with whom we have established partnerships and where much of the groundwork in developing these relationships and protocols has been established.

Papers: *Partnerships of the Lutheran Church of Australia, Guidelines & Procedures for Developing a Partnership, and Partnershipso* are available on the LCA International Mission website: **www.lca.org.au/international-mission**

LCA Internaional Mission is also keen to help facilitate partnerships with LCA congregations and schools within new and emerging missional communities in Australia and New Zealand.

LCA International Mission has **long-standing, established partnerships** with churches in:

Indonesia

LCA International Mission works with and through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) National Committee Indonesia which consists of thirteen Indonesian Lutheran churches: Gereja Kristen Luther Indonesia (GKLI), Gereja Kristen Protestan Angkola (GKPA), Gereja Kristen Protestan Indonesia (GKPI), Gereja Kristen Protestan Simalungun (GKPS), Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) and Huria Kristen Indonesia (HKI), Gereja Angowuloa Masehi Indonesia Nias (AMIN), Banua Niha Keriso Protestan (BNKP), Gereja Punguan Kristen Batak (GKPB), Gereja Kristen Protestan di Mentawi (GKPM), Gereja Kristen Protestan Pakpak Dairi (GKPPD), Gereja Kristen Persekutuan (GKP/GPP) and Oranhur Niha Kriso Protestan (ONKP).

Malaysia (West)

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia (ELCM) and Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM)

Papua New Guinea

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG)

Sabah (East Malaysia)

Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM)

Singapore

Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS)

Thailand

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT)

Myanmar

LCA International Mission works with and through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Mekong Mission Forum to support the ministry and mission of the four LWF member churches represented in Myanmar: Lutheran Church in Myanmar, Myanmar Lutheran Church, Mara Evangelical Church and the Lutheran Bethlehem Church.

Cambodia

LCA International Mission works with and through the Lutheran Church in Singapore and together with other overseas partner churches to support the new ministry and mission programs of Lutheran World Mission (LWM) in Cambodia, the Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC) and the newly formed Federation of Lutheran Churches in Cambodia (FLCC).

Through these partnerships the LCA also participates in ministry and mission beyond the borders of our partner churches as they engage in mission with their near neighbours.

The LCA participates in **mission and ministry** with our overseas partner churches **by supporting them** in the following ways:

1

Scholarships (long-term and short-term), both in-country (overseas) and in Australia at Australian Lutheran College (ALC)

- Rahel Naomi Simarmata, Indonesia, to be completed in 2016
- Samuel Wang, Singapore, studying at ALC, to be completed in 2016
- short-term scholarships at ALC for Lutheran Church in Cambodia leaders in 2016
- Jan Hotner Saragih, Indonesia, to be completed in 2016
- Jack Urame, PNG to be completed in 2016
- Rev Ngui Aug Sze, Sabah, Masters studies in Hong Kong, to be completed in 2017
- 3 theological students at Lutheran Seminary in Thailand, on-going
- 3 theological studies scholarships in Burundi, on-going
- one Pre-Masters scholarship at ALC, for PNG pastor, completed in 2016
- Short-term scholarship (Malaysia) in Lutheran Education in LCA, completed in 2016
- Short-term scholarship (Malaysia) at ALC, completed in 2016
- Pastoral ministry scholarship (Malaysia) in Sabah, to be completed in 2019
- Samuel Wang, Singapore, Doctoral scholarship at ALC, to be completed in 2016

2

Support for

- Emerging churches in the Mekong region through the Mekong Mission Forum
- Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) – ministry to and with the Orang Asli indigenous people in Malaysia
- Lutheran Church Malaysia into Myanmar – providing theological courses for local pastors of all four Lutheran churches
- Abdi Sabda Seminary – Indonesia prison ministry
- Lutheran Church in Singapore – ministry and mission in Cambodia
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand – ministry and mission in Nan Province, Thailand
- The Lutheran Study Centre (Sabah)

3

Seminaries

- Books for libraries – Sekolah Tinggi Teologi HKBP (STT HKBP), Sekolah Tinggi Teologia Abdi Sabda (STT Abdi Sabda) and GKLI in Indonesia; Seminari Teoloji Malaysia (STM) in Malaysia and Seminari Teologi Sabah (STS) in Sabah (East Malaysia); Lutheran Seminary Thailand (LST)
- Short-term guest lecturers from Australia serving overseas short-term
- Volunteer teachers of English

4

Translation of Christian literature

- PNG – tracts and other Christian literature
- Singapore – Revised English version of the LCA publication of 'Growing as God's people'
- Indonesia – Lutheran theological material

5

Capacity-building in education

- Indonesia – National Education Coordinator, to support the redevelopment and revitalisation of the Lutheran Education system; consultancy in best practice in Lutheran schools in Indonesia

6

Youth programs

- Sabah, Basel Christian Church of Malaysia – with the Bahasa Malay youth programs

7

Homes and orphanages

- Bethany Home – school for children and adults with disabilities (Malaysia – ELCM) (off budget)
- Luther Ria – school for children and adults with disabilities (Malaysia – ELCM), through school partnership (off budget)
- Home of Grace – home for unwed mothers (Thailand– ELCT) (off budget)
- Home of Praise – for children in the slums of Bangkok (Thailand – ELCT) (off budget)
- Debora orphanage (Indonesia – GKPA) (off budget)
- Margaritha orphanage (Indonesia – GKPS) (off budget)

8

Nommensen University, Indonesia

- Centre for Community Development and Risk Management, North Sumatra (Indonesia – HKBP) (through the LLL Overseas Mission Fund)

9

Evangelists in Thailand

- Evangelists in the Nan province
- Ministry and mission programs in Nan province
- Scholarships for theological students at Lutheran Seminary in Thailand

10

Papua New Guinea with the ELC-PNG

- Support for ministry programs of the ELC-PNG
- Australian staff serving in various areas of ministry
 - » Mick Hauser, lecturer at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae
 - » Hanna Schulz (Lutheran Bible Translator of Australia)
- In-country scholarship for doctoral student Rev Jack Urame

11

Birthing kits for mothers and babies in rural and remote regions of Papua New Guinea

- Program of Lutheran Women of Australia providing birthing kits which save the lives of mothers and babies in childbirth

12

Medical supplies ELC-PNG (off budget)

13

Volunteers serving for short and medium term:

- Teachers of English in various locations and institutions in Indonesia
- Support workers in various orphanages in Indonesia
- Teachers/assistants in homes for people with disabilities in Malaysia
- Teachers of English in Cambodia
- Medical mission team in Cambodia

14

Cambodia mission (through the Lutheran Church Singapore)

- Holistic programs for people living in Kampong Chhnang region
- Outreach to university students in Phnom Penh
- Scholarship for pastors and lay people theological training
- Volunteer teachers of English at Rainbow hostel in Phnom Penh
- Support and expertise in the development of the land alongside the Rainbow Hostel for Lutheran pre-school and ministry training rooms
- Theological training of LCC ministry leaders
- Support for development of new church plant in Kampong Cham (off budget)

15

LEA school service-learning partnerships

- LEA school partnerships in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Cambodia

16

LCA congregational partnerships

- LCA congregational partnerships in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia and Indonesia

17

Lutheran Bible Translators Australia

- Hanna Schulz in PNG
- Margaret Mickan in the Northern Territory, Australia

18

In Australia:

- Official visits of overseas partner church leaders

COUNTRY PROFILES

Australia

Through its Committee for International Mission, the LCA responds to the expressed needs of congregations and districts, schools and individuals of the LCA as they see the opportunities for sharing Jesus' love with the people and in the places where God leads overseas.

Margaret Mickan serves as a Lutheran Bible Translators Australia partner in the Northern Territory.



COUNTRY PROFILE

Papua New Guinea

For 130 years the LCA was heavily involved in mission and ministry in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and sent many mission personnel to serve there. Today the LCA has only one full-time staff member there: Mick Hauser, serving as a lay theologian at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae. LCA International Mission also supports Mr Reinhard Lorenz, serving as the liaison officer for the ELC-PNG in Port Moresby, and Sabine Schmidt (ELC-PNG, Project Office) through the Lutheran Overseas Partner Churches (LOPC), of which the LCA is a member.

Although our full-time paid staff level is low, the LCA still gives a high level of support for the ministry of the ELC-PNG. We support the education of pastors (in PNG and through scholarships for study in Australia at Australian Lutheran College and Fiji) and support the ELC-PNG's medical, educational, outreach ministries and the publication of tracts and resources.

Because of our long-term involvement in PNG, there are many opportunities for individuals, congregations, schools and districts to connect and re-connect with the people of the ELC-PNG. LCA International Mission is keen to encourage new relationships with the ELC-PNG; there are opportunities to support seminaries, hospitals, schools and congregations, as well as projects within these organisations. However, because of the decrease in security and the increase in the levels of violence in some areas, a partnership in PNG should be entered into with due consideration and in consultation with LCA International Mission staff.

In order to help support the ministry partnership of the LCA with the ELC-PNG, LCA International Mission has appointed Colin and Ruth Hayter as PNG Program Assistants (in a voluntary capacity). Colin and Ruth work in consultation with LCA International Mission office staff to share the stories and help connect congregations and schools seeking to engage more closely in mission and ministry in PNG.

Partnership opportunities in Papua New Guinea

- Lecturer, Mick Hauser
- Lutheran Overseas Partner Churches (LOPC) contribution
- Block grants
- Ministerial training institutions, library grant
- Hanna Schulz – Lutheran Bible Translators Australia
- In-country scholarship – Rev Jack Urame
- Scholarships for ELC-PNG pastors
- Publication of Christian literature
- Birthing kits and solar panels for Lutheran health Service rural sub-stations



COUNTRY PROFILE

Indonesia

For some time LCA International Mission has had significant relationships/partnerships with six of the thirteen Lutheran churches of the LWF National Committee in Indonesia. In recent years, through the LWF National Committee Indonesia, LCA International Mission has been developing relationships with all thirteen churches. The LCA's support varies from church to church, but the main support is in-country and overseas scholarships for pastor training, support for the seminaries, guest lecturers from the LCA to serve short-term in the seminaries, and the provision of Australian volunteers to teach English in seminaries and in courses for pastors and leaders. English courses continue to add great personal support in helping to build the capacity of the churches to communicate with others in a world in which English is fast becoming the global language. The LCA has also supported various diaconal institutions of these churches, through their orphanages, mission to prisoners, homes for blind students and abused children and through the provision of volunteers.

A grant from the LLL (LLL Overseas Mission Fund) has been the impetus for a joint venture with LCA International Mission, Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) and Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) to build the capacity of the churches to strengthen their diaconal work and live out their faith in Jesus Christ in a mostly Muslim culture. In addition to support for the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and through LCA International Mission, with funds provided through the LLL Overseas Mission Fund, fund the position of a National Education Coordinator (Mr Ridwin Purba) for all thirteen Indonesian Lutheran churches. This support enables the LCA to provide consultancy (through Dr Neville Highett) to help build the capacity of the churches to deliver best-practice Christian education in the schools of the Indonesian Lutheran churches.

There are a range of opportunities for individuals, congregations, schools and districts to partner with and serve in LWF Indonesian Lutheran churches and schools. There continues to be a demand for teachers of English to serve in varying capacities and locations throughout North Sumatra. Schools, orphanages and homes for disadvantaged children provide opportunities for individuals, schools and congregations of the LCA to partner in mission in practical ways.

Partnership opportunities in Indonesia

- Support for the LWF National Education Secretary position, consultancy and education reform
- Support for LWF National Committee development of Lutheran theological material
- Sabbatical scholarship for lecturers from Lutheran seminaries at ALC
 - » Support for libraries of the Seminaries; GKLI, HKBP and Abdi Sabda
- Gereja Kristen Protestan Angkola (GKPA) (off budget)
 - » Debora orphanage (off budget)
- Gereja Kristen Protestant Indonesia (GKPI)
 - » Volunteer teachers of English for pastors and leaders course (off budget)
- Gereja Kristen Protestan Simalungun (GKPS)
 - » Scholarships
 - » Margaritha orphanage (off budget)
- Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP)
 - » Volunteer teachers of English for the pre-seminary training course and leadership (off budget)
- Huria Kristen Indonesia (HKI)
 - » Zarfat orphanage (off budget)
- Sekolah Tinggi Theologia Abdi Sabda (STT Abdi Sabda) Seminary
 - » Prison ministry program
 - » Library
- Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (STT HKBP) Seminary
 - » STT HKBP library
 - » Volunteer teachers of English for the pre-seminary training course and leadership
 - » Training in Reconciliation Ministry
- LCA/LLL Overseas Mission Fund Indonesia program/projects (LCA International Mission, ALWS, LEA)
 - » Support for the Centre for Disaster Risk Management (Nommensen University)
 - » Development of new strategies to support the education programs and schools of the Indonesian partner churches through the LWF National Committee of Indonesia for all thirteen Lutheran partner churches.

COUNTRY PROFILE

Malaysia

There are two Lutheran Church groups in Malaysia (West) with which the LCA has forged strong partnerships: the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia (ELCM), which started as a mission to people of Tamil background people; and the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM), which began as a result of ministry and mission to people of Chinese heritage.

Partnership opportunities with Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia (ELCM)

- Library at Seminari Theologica Malaysia (STM)
- Bethany Home for people with disabilities (off budget)
- Volunteers at Bethany Home (off budget)
- Rumah Luther Ria school for people with disabilities (off budget)
- Rumah Chrestus home for abused children (off budget)
- ALC lecturer for short course

The LCA has previously supported the ELCM with the training of pastors, particularly through scholarships and by providing full-time and guest lecturers for the inter-denominational seminary at Seremban (STM) and for short courses conducted for pastors of the ELCM. The LCA off-budget funds are also given to support their diaconal work in orphanages and various homes for people with disabilities and in disadvantaged situations. Many volunteers from the LCA have served at Bethany Home (a school for people with special needs) in Teluk Intan. There are opportunities for individuals, congregational teams or schools to serve within the ELCM, particularly in the orphanages, Bethany Home and Luther Ria (schools for people with special needs).

Partnership opportunities with Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM)

- Ministry and mission to the Orang Asli people
- Teaching ministry with LCM in Myanmar
- School service learning partnerships

A significant amount of LCA International Mission partnership support for ministry with the LCM is provided for their ministry among the Orang Asli (indigenous people of Malaysia). The LCA has also provided support for the training of pastors for these indigenous people. The other key area of support is for the LCM teaching ministry in Myanmar. Previous support has also included scholarships to ALC and for ALC lecturers to teach LCM pastors for short courses.

There are opportunities for teams of people from congregations and schools to work together with members of the LCM in the ministry among the Orang Asli as well as connecting to the congregations and diaconal organisations of the LCM. There is also great potential for combined youth camps with our Australian young people and the people of both Lutheran Churches in Malaysia. The LCM is (as are our other overseas partner churches) very mission focused and they have a lot to offer us in the LCA as they share their passion for Jesus Christ and for making him known.

The invitation has been issued to the LCA to provide teachers who can join the LCM in their ministry of theological teaching for pastors, evangelists and women in ministry in the Lutheran churches in Myanmar.



COUNTRY PROFILE

Sabah (East Malaysia)

The LWF member Church in Sabah (East Malaysia) is known as the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM). Like all our partner churches, the BCCM has a dynamic mission focus. They carry out mission outreach outside of their country as well as in various regions in the interior of Sabah with the indigenous people. The LCA support has been in the form of scholarships for pastors, full-time support for lecturers, guest lecturers at the interdenominational seminary (STS) in Kota Kinabalu, support for their youth ministry program and funds for missionaries from the BCCM to work as short-term missionaries and teachers in China. Current LCA support is for the running of the Lutheran Study Centre, based in STS. LCA lecturers serve on a short-term basis at the Lutheran Study Centre and STS when requested. There is potential for individuals, congregations, schools and districts to participate in partnerships with the BCCM in a variety of ways.

Partnership opportunities in Sabah

- Library STS
- Lecturers at STS
- BCCM youth ministry program
- Lutheran Study Centre



COUNTRY PROFILE

Singapore

LCA partnership with the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) has included funding scholarships for the further training of pastors. Previous partnership support with LCS has been through their mission and ministry in the Thai Good News Centre (ministry to the many disadvantaged Thai workers in Singapore), the translation of LCA Christian education books into Chinese, and the International Seafarers Mission.

The partnership between the LCA and LCS is recognised as a 'graduated' partnership.

Partnership opportunities with the Lutheran Church in Singapore

- Mission and ministry in Cambodia through Lutheran World Mission (LWM)
- Support for the LCS Mission Coordinator (Mr Chuk Mun)
- Thai Good News Centre (off budget)
- International Seafarers Mission (off budget)
- Translation of LCA literature/publications (such as 'Growing as God's people') into the Chinese language (completed) and now support in preparation for the publication of the revised English version of the textbook.

There are opportunities for congregations and schools of the LCA to develop relationships with congregations in Singapore or for teams to help support the Thai Good News Centre (including the teaching of English).

An exciting possibility for establishing partnerships now exists to join with the LCS and the Lutheran Church in Cambodia as they work in the Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Cham provinces and in Phnom Penh.

In addition, there is opportunity to provide support for the building of the Lutheran school and ministry training rooms on the land purchased next to the Rainbow student hostel in Phnom Penh.



COUNTRY PROFILE

Cambodia

LCA International Mission is signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding to support work in Cambodia in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) and other overseas partners in an inspiring program of mission and ministry. This was commenced by the LCS and supported by a consortium of Lutheran churches worldwide with the encouragement and endorsement of the Mekong Mission Forum (MMF).

A ministry centre (Lutheran Life Centre) and place of worship for the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was constructed in the village of Phum Krus about a half-hour drive from the town of Kampong Chhnang (the capital of Kg Chhnang) and two hours from Phnom Penh). Components of this exciting and expanding mission are the medical/dental/optical/ children's ministry teams from partner churches, which are coordinated by the LCS to conduct clinics for the disadvantaged people in villages throughout the province. Daily Bread feeding programs provide one meal per day for children and elderly people living in poverty. Other programs in the village of Phum Krus and surrounding villages include English and computing classes, and agricultural programs.

The LWM owns three units in Phnom Penh to accommodate and minister to a growing number of tertiary students. Known as the Rainbow Hostel / City Church of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia, this has become a key focus for ministry and mission. Several LCA congregations and schools have sent members and teams to join with the teams from Singapore and other partner churches, offering support and encouragement to the LCS as they minister with local members and leaders of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC) in this emerging mission field.

Other outreach areas are being developed and a recent team from Australia has raised sufficient funds to build a manse, church /shelter structure, fish pond and fence around land in the Kampong Cham province where there is already a Lutheran mission/ministry presence. LCA volunteers also serve in the Rainbow Hostel and Kampong Chhnang teaching English and computing to the students.

There are exciting possibilities and opportunities for individuals, congregations and schools of the LCA to support this dynamic mission and ministry in Cambodia. In order to help facilitate this growing opportunity, LCA International Mission has appointed Mr Warren Schirmer and David Pietsch as the Cambodia Program Assistants (in a voluntary capacity). Warren and David work closely with LCS Mission facilitator (Chak Mun) and mission coordinator Sally Lim and LCA International Mission office staff to help facilitate teams and the additional support of LCA congregations and schools for the ministry in Cambodia.

Partnership opportunities in Cambodia

- Support for medical and holistic programs (livelihood programs)
- Partnership with the Rainbow Hostel (university students) in Phnom Penh
- Teaching English and computing
- Annual youth outreach and evangelism camps
- The new possibility of helping to establish a pre-school and ministry teaching facility on land next to the Rainbow Hostel, Phnom Penh
- Support for the mission expansion into Kampong Cham province



COUNTRY PROFILE

Thailand

The LCA's partnership in Thailand is through and together with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT). Up until October 2013, LCA missionary Pastor Simon Mackenzie and his wife Oiy and son were serving in Nan Province among the Lua people.

LCA International Mission has also provided support for a variety of diaconal works carried out in a home for disadvantaged children from the slums of Bangkok (Home of Praise) and a home for single mothers (Home of Grace).

There are exciting opportunities for congregations, schools or districts of the LCA to join in front-line mission and ministry work. These include a variety of opportunities to serve as individual volunteers, teams or schools in the various diaconal institutions of the ELCT. Rev Amnuay (pastor amongst the Lua people) has also asked the LCA to help provide teachers who can help to build the theological capacity of the evangelists as they proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the marginalised and impoverished Lua people living in the Nan region.

Partnership opportunities in Thailand

- Evangelists in Nan Province
- Medical support for Nan
- Christmas program in Nan
- Scholarships for students at the Lutheran Seminary Thailand
- Library (Lutheran Seminary Thailand)
- Home of Grace(off budget)
- Home of Praise (off budget)
- Teams from Australia (off budget)



COUNTRY PROFILE

Myanmar

Myanmar, known as the 'Golden Land', is rich with natural resources. It has a population of 59 million people, representing 135 ethnic groups, and is one of the least developed countries in South-East Asia. Today it is beginning to show signs of development in some areas. It has opened itself up to economic relationships, particularly with China, Thailand and India.

There are four Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches in Myanmar. LCA International Mission involvement with these four churches has been relatively recent and has come about through its partnership in ministry and mission in the Mekong Mission Forum (MMF) and more closely through our partnership with the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) and its relationship and teaching ministry in and with these member churches, particularly with the Myanmar Lutheran Church. A number of visits from LCA International Mission staff to Myanmar in recent years have provided more insight into the people and ministries of these four Lutheran churches and to the possibilities for future partnerships in Myanmar. This is a country formed along many ethnic groupings, and the four LWF member Lutheran churches in Myanmar reflect the distinctions of these groupings.

Partnership opportunities with the Myanmar Lutheran Church (MLC)

The ministry of MLC began initially to serve the Khumi ethnic group. The church was founded on 1 March 1998. Now the ministry also incorporates people from the Asho Chin, Rakhine, Hakha Chin, Burmese, Karin groups, with services conducted in Burmese. The MLC is represented in three districts (Yangon, Paletwa, and Miza) through fourteen congregations. Yangon is the administrative headquarter and Paletwa is the minor headquarter and centre for the field ministry areas

The LCA supports the teaching programs of the Mekong Mission Forum and the Lutheran Church in Malaysia. Other support for the four LWF churches is through the provision of teachers for the Women's Biblical Life Conference held every November.

Partnership opportunities with the Lutheran Church in Myanmar (LCM)

The LCM was founded in 1995 with a particular focus on ministry to the Mizo people who have come to Myanmar from Mizoram land/state in India. Diaconal ministries consist of the Damadi Children's Home (located close to Yangon), Shwe Pyi Ta kindergarten, children's program and ministry centre (run in conjunction with the Korean Presbyterian Church), Hope Education Centre (located close to Yangon), Hope Education Centre (Inle, in Shan State), drug and alcohol rehabilitation camp/programs, women's ministries, and soccer camps.

Partnership opportunities with the Mara Evangelical Church (MEC)

The Mara people (formerly known as Lakher) are an ethnic group whose territory is situated on both sides of the border between India and Myanmar. In 1907 a British missionary couple (Lorrain) began working among the Mara. Through their efforts and through the work of local evangelists and a series of revivals, the entire Mara people were Christianised by 1960. and in 1987 the Mara Evangelical Church was formed. The MEC has 21,000 members.

Partnership opportunities with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar

(ELCM) also now and the Lutheran Bethlehem Church

The ELCM began as a mission of Leipzig Mission in 1878 to people from India who had been brought to work in Burma Myanmar. The ELCM has 26 worship centres. Diaconal ministries include medical mission clinics in Yangon and various regions (serving up to 2000 people annually), child sponsorship program, women's programs, livelihood programs for women, 'revolving pig' project, children's and youth ministry, youth camps, men's ministry, music ministry, and computing and English language classes.

Myanmar and the Lutheran Churches in Myanmar are new areas for the exploration of opportunities to partner in mission and ministry. LCA International Mission is keen to help in facilitation and the establishment of meaningful partnerships for schools and congregations of the LCA and to help facilitate opportunities for volunteers to serve together with people in ministry in these member Churches.

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Mekong Mission Forum (MMF)

Established by Lutheran World Federation, the MMF is a consortium of Lutheran Churches and mission agencies from Europe and the Asia/Pacific region committed to supporting and encouraging the emerging Churches of the Mekong region in Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

LCA International Mission as a member of the MMF gives financial support to the MMF which is used for theological scholarships, training of leaders and publication of Christian literature.



Your invitation to join in

God's MISSION

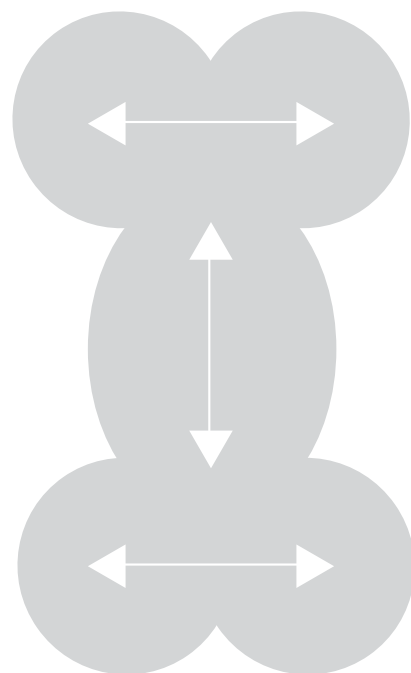
in partnership with LCA International Mission

There are many opportunities for individuals, congregations, schools and districts to connect, pray for and support these churches in mission. There is huge potential for a wide range of partnerships. For further ways to develop these connections in mission, please read the document 'Guidelines/Procedures for developing a partnership project with an Overseas Partner Church' available on the LCA International Mission website:

www.lca.org.au/international-mission.org.au (Resources)

LCA International Mission has developed strong, sustainable relationships with its partner churches. Through this collaboration we build on established lines of communication, sustainable approaches and transparent accountability practices. If an individual, congregation, or district of the LCA would like to begin a relationship of support and encouragement with an overseas partner church or one of its congregations, schools or institutions, we encourage you as a first priority to contact the office of LCA International Mission. However, if a school wishes to establish a service-learning partnership with an overseas church, congregation or school, we encourage you to first contact Lutheran Education Australia, followed by LCA International Mission.

The LCA works church to church. Working together in unity in God's mission, we are able to achieve so much more than attempting to work alone. Please feel free to contact the LCA International Mission office if you would like further information about beginning a partnership. We are pleased to come and share the stories with your school, congregation, youth or fellowship group about the amazing things God is doing and how you can join him in his mission in this world.



UNDERSTANDING PARTNERSHIP

A position paper developed by LCA Mission International, Australian Lutheran World Service and Lutheran Education Australia. This paper articulates the values and characteristics of partnership between the LCA International Mission, ALWS, LEA and overseas partners.

Partnership values

All people are invited into partnership with God's son, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9). Christians are called into partnership with each other as disciples of Jesus Christ. Christians are called as partners in the gospel (Philippians 1:5) to love and serve all people.

The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) values partnerships between its own agencies and with parties overseas to conduct its mission and ministry within and beyond Australia. The LCA values gospel-centred and holistic ministry. Holistic ministry involves both the verbal proclamation of the gospel and the physical response to human need. We recognise that holistic mission points to Jesus through both the proclaimed word and action in serving. As partners of the LCA work together and work with partners overseas we achieve holistic ministry.

The LCA recognises that an understanding of partnership between people in its various agencies and with people from its overseas partners is vital for its ministry and mission. Each party has its own special contribution to make and each can be energised by others.

Partnership dynamics: diagramming relationships

The diagram seeks to describe the dynamics of partnership within the LCA, within overseas partners, and between the two. Strong partnerships within Australia (bottom), strong partnerships within the overseas partners (top) and strong partnerships between Australia and the overseas partners (centre) are essential to the success of the partnership. If Australian parties are not working in partnership (or the overseas parties are not working in partnership), then confusion or disappointment can occur and the partnerships may not be sustainable.

A definition

For the sake of this document, 'party' refers to any official or unofficial body involved in the partnership. This can include, but is not limited to, congregations, school groups, independent organisations and arms of the church.

Characteristics of LCA partnerships:

Partnerships will be characterised by

- mutual benefit
- shared vision
- quality
- sustainability
- two-way communication
- intentional inclusion
- understanding of common goals and clear expectations
- a clear, long-term strategy
- interpersonal and cultural sharing
- evaluative stages

LCA International Mission is the mission department of the Lutheran Church of Australia and exists to assist the LCA in fulfilling Christ's mission command to 'go and make disciples of all peoples'.

Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) is the overseas aid and resettlement agency of the Lutheran Church of Australia, and is committed to bringing people together in partnership to ensure the voices of the poor are heard, and God's gift of grace is shared in our serving. It strives for life-changing programs that restore human dignity, alleviate poverty and build just and sustainable communities.

Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) represents the Lutheran schools and early-childhood centres of the Lutheran Church of Australia. LEA is committed to the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church of Australia through supporting quality, Christ-centred education. It operates on behalf of the LCA in partnership with schools and regions in pursuit of this vision.

What does this mean?

Mutual benefit

Each person within a partnership has something to contribute and no party should ever be made to feel that they have nothing to offer. Partnerships are not restricted to financial support, so regardless of wealth, all partners have much to contribute.

Shared vision

All parties involved need to come to an understanding of the vision of the partnership. This should be developed after careful consultation, much discussion and a sharing of short and long terms goals for the partnership.

Quality

All parties aim to ensure their work is of the highest quality, and recognise that this can be achieved through sharing and learning practices from each other.

Sustainability

All parties hold to the principle of working with, rather than for, communities, and not simply being providers of welfare. This requires a long-term commitment to ensure the work carried out and the partnerships involved are as sustainable as possible.

Two-way communication

In order for a partnership to be most effective, there must be avenues for open and honest communication between people. This communication must take into account any cultural differences that are present. It also must take into account the 'power' – either real or perceived – that someone from a wealthy nation may hold over people from developing countries. Effective communication between partners develops trusting relationships where partners are able to share what they really think.

Intentional inclusion

All parties are to intentionally include all stakeholders impacted by the partnership in decision making, goal setting and planning.

Understanding of common goals and clear expectations

Clearly established common goals and expectations should be developed at the start of any partnership so that all parties involved know what to expect. This can be in the form of a partnership agreement or Memorandum of Understanding. If this is not intentional, then assumptions can be made and disappointments may arise.

A clear, long-term strategy

Any partnership should be developed with long-term thinking in mind. A long-term strategy needs to be considered at the beginning of the partnership, however, this long-term strategy will most likely develop and change over time. It is essential that both sides of the partnership are happy with the changes made to a strategy.

Interpersonal and cultural sharing

Any partnership, in country or between countries, needs to develop interpersonal understanding and have opportunity for cultural sharing. Regular face-to-face visits between people are ideal. However media provides a range of different options for regular communication.

Regular evaluative stages

All partnerships, in country and with overseas partners, need to be regularly and effectively evaluated to ensure the intent of the work is being progressed. The evaluation process is developed through a process of open and honest communication where input from the parties involved in the partnership has been considered. How well the partnership itself is embodying the partnership.

Within Australia

Overseas mission and service arms of the LCA include, but are not restricted to, Australian Lutheran World Service and LCA International Mission. Congregations, groups or schools who have independently developed partnerships with overseas churches or parties are encouraged to inform the LCA departments involved in

You're invited to join in

God's MISSION

- Congregational or school partnership
- Prayer
- Volunteering program (practical support and English teaching)
- Personal interaction through exchange visits and teams
- Sponsorship of missionaries
- Sponsorship of scholarship recipients
- Targeted financial support for programs and projects
- Targeted financial support for orphanages, homes for disadvantaged people, training institutions or holistic programs
- Sponsorship of international visitors/teachers/students to your church or school community
- Regular Electronic Giving (REG) through the LLL
- Legacies and bequests

You can partner in God's mission as an individual, family, small group, congregation or school.



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN GOD'S MISSION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 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 (NIV)

