



LCA International Mission

*We exist to assist the Church in fulfilling Christ's mission command to
'Go and make disciples of all people'*

Information for Lutheran Schools in Australia
seeking to partner in mission and ministry

'serving to learn – learning to serve'



Vision

We see a church whose members will be witnesses for Christ locally, nationally, regionally and throughout the world (Acts 1:8). We see a church where the joy of partnering with one another in the gospel is evident (Phil 1:3-6).

Mission

Our mission is to equip, encourage, engage in and support the growth of holistic ministry carried out in relationship with our partners overseas and the individuals, congregations, schools and Districts of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) and New Zealand (LCNZ).

Guiding principles

- We serve in a way that reflects our commitment to the teachings and confessions of the LCA
- We work in partnership
- We work for holistic ministry
- We respect and encourage the Christian's vocation
- We make good use of God's gifts

Priority Groups

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

Modes of operation

- Through partner Churches overseas
- Through and with other Lutheran overseas partners
- Partnering / Accompaniment
- Facilitative capacity building
- Consultancy
- Collaborative partnerships
- Graduated empowerment

Strategic Approaches:

It is the belief of LCA International Mission that we can best serve in God's mission, working in partnership by supporting our partner Churches through the work that 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 it is our real desire to see a strengthening of the relationships we have with these Churches, especially through more personal contact and interaction of the members of the LCA through congregational and school partnership relationships and through volunteering. Therefore LCA International Mission is keen to help facilitate connections and the development of relationships between Lutheran communities here in Australia and 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 LCA International Mission has already established partnerships and where much of the groundwork in developing these relationships and protocols has been established.

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

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 13 Indonesian Lutheran Churches. These churches include: 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 Angowuloo 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), Oranhur Niha Kriso Protestan (ONKP)

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

Sabah (East Malaysia) – Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM), Protestant Church in Sabah (PCS)

Papua New Guinea – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)

Singapore – Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS)

Thailand – Evangelical Lutheran Church of 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 4 LWF member Churches represented in Myanmar: Lutheran Church in Myanmar (LCM), Myanmar Lutheran Church (MLC), Mara Evangelical Church (MEC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar

Cambodia – LCA International Mission works with and through the Lutheran Church in Singapore and other overseas partner Churches to support the new ministry and mission programs of Lutheran World Mission (LWM) and the Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC) in Cambodia

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

Country Profile:

Indonesia:

In previous years LCA International Mission has had significant relationships/partnerships with 6 of the 13 Lutheran Churches of the LWF National Committee in Indonesia. In recent years, through the LWF National Committee Indonesia, LCA International Mission is working towards developing relationships with all 13 Indonesian Lutheran Churches. In previous years the LCA's support has been varied for each of these Churches, but the main support has been in the form of in-country and overseas scholarships for pastor training, support for the seminaries, guest lecturers from the ALC to serve short-term in the seminaries and the provision of Australian volunteers to teach English in seminaries, for pastors' and leaders and staff and children in diaconal institutions. English courses for these Churches continues 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, ministry and mission to prisoners, single mothers, blind students and orphaned and abused children.

A grant from the LLL has been the impetus for a joint venture with LCA International Mission, Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) and Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) to help build the capacity of the Churches to be to strengthen their diaconal work and live out their faith in Jesus Christ in a mostly Muslim culture. As a continuation of this effective endeavour and with the continuing support of the LLL, the LCA now funds the position of the National Education Secretary for all 13 Indonesian Lutheran Churches, and provides mentoring support for the work carried out to strengthen the capacity of the Lutheran schools in Indonesia. This is an exciting development and will provide further opportunities for personal interaction and support from LCA schools and individuals and could include teacher exchange programs.

There are a range of opportunities for schools to partner with and serve in Indonesian Lutheran churches and schools.



Students of Navigator College, Indonesian school partnership

Concluding comments and your invitation to join in God's mission in the world in partnership with LCA International Mission

This is only a brief overview of the LCA's involvement with our overseas partner churches in God's mission. There are already 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.

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, school 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 to contact LCA International Mission. The LCA seeks to work Church to Church. Working together in unity in God's mission, we are able to achieve so much more than attempting to work alone. We are pleased to come and share the stories with your school, congregation, youth or fellowship group about the amazing things that God is doing and how you can join him in his mission in this world.

Understanding Partnership

A position paper developed by LCA International Mission, Australian Lutheran World Service and Lutheran Education Australia.

This paper aims to articulate the values and characteristics of partnership between the LCA IM, ALWS, LEA and overseas partners.

PARTNERSHIP VALUES

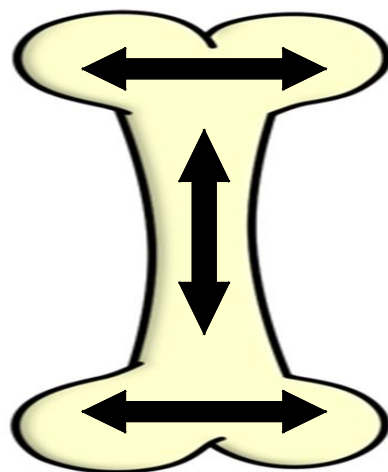
All people are invited into partnership with God's son, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9). Christians are called into partnership with each other as disciples of Jesus Christ. Christians are called as partners in the gospel (Philippians 1:5) to love and serve all people.

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: DIAGRAMISING 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

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.

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

Lutheran Education Australia represents the Lutheran schools and early childhood centres of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) is committed to the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) 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 values described herein may also be evaluated.

It is essential that all parties, within Australia and overseas, work towards making the partnership as effective as possible.

Within Australia

Overseas mission and service arms of the LCA include, but are not restricted to, LCA International Mission and Australian Lutheran World Service. Congregations, groups or schools who have independently developed partnerships with overseas churches or parties are encouraged to inform the LCA departments involved in overseas mission or service and to uphold the principles of effective partnership as described in this document. The LCA, through genuine cooperation and collaboration, within and between congregations and groups, seeks to optimise opportunities for mission and service with overseas churches and countries in a shared, united approach.

For stories and further information on service learning through LCA International Mission partnerships check out:

www.lcamission.org.au (<http://www.lcamission.org.au/act-now/service-learning/>)

and

Lutheran Education Australia (service learning):

<http://www.lutheran.edu.au/teaching-and-learning/service-learning/>



INTERNATIONAL MISSION

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