



global partner's local church

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14

BORDER CROSSINGS

LCA Mission International

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A HUGE CROWD AROUND US

Some weeks ago, I sat in worship in a Lutheran church on Nias Island, Indonesia, where every week over 6000 people of all ages come to worship, and I thought of you and I cried.

I cried because I was overwhelmed by what God has done for me and what God is doing in the lives of many people across the globe as they come to know him, his love and forgiveness. And I cried because I wished you were with me as I sat in that church building - to be spurred on in your faith by the 'great crowd of witnesses' who sat beside me, pointing me to Jesus.

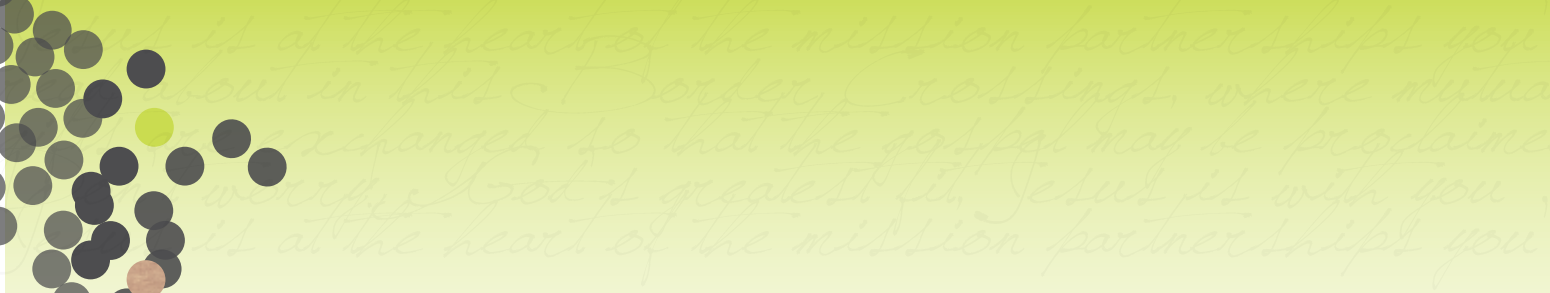
It's so easy to lose our way in the comfortable world we live in, here in Australia and New Zealand. It's so easy for us to be caught up in striving for material possessions. These are the very things that can get in the way of our relationship with Jesus – and it's so easy to be weighed down by them, the things that we think are important to having a good life.

The writer to the Hebrews says, 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith' (Heb 12: 1,2).

Glenice Hartwich

Program Officer
LCA Mission International





GIFTS

To inspire and encourage



Is Christmas really only weeks away!?

I'd better start to think about Christmas gifts before it gets too late. Many of us go through times of almost panic when November comes, worried about the Christmas gift list.

Well, I have good news if this is a concern for you. In fact I encourage you to relax and not worry unnecessarily, but to explore this edition of Border Crossings because in it you'll find examples of the greatest gift of all! It is of course the gift of Jesus, God's own Son for you and me and all people. God has given his Son to walk with us: Immanuel, which means "God with us". No need for anxiousness over gifts - God's gift is with you always!

Jesus is at the heart of the mission partnerships you'll read about in this Border Crossings, where mutual gifts are exchanged so that the gospel may be proclaimed. I thank God for the gifts He has given for Aussie and Kiwi Lutherans to partner with Lutherans in our neighbourhood in Papua New Guinea and throughout South East Asia.

I thank God for our sisters and brothers in Christ, who are God's gift to us, to inspire and encourage us. Maybe you're part of God's gift plan for others too, perhaps that's what you've been praying about as you consider Christmas gifts?

Don't worry!

**God's greatest gift, Jesus,
is with you.**

Pastor Neville Otto
Mission Director
Lutheran Church of Australia



Learning to **SERVE** & **SERVING** *to learn*

Immanuel College, Novar Gardens in South Australia, has had a partnership with Bethany Home in Malaysia for over eight years now. This partnership has been, and continues to be, a vital part of our mission and ministry.

Bethany Home is a school for people with disabilities in rural Malaysia. It was set up by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia (ELCM) in 1966 and is located about three hours drive, north of Kuala Lumpur, in an area that is relatively poor and reasonably isolated.

The school started from very humble beginnings and has progressed to the point where it now serves over 150 students of all ages.

Jayasingh Rajiah, who will retire at the end of 2013, has been the director of the school for 22 years and in this role he's been instrumental in improving the standards and rights for disabled people throughout Malaysia. Campaigning tirelessly for the majority of his working life, Jayasingh strives to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, whilst raising the profile of Bethany Home.

We first heard about Bethany in 2005, when the then counsellor at Immanuel College, Donna Longdon, was keen to challenge our students with an experience that took them outside of their comfort zone, while at the same time giving them a chance to witness Christian mission and to participate in faith-in-action. We took our idea to the LCA Mission Director at the time, Wayne Zweck, and his suggestion was this little place in Malaysia, called Bethany Home.

Since that time, groups of between eight and twelve students have been going to Bethany Home every year, to live and work at the school for two weeks, usually in the April school holidays.

Bethany is largely self-supported and this means that Jayasingh spends a lot of time raising necessary funds for the school. This is no easy task and he often describes himself as a 'professional beggar' because of what he must do in order to ensure the school has adequate funding to support the needs of the students.

In the lead up to our trip each year, we spend quite a bit of time raising funds to help Bethany fulfil its mission. While not all students at Immanuel can have the experience of serving at Bethany, the school community has been very generous in physical donations over the past eight years.

But the prime focus of our trip is mission and the opportunity for our students to experience first-hand, the challenges, joys and blessings of serving others, as Christ has served us. The Bethany experience has provided just that.



People like Jayasingh are the reason we wanted to go to Bethany; to work alongside him and many others as they help those at Bethany achieve a better life. It is amazing to see the pure joy and happiness that Bethany Home brings to the lives of everyone connected with the school. Without Bethany Home and the dedicated staff, life would be very different for so many who attend. We have been fortunate to have been part of this life-changing experience.

The opportunity to serve at Bethany has made us both humble and grateful. We gain so much from the friendships we make and the people we meet. They inspire us with their faith and willingly share their stories with us, each of them making a difference in our lives, touching our hearts.

We've also heard from others just how much the staff and students at Bethany look forward to our visit each year! I am still not sure who actually benefits most: Bethany, as we seek to serve and support them; or us, as we receive so many blessings and life lessons from the beautiful people there.

In the end, it doesn't matter who benefits the most because ultimately, we all see the way God is at work - in, with and between us - through this special partnership between Bethany and Immanuel.

Paul Fielke
Chaplain
Immanuel College, Adelaide SA



PARISH NURSES SENT OUT WITH **A BLESSING**

The first Introduction to the Pastoral Care Nursing course in Papua New Guinea was held at the Lutheran guesthouse in Goroka (Eastern Highlands), on 16 to 18 August, 2013. Representatives from the Lutheran Church of Australia's (LCA) Parish Nursing, Mrs Lynette and Pastor Robert Wiebusch, were asked to present this course. The invitation was extended by Pastor Grahamme Baital and nurses who had previously attended a course in Adelaide.

The nurses are part of a parish nurse ministry called Lutheran Nurses Out-Reach Ministry (LNOM) which is based in the St John's congregation, one of three Lutheran churches in Goroka.

Nine men were among the 37 students who attended the course, which followed the LCA's introductory Parish Nursing course, with adaptations to PNG culture.

At the conclusion of the course, certificates were presented to the participants during the Sunday morning service at St John's. Family members sang a song of blessing and the whole congregation sang a 'sending song', as class participants filed out of the worship service.





Overseas Mission AT HOME THROUGH **ESL**

After three years of ministry at Mawson Lakes, it became apparent to me that we needed to serve the international community – a community that permeates the suburb, through the presence of the University of South Australia.

Eighteen months ago, Mawson Lakes Community Church (MLCC) began an 'English as a Second Language' (ESL) ministry to support this diverse community. The lessons were predominantly one on one in the first year, however, since the beginning of 2013, we have witnessed steady growth in student numbers.

The Lord provided the right people, at the right time, with the right skills to enable this course to begin and to flourish. Joining me in this ministry are; Colin and Maureen Pridham, MLCC members, who spent over ten years in overseas mission; Barbara, who is a member of the local Presbyterian church; and Penny Werner, who is a member of the Para Vista Lutheran Church and an experienced ESL tutor.

At MLCC, ESL is much more than teaching language. For us it's about relationships – developing, caring and supporting friendships with our international students and their families.

We've discovered that hospitality is crucial to international students with either Asian or Middle Eastern backgrounds, and our contact with them and their families has extended beyond the weekly ESL classes. We have outings together in the holidays, in which we share genuine Aussie experiences like the Christmas lights in Lobethal, lunch in Hahndorf, fish and chips at Semaphore, a picnic at the botanical gardens, a barbeque at one of the leader's homes, and other social opportunities.

The ESL students also love to serve their new community. They've provided meals after worship for an Asian-themed lunch, invited us into their homes and helped the church with its bread-run.

This new relationship has kindled an interest in Jesus, with a number of ESL students attending worship at MLCC on a regular basis and some have enquired about being baptised! And we now have a special Christian ESL group who meet fortnightly at Colin and Maureen's home. One of our MLCC members, Linda Jing, who speaks fluent Mandarin, has also joined the group to help answer questions and to offer translation when it is needed.

Again, the Lord has provided the people with the appropriate gifts to be a part of this ministry.

*And my God will meet all your
'And my God will meet all your needs according to the
riches of his glory in Christ Jesus'*
riches of his glory in Christ Jesus'

Pastor Stephen Trautwein

LEARNING NEW THINGS

After some 'gentle persuasion' from Glenice Hartwich, we fearfully flew to Indonesia to teach English in Siantar, North Sumatra, not knowing what to expect. Helen Schubert, my wife Audrey and I learned some things and we'd like to share them with you:

Imagine a seminary as big as one of our (LCA) secondary colleges. There are 115 young men and women beginning first year theology at the Lutheran seminary (STT HKBP) in Siantar.



Batak Lutherans are as passionate about singing as Australians are about sport. During one service we attended with a student choir, there were six other choirs - old women, men, young women and youth! They stood up during the service and sang from the front, the back and the balcony. And there were two more services that Sunday with more choirs!

Our students sang choruses, heritage Lutheran hymns and Taize chants in chapel. They sang on the way to our English classes, during lessons and as they waited for lunch and raked up leaves.

They are the singing church we used to be. Singing together is not simply an expression of church, it's part of creating church as the body of Christ. Lutherans in Indonesia have a lot to give us.

We spent a week with a delightful group of pastors with demanding ministries; Pastor Tulus serves thirteen congregations and Pastor Rismini, with 300 families, said she doesn't have time to take holidays. They face similar problems confronting many communities in Australia - plastic bags, children sniffing glue, alcohol, TV, keeping up with the neighbours and so on.

We stayed at the Mamre orphanage, home to 60 children. We got to know a few of them, they were confident young people - happy to talk and share God's love, and their hopes for the future.

Geoff Burger

Retired, former District President of the LCA WA



OUT OF THE SLUMS COMES HOPE

'I want them to get out of the slums', said Muek.

Cracked bitumen, obscured sky and rotting rubbish piled high. Shards of glass, skinny, hungry dogs, pollution and plastic bags circling overhead like birds of prey.

This is their playground; the children of the Klong Toey slums in Bangkok.

It is estimated that upwards of 350,000 people live here; many extended families, their lives condensed into a swirling mix of drugs, alcohol, poverty, violence, crime and prison. They live here because it's cheap and close to employment; and many of them are doing their best, despite the odds.

'I know their basic needs and problems in the slums, because this was me. This was me before God sent me hope through sponsorship with World Vision', said Muek.

Muek oversees an after-school program at Home of Praise, for children over six, right through their teenage years. This program gives them access to classes in violin, English, art and computer studies as well as guidance with the social skills necessary to live beyond the slums. In the mornings of each week day, Home of Praise also provides a place of love and care for very small children and babies.

'World Vision told me about God when I was a child and I studied hard. I did youth work with Youth With A Mission (YWAM), a Bachelor degree in Information Technology and theological studies at the Lutheran Seminary in Thailand', said Muek.

Norwegian, Anne Storstein Haug, one of the original staff at Home of Praise, is a member of the Lutheran Diakonia Department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand. She said, 'our biggest problem [at Home of Praise] is that when they are teenagers, they don't come to us anymore, they hang around in the slums, but Muek really understands their way of thinking, he has been sent to us by God'.

Muek said, 'a helping-hand was extended to me and now it's my turn to reach out'.

Home of Praise is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand (ELCT). Each week day, infants and children living in the slums of Klong Toey, Bangkok experience the love of Jesus in practical ways, as it is shared with them by the inspiring staff who serve there. The LCA shares in this ministry of Home of Praise particularly through the support given by Lutheran Women at Australia (LWA). In January 2014, a mission team from the LCA will work to provide maintenance support on the deteriorating building.

I'M JOINING *God's mission* THROUGH PRAYER

I'm praying for

- Pastor Simon, Oiy and Nopakorn (Aussie) Mackenzie as they settle back into ministry in Australia after their years of service in Nan Province, Thailand
- Pastor Amnouy and the evangelists of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand, working in the Nan Province, Thailand
- Pastor Greg Schiller, at Ogelbeng Seminary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)
- Simon King, LCA Mission International Program Assistant for Thailand (volunteer)
- Sally Lim, Lutheran Church of Singapore (LCS) – Coordinator for Mission of LCS and coordinator of Lutheran World Mission, Cambodia
- Pastors Daniel, Mose and Vibol and their families serving in Cambodia
- Warren Schirmer, LCA Mission International Program Assistant for Cambodia (volunteer)
- Nick Schwarz, Research Assistant with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG
- Wayne Beven, Building and Construction Advisor for the ELCPNG
- Hanna Schulz, Translator with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBTA) in Papua New Guinea
- Margaret Mickan, Translator with LBTA in Northern Territory
- Colin and Ruth Hayter, LCA Mission International Program Assistants for PNG (volunteers)
- Pastors, leaders and people of the Chinese and Asian Lutheran churches in Australia
- Rev Brian Shek, as he coordinates and supports the Asian ministry of the LCA
- Pastors and leaders of the emerging African congregations in the LCA
- Jayasingh Rajiah, Pastor Karthick, staff, students and the people cared for through the ministry of Bethany Home, Malaysia
- For God to open our eyes to see the 'fields that are ripe for the harvest' (John 4:35)

"Lord, renew your church, begin with me"

For regular prayer point updates, check out the LCA Mission International website www.lcamission.org.au and subscribe to our fortnightly prayer points email at www.lcamission.org.au/act-now/pray/

I'M JOINING

God's mission

BY GIVING TO

You're invited to join in God's mission in the world ... by supporting LCA Mission International work through 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.)

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Lutheran Hostel Ministry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Ministry programs of Lutheran World Mission, Cambodia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Bethany Home for disabled young people in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Singapore Thai Good News Centre | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Mission work carried out in the Nan Province, Thailand | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Mission work carried out by Greg Schiller in Papua New Guinea (PNG) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Scholarships (for partner churches) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Youth ministry program in Sabah | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Orphanages in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> LCA/LLL projects in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Bible translation (LBTA) Hanna Schulz | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Bible translation (LBTA) Margaret Mikan | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Scholarships for children of pastors in PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Seminaries in Sabah, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Medical mission work in PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Books for the seminary libraries of our overseas partner churches | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Ministry in the Mekong region (through Mekong Mission Forum) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> LCA lecturers to teach courses overseas with partner churches | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Translation of Christian literature into local language in Indonesia and Malaysia | \$ _____ |

If you would like to sponsor one or more of the above mission projects, you can do it in one of the following ways:

- ◆ online at www.lcamission.org.au/act-now/donate/ (credit card)
- ◆ OR fill out the form below (credit card or cheque)
- ◆ OR Electronic Funds Transfer - phone 08 8276 7334 for details

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____ (cheques payable to Board for Mission)

Please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card no _____

Expiry ____/____ Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

_____ P/C _____

☐ Please send me a receipt

Please send this completed form to

LCA Mission International

197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006

MALAYSIAN SPICY CHICKEN

SERVES 4

quick and very tasty



INGREDIENTS

Paste

8 chicken thighs, bone in

2 tsp turmeric

2 tsp curry powder

¾ tsp salt

Water

Cooking oil for frying

3 cloves garlic, finely chopped

3 cm ginger, finely grated

1 tsp curry powder

1 tsp chilli paste

6 tblsp tomato sauce

2 tblsp palm sugar syrup (honey or sugar syrup)

1 lime, juiced

1 large onion, finely sliced

METHOD

- Combine turmeric powder, curry powder and salt with a little water, mix into a paste
- Coat chicken pieces evenly. Fry until golden brown, in a wok or frying pan. Set chicken aside
- In same pan saute garlic and ginger with 3 tblsp of remaining oil
- Add tomato sauce, chilli paste, curry powder and palm sugar and stir to combine
- Add water and salt, stir together until combined
- Add fried chicken and mix so that chicken pieces are well coated
- Add sliced onion. Simmer for 5 - 10 minutes until onion softens
- Add lime juice
- Add more water if necessary
- Serve hot with rice

VOLUNTEER

opportunities

Join in God's mission as a volunteer. Have you considered volunteering in mission with one of our overseas partner churches?

The opportunities and places are many, and the experience is life-changing! A few of the current volunteering possibilities are in:

Malaysia

- Bethany Home (school / homes for people with disabilities)—teachers with special education qualifications, pastors or people able to provide spiritual care and encouragement for the staff and children, adults and young adults needed for practical service
- Rumah Luther Ria (school for people with disabilities)
- Rumah Chrestus (home for abused children)
- Rumah Hope (home for orphans, abused and neglected children)
- Rumah Love and Care (home for aged people)

Cambodia

- Teaching English and computing

Indonesia

- Teaching English in the schools and seminaries
- Teaching English and practical help in various orphanages

Thailand

- Home of Praise (day care centre to infants and after-school programs for children and young people)
- Home of Grace (for unwed mothers and their babies)

Consider encouraging your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group to become personally involved in a mission partnership.

- Partnership with Lutheran schools in Indonesia
- Partnership with an orphanage

If you would like to know more about volunteering in mission overseas or if you would like to begin to understand how your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group can partner in mission, check out the website:

www.lcamission.org.au or contact LCA Mission International: email bfm@lca.org.au or phone **08 8267 7334**.

