



global partners local church

ISSUE
AUGUST 2014

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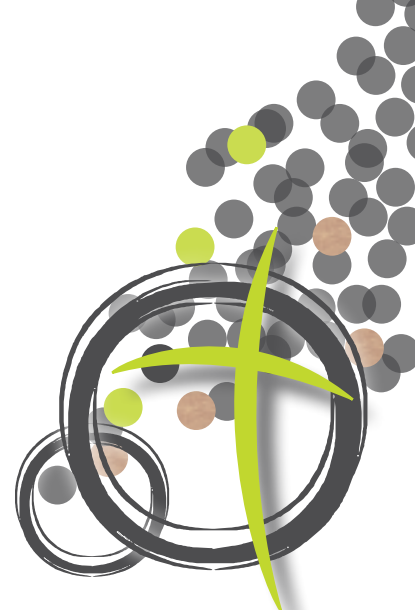
BORDER CROSSINGS



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Printed by: Openbook Howden Print & Design
www.openbookhowden.com.au/

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NEW STARTS



A walk on the beach, on the wave-smoothed sands that hug the borders of Australia is one of the most refreshing and renewing things that I love to do. Whatever the season, there's something special about the unrestricted view and the undisturbed sand spreading out in front of me.

A look behind me though, and telltale footprints in the damp sand show my steps, where I've come from, my disturbance on that peaceful picture.

But for every time I walk on a beach, there's a wave that comes along behind me and wipes away the evidence of my footsteps ... a wave that makes everything new.

The same is true for our lives. God is the God of new beginnings. Whether we've made the mistakes ourselves, or if we've had horrible things happen to us through no fault of our own, God can make us new again. He's the one who takes our stained and broken pasts, washes us clean and creates something new and unique out of them.

'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past', Isaiah urges the downcast Israelites in exile. 'See, I am doing a new thing!' (Isaiah 43:18).

That is such good news, for every one of us who knows the redeeming and re-creating power of our risen Lord Jesus. It's good news, too, for the people who are hearing that message for the first time—people held captive by poverty, oppression or evil spirits, for generation after generation.

At LCA Mission International, we rejoice to see God setting people free from their pasts, or urging them out of their old ways, and doing a new thing! We thank God for you and for your partnership in sharing this joyful good news with others. We pray you will continue to experience the transforming power of our God of new starts.

Glenice Hartwich

Program Officer
LCA Mission International



**Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the
wilderness and streams in
the wasteland**

(Isaiah 43:18, 19)

Thank you.

YOU'VE HELPED TO MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

For our Lutheran sisters and brothers in Cambodia, Isaiah 43:18,19 speaks right to their heart. Pol Pot's murderous regime during the 1970s left blood stains on the family tree of every one of them.

But while they will never forget the trauma of their past, they do not brood over it. Instead, they look forwards with excitement to the 'new thing' God is doing among them and through them.

Doors are opening as God blesses and grows their fledging church, even making dreams come true. On 30 June our Cambodian sisters and brothers were able to purchase the land next to the city church and Rainbow Hostel in Phnom Pehn, thanks to their gospel partners around the world.

Australian and New Zealand Lutherans donated over \$270,000 towards the \$500,000 target. Other Lutheran churches around the world are shouldering the load, too, so the debt for the loan is getting smaller by the hour. Praise God!

When eleven of us LCA people visited Cambodia in May, our Lutheran sisters and brothers there encouraged us with those words from Isaiah, urging us to believe in God's sure promises in Jesus. They invited us to continue to journey with them, with those promises as our guide, reaching out with the good news of Jesus to the people of Cambodia.

On behalf of our sisters and brothers in Cambodia, we say a heartfelt thankyou to every one of you who helped to take this mission dream one huge step closer to becoming a reality.

Pastor Neville Otto
Mission Director
Lutheran Church of Australia

It is not too late to donate. Every dollar given frees the Cambodian Lutherans from the burden of debt, so they can focus instead on sharing the love of Christ in a country that is hungry for the gospel. Visit www.lcamission.org.au or call Chelsea on 08 8267 7317.

**'We want to reach out to the Orang Asli
... many are yet to hear the good news.'**

ANDRY

THE COST OF THE CROSS

In many ways, Andry and Ammylyn are like any other young Lutheran couple. When you have two active children to care for, life is full on. But now they've added another challenge to their busy lives.

Andry says they used to be 'ordinary church members'. But God had bigger plans for them.

'We attended a discipleship training course', Andry explains. 'My wife and I have the burden to take up the cross of Jesus and follow him.' They decided to serve full-time in their Orang Asli (indigenous Malaysian) community: 'There is so much need among the people. Even among the Christians, poverty weakens faith.'

Andry and Ammylyn have enrolled at Sabah Theological Seminary, where they are both studying full-time. It's a huge challenge for them in terms of time, energy and money.

'We have to arrange our time between our studies and assignments, our children's education and welfare, and so on', Andry says. 'Almost every day we feel the pressure of high monetary expenses, but by the grace of God we are able to overcome it. God's love is so great that he provides for our needs beyond our expectations. He is worthy of praise!'

The LCA, through Mission International, partners with the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) as it works with the Orang Asli people in West Malaysia. This support helps to pay for tuition fees for Orang Asli students like Andry and Ammylyn while they study at Sabah Theological Seminary. It also provides resources for ministry programs and for additional tuition for disadvantaged children living in remote and rural areas.

In 2014, you have already provided \$13,000 for this important work. We're grateful too to the Adelaide Hills youth group, SHWALLY, who are active partners with the LCM and the work among the Orang Asli.

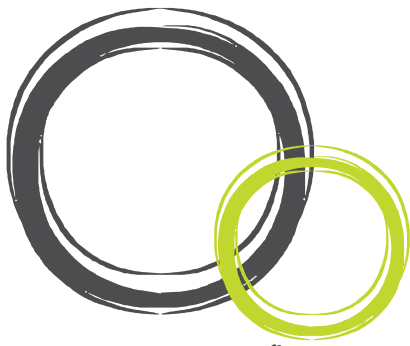
Andry says, 'My wife and I want to reach out to as many people as we can, especially the Orang Asli, many of whom have yet to hear the good news.'



'Almost every day we feel the pressure of high monetary expenses, but ... God's love is so great that he provides for our needs beyond our expectations':

Malaysian Lutherans Andry and wife Ammylyn are studying full-time so they can serve the indigenous people of their country.

Please contact LCA Mission International if you, your congregation or school would like to assist our Malaysian partners in this ministry. Our contact details are on page 2.



"We need teachers OF ENGLISH

**Volunteering
as a teacher
of English
or in other
ways can be
life-changing
for you and
for the people
you serve**

'We need teachers of English.'

LCA Mission Director Rev Neville Otto and Program Officer Glenice Hartwich hear this request nearly every time they meet with people from our Lutheran overseas partner churches.

Learning English helps people to get jobs and to engage with people from other countries—particularly important for pastors and church leaders. In addition, English classes are a way to build bridges of friendship with people in their communities in order to reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ.

As native English speakers, Australians and New Zealanders have much to offer in teaching English in the seminaries, schools and orphanages of our near neighbours in Asia and Papua New Guinea.



Volunteering as a teacher of English or in other ways—eg, support workers in homes for people with disabilities, or in homes for children who have been abused and orphaned—can be life-changing for you and for the people you serve. Serving others in another country and culture, and being a living example of God's word is faith in action that can produce incredible fruit for the gospel.



Throughout the history of the Lutheran churches in Australia, many people have served as full-time workers or volunteers, particularly in Papua New Guinea, Malaysia and Indonesia. God uses people from a huge variety of backgrounds to humbly do his will overseas.

All sorts of people—teachers, doctors, nurses, mechanics, accountants, research assistants, students, retired people, and young people wanting to fill a gap year—have served God and his people in other nations.

Check out what's needed to be a volunteer in mission with LCA Mission International. Go to www.lcamission.org.au/act-now/join-us/, download the forms and get in touch with us in the LCA Mission International office to discuss where and how God might be calling you to serve as a volunteer.

TEACHERS

TEACHING TEACHERS

We're all learners, even those of us who are teachers. A great way that a teacher can learn is by visiting schools in other countries and watching their educators teach.

This open attitude to two-way discovery and learning is the foundation for a thriving partnership between St John's Lutheran School, Highgate, and the schools in the Siassi Islands of Papua New Guinea. They've been sharing experiences, skills, faith, hope and love for over four years now.

They've made four exchange trips already, but that's more easily said than done. Reaching the Siassi Islands (or leaving them) is not for the faint-hearted or for those in a hurry. It involves a long, rough and sometimes risky boat ride, which just goes to show the powerful commitment of everybody involved.

In May this year, four Siassi teachers spent eight days in the St John's Lutheran community, hosted by school families, engaging in all aspects of school and church life.

Nancy Wells, a teacher at St John's, says, 'Our visitors arrived with open hearts and minds, eager to share, learn and cultivate relationships with us. These relationships lie at the heart of our partnership, and the connections that were made will hold us in good stead in the future.'





A happy and sad day: the end of the Siassi teachers' visit to St John's Lutheran School. The Years 5 and 6 students and the Siassi teachers (left to right: Solomon Nalong, Daniel Koro, Peter Paul and Sandra Koro) are pictured here singing in Pidgin, 'We are one big happy family'.

“ I REALLY APPRECIATED GETTING TO KNOW SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER CULTURE. THEY BROUGHT A WHOLE LOT OF LIGHT INTO OUR HOME (HOST FAMILY DAUGHTER) ”

The teachers are planning for a St John's team to travel to Siassi next year to provide another round of in-service training.

'We will continue to seek God's guidance as we journey with the people of Siassi', says Nancy, 'and we praise him for the many blessings this partnership brings to us all'.

Colin Hayter, LCA Mission International's volunteer program assistant for PNG, says the partnership is creating a climate for preserving dignity and maintaining ownership of professional development.

'It's inspiring', he says. 'The Siassi teachers are gaining a vision for school improvement and strengthened peer support, while instilling pride in the schools across their whole district.'

As well as developing relationships between the teachers, the partnership is also developing and broadening cultural understanding between school and church communities in both countries.

'This is a gospel partnership', Colin says. 'People share their faith and worship together. Hope is renewed and strengthened, and relationships grow and deepen in Christian love.'

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

I'm praying for

- Pastors Daniel, Mose and Vibol and their families, and ministry support staff Sohpal, Raskmei serving in Cambodia with Lutheran World Mission (LWM) and Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC)
- Students of the Rainbow hostel and City church of the LCC, as they study and live out their faith in the hostel and their places of learning
- Sally Lim, Coordinator for Mission of Lutheran Church in Singapore(LCS) and Coordinator of Lutheran World Mission, Cambodia
- LCA Mission International Program Assistants: volunteers Colin and Ruth Hayter, PNG, and Warren Schirmer, Cambodia
- Pastor Amnouy and the evangelists of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT), working in Nan Province, Thailand
- Staff of Home of Praise (for children in the slums of Bangkok) and Home of Grace (home for unwed mothers) in Thailand
- Pastor Greg Schiller, lecturer at Ogelbeng Seminary of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)
- Nick Schwarz, research assistant with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG
- The staff of the Melanesian Institute as they teach and seek to provide relevant details about the culture and spiritual life of the people in PNG, which helps to inform the churches for their ministry in the country
- Hanna Schulz, translator with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBTA) as she and her translation partner Catherine discern where God will use them to translate the Bible into a local language in Papua New Guinea
- Margaret Mickan, translator with LBTA in the Northern Territory
- Pastors, leaders and people of the Chinese and Asian Lutheran churches in Australia and LCA pastor 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
- For God to open our eyes to see the 'fields that are ripe for the harvest' (John 4:35)
- For the love, justice and compassion of Jesus Christ to grow in each one of us and a willingness for us to go and join him wherever he opens our eyes to see the work that he is already doing in the lives of others

"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's Mission International work together 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.)

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Land purchase, Phnom Penh, Lutheran Church in Cambodia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Rainbow hostel ministry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Bethany Home for disabled young people in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Youth ministry program in Sabah, Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Mission work carried out in the Nan Province, Thailand | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Home of Praise, Thailand | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Ministry 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 children of pastors in PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Prison ministry in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Bible translation (LBTA) Hanna Schulz | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Bible translation (LBTA) Margaret Mikan | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Scholarships (for overseas partner churches) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Books for the seminary libraries (for overseas partner churches) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Orphanages in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Publication of Lutheran literature (Indonesia) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Ministry in the Mekong region (through Mekong Mission Forum) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Thai Good News Centre Singapore | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> LCA lecturers to teach courses in Myanmar | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> LCA Mission International | \$ _____ |

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 / CCV

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



recipe



CAMBODIAN SPICY COCONUT FISH

quick and very tasty

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup fresh lemongrass
- 2 kaffir lime leaves
- 4 slices fresh galangal root
- 1/2 cup fresh coriander leaves
- 1 small onion
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- 2 chillies (optional)
- 1 large capsicum
- 1 cup water
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 700gm white flesh fish (rinse and pat dry with paper towel) cut into chunks
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tbsp palm sugar (or light brown sugar)
- 1/4 tsp black pepper

METHOD

- To make paste: in a blender, add lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves, galangal, onion, garlic, chillies, coriander, capsicum and water, and blend well.
- Pre-heat a large skillet, add oil.
- Stirfry fish until lightly brown.
- Add paste and coconut milk, stir well.
- Season with fish sauce, sugar and black pepper.
- Simmer until sauce is reduced.
- Serve hot with rice and steamed or fresh vegetables.

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)
- Teaching English in Sabah

Indonesia

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

Cambodia

- Teaching English and computing

Thailand

- Join the Mission Thailand team 2015 (January)
- Home of Praise (day-care centre for infants and after-school programs for children and young people)
- Home of Grace (for unwed mothers and their babies)

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

- Annual youth and children's ministry camps in Cambodia
- Partnership with a Lutheran school in Indonesia
- Partnership with an orphanage in Malaysia or Indonesia

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

lcami@lca.org.au or phone

08 8267 7334.