



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA**

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**
global partners · local church

FACT SHEET Indonesia



YOUR PARTNERS IN MISSION

There are now 13 LWF member churches in Indonesia with an estimated membership of 8,000,000. LCA International Mission continues to work towards developing relationships with all 13 Churches. Our partnership has taken the form of in-country and overseas scholarships for pastor training, support for education reform in the Lutheran schools, support for the seminaries, guest lecturers from the Australian Lutheran College (ALC), the provision of Australian volunteers to teach English in various ministries and institutions and mission to prisoners. The LCA continues with 'off-budget' funds to support diaconal institutions of these churches, through their ministry to blind students and abused children, on a request basis.

Many of the LCA scholarship recipients who came from the Indonesian partner churches to study at ALC have gone on to serve their churches as key leaders – bishops, general secretaries and lecturers.

The history of the Indonesian 'Lutheran' churches is complex and the formation of the various churches has at times been from dissent from the 'parent' church – Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) or along ethnic / language lines or because of various 'political' and 'religious' conflicts. The founding missionaries were German (Rev Nommensen) or 'Reformed' missionaries from European mission agencies. Financial support from United Evangelical Mission (UEM), and other 'Reformed' European partners remains. The bishops of the 13 LWF member churches have expressed their belief that their churches need to grow in 'Lutheran Identity'. This remains a key challenge and opportunity.

PROJECTS YOU CAN SUPPORT

- Training Indonesian Lutheran teachers and developing partnerships between Lutheran Schools in Indonesia and Australia (LEA) through the work of Ridwin Purba
- LCA guest lecturers at Indonesian Seminaries
- Sabbatical scholarships for lecturers of seminaries in Indonesia and in-country scholarships
- STT Abdi Sabda (Seminary) prison Ministry program (training for students who serve in this program)
- Publication of 'Lutheran Identity' material for distribution to member churches
- Support for seminary libraries at STT Abdi Sabda, STT HKBP, STT GKLI and STT BNKP

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

- Teaching English at Adbi Sabda seminary, located in Medan, North Samatra. Teaching qualifications are preferred
- Teaching conversational English at Bible Frau school, situated in a small rural town in North Samatra. Qualifications are not essential
- Assistance to Develop the Library and Teaching English to the Students at the Deaconess School, in the heart of Samatra
- Teaching English to students and staff in the Lutheran schools in Indonesia (including vocational training schools). If interested, placement is negotiated before the volunteer arrives. Best suited to current or retired teachers looking to experience education in another setting

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

You already support mission and ministry work in Indonesia through your prayers and weekly offerings. But if you would like to work more closely with the Lutheran Churches in Indonesia, you could talk to any of these congregations or schools about the blessings of a partnership:

- Navigator College, Port Lincoln with SMA GKPS Pematangraya
- Endeavour College, Mawson Lakes with SD GKPS, SMP GKPS 3 Jalan Sisingamangaraja and SMK GKPS 3 Jalan Sudirman Pematangsiantar
- Faith Lutheran College, Tanunda with SMA HKBP 1, Tarutung
- St Martin's Lutheran College, Mt Gambier with SD HKI Pematangsiantar
- Unity College, Murray Bridge with SMA HKBP Pematangsiantar and SD HKBP Latihan Pematangsiantar
- Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga with SMA BNKP
- Grace Lutheran College, Caboolture with Tanah Alas



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NEVIN NITSCHKE *your Indonesia Program Officer*

I'm here to help you and encourage you to join God's mission in Indonesia.

The people of Indonesia have a strong sense of community and a gentle nature. The 8 million Lutherans in a predominately Muslim country have learned how to work together in their communities and have a deep passion for serving Jesus. In partnership with the churches in Indonesia we have much to offer and even more to learn! I'm meeting people hungry to learn English and receive training and education. Volunteers and partnerships are highly valued by the Indonesian people. I'd love to visit your congregation, school or group to discuss ways you can partner with our Lutheran friends in Indonesia.

MISSION EXPERIENCES FOR YOU!

PRAY

Sign up to our e-newsletter to receive updates and prayer points. Simply go to www.lca.org.au/enews, add your email address and select LCA International Mission.

CONNECT

Talk to me about what an Indonesian partnership might look like. You can pray for your partners in mission, raise funds for projects, and receive updates about the exciting work God is doing among the people you support.

GIVE

Visit our Donate page and select the Indonesian project God is nudging you to support. www.lca.org.au/international-mission/donate
If websites are out of your comfort zone, just call me; I'll help you to donate any way you want



GO

Would you like to experience Indonesia first hand? You can be part of a mission team going to Indonesia, create your own mission team from your school or congregation, take your family for a volunteering experience or join me on one of my ministry visits to Indonesia to get a taste of what might be possible. If you think God is nudging you to become involved, give me (Nevin) a call.

ABOUT INDONESIA

The history of Indonesia is a rich tapestry. Indian merchants bought Islam into the country in the 10th century while in the 13th century a Hindu kingdom, the Majapahit Empire, flourished for a period.

The Portuguese, Dutch, British and Japanese have all at times laid claim to at least parts of Indonesia. Guerrilla warfare by the Indonesians resulted in the Dutch agreeing to recognize Indonesian independence in 1949. Parliamentary democracy was replaced when President Sukarno introduced a new political system in 1957. The power of parliament was reduced and his own power was greatly increased. In 1965 the Communists attempted an unsuccessful coup in Indonesia.

From 1966 Suharto ruled as a dictator but brought stability and under him the economy of Indonesia recovered. Democracy returned to Indonesia with elections held in 1999. Today the economy of Indonesia is growing steadily.

	Indonesia	Australia
Population	258,316,051	24,189,000
Religions	Muslim 87.2%, Christian 7%, Roman Catholic 2.9%, Hindu 1.7% Other 0.9%	Christian 55.4%, None 22.3%, Unspecified 9.3%
UN World Ranking	110	2
GDP/per capita	US\$11,700	US\$47,389
Average Income	US\$14,307	US\$50,167
Under 5 mortality	23.5 per 1000 live births	4 per 1000 live births
Obesity	5.7%	29.9%

MORE INFORMATION

You can view videos and read stories about God's mission in Indonesia, on your LCA International Mission website www.lca.org.au/international-mission or call or email me (Nevin) nevin.nitschke@lca.org.au | lcaim@lca.org.au | 08 8267 7300