CROSSINGS





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BORDER CROSSINGS

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LCA INTERNATIONAL MISSION

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GOD'S MISSION



The Apostle Peter's words to us are challenging but clear:

Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as though your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help.

That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he'll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes! (1 Peter 4:7-11 The Message)

Every time you pray the Lord's Prayer, give your regular offering in worship, establish a partnership, or volunteer, you join in God's mission in the world.

Through LCA International Mission, Lutherans in Australia and New Zealand join Jesus Christ in his mission in the world. You encourage and equip pastors, evangelists and other mission and ministry workers as they bring the good news of Jesus Christ to their communities and beyond. You support the words-and-action gospel work of overseas Lutheran churches and the LCA/NZ districts, congregations, schools, communities and individuals as we partner together in mission.

Jesus' love comes to life as you partner in the gospel.

Glenice Hartwich

Interim Mission Director Program Officer LCA International Mission



We sit with Buai, six other evangelists and Pastor Amnuay. Her face lights up as she speaks of her joy in being able to share the good news of Jesus with people (the Lua people), living in Huay Mee village in the mountainous Nan region in Northern Thailand.

Over recent years, Jesus' love has come to life in Buai's life and the lives of the many people in her village through the ministry of Pastor Amnuay. Huay Mee village and other villages in the Nan province are where you, as a member of the Lutheran Church of Australia or New Zealand, have been sharing Jesus' love through the Word and in actions.

Your prayers and your giving have made it possible for former LCA missionary Simon Mackenzie (Simon and his wife Oiy now serve in the LCA Illawarra and South Coast Lutheran Church in New South Wales), Pastor Amnauy and evangelists to preach the word and live out the love of Jesus in practical ways.

Today Buai is an evangelist, too. She was one of the first young people to commit her life to serving and living among her people to bring the good news of freedom in Christ Jesus to people living in fear and darkness.

The Lua people are marginalised and poor.

They fear the spirits that they see in all aspects

of nature and in their own lives. Spirit doctors have ruled over the Lua, coercing them with curses and demands; reigning with fear over them.

A new house has been built for Buai and her husband next to the small sala (open-sided structure) used for worship. The sala, originally built by an LCA Mission Thailand team, is already too small for the growing number of worshippers in Huay Mee village. It's exciting to see that even the former spirit doctor is now a part of the worshipping community at Huay Mee. She, too, is now our Lutheran sister in Christ.

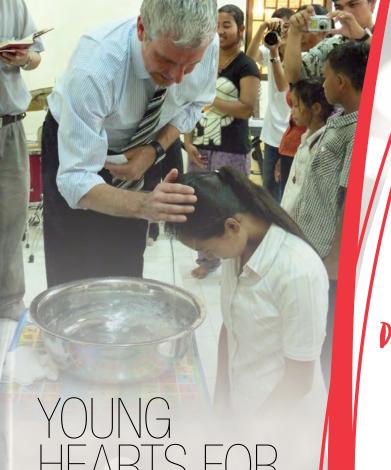
In 2007, there were 47 baptised Lutherans in the Nan province. Today we praise God that, through his Spirit's power at work in people's lives, there are more than 1110 baptised Lutheran believers (members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand) in this region.

The Nan region now has four congregations, five preaching points, two preaching places and seven Lua evangelists working to share Jesus' love on your behalf with the Lua people.

Praise God that, through the power of the Spirit, your partnership in the gospel has brought the love of Jesus to life in Huay Mee village.



Her face lights up as she speaks of her joy in being able to share the good news of Jesus with her people.



YOUNG HEARTS FOR JESUS

Sophoeurn was baptised by LCA WA District Bishop Greg Pfeiffer in the village of Phum Kus on 11 July 2010.

She served as an intern at the Lutheran Life Centre before moving to the Rainbow Student Hostel while studying at Phnom Penh Bible College. Today, Sophoeurn is serving as an evangelist for the Lutheran Church in Cambodia.

About 68 per cent of Cambodia's population is under 30 years of age, because the Khmer Rouge murdered more than 2 million citizens during Pol Pot's horrific regime.

The Lutheran Church in Cambodia is reaching out to young people with the good news of Jesus Christ, shared in various ways including through English and computing classes and youth camps.

In Village Krus, following the youth and children's evangelism camps in August, 35 young adults asked to be baptised and are now receiving instruction for their baptism. And 44 children have asked to know more about Jesus and grow closer to him.

SOPHOE

Dear sponsors, supporters and friends

Praise the Lord! His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. His name is holy.

Firstly, I want to give thanks to the Lord, my God, for my study in Phnom Penh Bible School for four years. Throughout this time I became his servant and this has enriched my life.

Secondly, I would like to say thank you to the Lord for leading me, guiding me, and letting me widen my wisdom. I have realised that everything in this world, including my wisdom and my knowledge, is God's idea. That is why I want to serve him.

Lastly, I want to express the thankfulness I have toward each and every person who supported me in the past years. Without this financial help, I could not have finished my study in Phnom Penh Bible School. Even though sometimes they had to work really hard and it became quite difficult, they never stopped backing me. I appreciate this so much!



URN'S LETTERtoyou

Before I came to Phnom Penh I did not know how to serve the Lord, my God. During my study at Phnom Penh Bible School, I could slowly watch my faith in God grow, as well as get to know God's ministry. This experience changed my whole life! I have now decided to love God deeply from the bottom of my heart and serve his will joyfully.

My time at Phnom Penh Bible School has not always been easy; sometimes it was very difficult. Enduring the challenging periods have allowed my faith in the word of God to grow. Due to his gracious love, I have been able to finish and graduate successfully. I know that I could not have done this if I had not found the feeling of security in the love of God. Therefore I give praise and glory to the Lord, my gracious God, who has helped me achieve everything in life so far.

In the future I want to become a pastor to serve the Lord, my God. Preaching and sharing his word to those who have not found their way to God yet—it seems like something I want to do now.

It is my vision that, someday, I could build a new church in another village! I know that there are people out there who are waiting to get to know his love and the words of our gracious and good-natured God. I will not only be sharing the gospel, but also serving him in the way that he has prepared for me.

I thank the Lord that he is using me in his ministry now as I am sharing the gospel through teaching English to children and youth (at a new outreach point in Kg Chhnang). On Saturday, I worship God with them, teach the word of God, and lead them in praising God. I am also serving as Krus church's treasurer.

I am very grateful to be able to serve the Lord, my God. No words can express my thankfulness for what God has done in my life, and for his goodness. Just know that I am joyfully serving in his ministry.





After volunteering at the largest Lutheran seminary in Indonesia in 2014, Marilyn (Mal) and John Morgan returned in July and August this year to serve as volunteer English teachers at the Bible Frau School at Laguboti, North Sumatra.



We experienced unconditional love and felt very blessed to be able to share our God-given gifts.

It seemed as though we had been driving for hours through the forests and in the mountains of North Sumatra, in Indonesia.

We really had no idea what to expect, other than that we were going to teach for a month at the Bible Frau near Lake Toba.

It was an all-girls college, with about 100 students—and that was the most specific piece of knowledge we had.

No-one we knew had been there before. It was a first for LCA International Mission.

And, although we didn't know it, our Indonesian hosts had not had volunteer teachers before and also didn't know what to expect.

After a trip that took most of the day, we arrived at a smallish campus in a smallish village. We were delighted, as we feel more at home in the country than in the city. Two students introduced themselves. They had been assigned by the principal to look after us during our stay.

Roslinda, the principal, had spent three years in Germany so it was very easy to relate to her. With the help of the girls, she maintained a very tidy campus. Her timetable was well organised and ran smoothly.

We taught for three one-and-a-half hour lessons from Monday to Friday, mainly to the 37 first-year students, but the program also included a few lessons to the second- and third-year girls, and several to the adults.

The adults included members of the teaching staff, the office worker, nearby ministers and women working out in the mission field.

Our accommodation was in the guest house. Wow! A whole house with two western-style



S with singing angels

toilets and a hot shower. We were not expecting this! It did take us a week to work out how to run the hot water through the shower, though, and John inadvertently lost a sock when it got sucked down the loo!

We made our own breakfast, ate with the girls at lunchtime, and the evening meal was delivered to our house.

Roslinda told us proudly that the girls sing like angels; then in the same breath added that they get up at 4.30am to start their cleaning and cooking chores, do their exercises and practise the organ!

And so our day started with the clang-clangclang of the 4.30 wake-up bell followed soon after by the organ recitals and Zumba music that rang throughout the neighbourhood.

Prior to chapel at 7.30am the girls had choir practice, and yes, sing like angels they do! They all love to sing and there were not many hours during the day when the sound of their beautiful voices was not heard somewhere on the campus.

All the students were a delight to teach and we had a lot of fun capitalising on their love

of singing, using visual cues, role plays, discussions and quizzes to encourage speaking and listening, as well as reading and writing activities.

Their sense of humour came to the fore at the farewell party they put on for us when they introduced Mr John and Mrs Mal as two puppets, and took us off to a tee.

During our month at the Bible Frau we experienced unconditional love and felt very blessed to be able to share our God-given gifts with these wonderful people.

We were thrilled to be asked to come again next year, and this we will be delighted to do, if at all possible.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



If you would like to know how you can **GO** as a volunteer in mission to serve in one of the Lutheran overseas partner churches, please contact LCA International Mission: E: lcaim@lca.org.au P: **08** 8267 7334 or check out the opportunities at **www.lca.org.au/international-mission**



James Kerber is four years into a five-year double degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering. Passionate about youth ministry, James joined his father, Rev Paul Kerber, for a week in North Sumatra, Indonesia, teaching on lifestyles of reconciliation with people from our Lutheran overseas partner churches. Pastor Kerber is the LCA Assistant to the Bishop, Reconciliation Ministry.

He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation' (Mark 16:15).

In August this year, my father and I had the opportunity to share the gospel with young people in Indonesia. The one-week conference centred on the gospel and God's ministry of reconciliation. It was an amazing experience to witness that, even across languages and cultures, Christ's forgiveness brings peace and healing!

Monday saw us learn much about the Indonesian and Batak cultures, in particular, their understanding of the gospel and customs for dealing with conflict. The young people were very aware of their own culture, including the existence of conflict in some circumstances. It was encouraging that they also saw the need for biblical peacemaking in their own lives first.

The class was deep in discussion, Scripture and role plays through the following days. There were many 'ah-ha' moments when clarity of the Scriptures brought new understanding of their identity in Christ and of God's gift of living in confession and forgiveness with others. Every such moment was met with enthusiasm and celebration.

We saw a wonderful transformation as the young people grew deeper in their understanding and appreciation of the gospel. The teaching drew on their context for practical examples. As a result, we saw a dynamic shift in thinking. The youth increasingly realised that God's word

speaks within conflict to convict and to comfort. This was a change from resolving conflict by human strength, to reconciling through God's word.

As the conference drew to a close on Friday, we spoke about the next step—the future. This included further training to enable the youth to teach biblical peacemaking within their own churches. Additionally, a website to connect youth across different countries was suggested. This would help the young people to support and build each other up in the gospel.

What a marvellous journey we had with them! Although we were with them for only a brief time, God was fast at work in their hearts. Where the gospel is proclaimed, hearts become ablaze. It will be exciting to see how God continues to work reconciling grace through his new ambassadors in Indonesia. Praise the Lord!

MEETING JESUS AT BETHANY





How you can help

Are you interested in joining God's mission as a volunteer at Bethany or elsewhere with one of our overseas partner churches? You're invited to contact LCA International Mission to check out how you can make a difference in the lives of others. But be warned ... you may be changed for life!

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Her smile lights up the room and brings warmth to the people she serves. Vigneswary, or Vicky as she is called in English (pictured above), stands encouragingly alongside the young people learning practical skills in the café of the new Creative Business Centre at Bethany Home, in Malaysia.

A special needs teacher, Vicky came to visit Bethany Home six years ago at the invitation of her sister, a long-time teacher there. Brought up in a Hindu family in a Malaysian village, she had heard her sister talk about the amazing care and opportunities given to people with multiple disabilities through the ministry at Bethany (a home of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia). Vicky came—and stayed.

These days her duties include teaching the older young adults the skills for good customer service, cleanliness, and making sandwiches, cakes, waffles and great coffee.

Lutheran Women of Australia, in partnership with LCA International Mission, have supported the training of the teachers and support staff in annual staff training retreats.

Not only the surrounds and services offered at Bethany have changed in the past six years that Vicky has been at Bethany, but so has Vicky herself, as she has joined in the daily devotions and staff retreats.

Vicky says, 'Sometimes it is hard, tiring work, but the people at Bethany give me so much joy'.

'They are keen to learn. They are given hope here, and so am I. There is no difference between me and the people I support. They teach me so much—particularly patience. I came to Bethany as a Hindu, but I have come to meet Jesus. And this is the best thing for me.'

The teachers of Bethany Home in Malaysia give tirelessly of their time and abilities to help children who would otherwise have no hope or future. These teachers are a vital part of the ministry at Bethany. Many teachers have had no formal training for the roles that they undertake. However, through the annual staff development days held over their time at Bethany, the teachers have had the opportunity to grow in understanding and their capacity to teach in these situations. Funds raised by Lutheran Women of Australia support these staff development days.



Tears of overwhelming joy come quickly as Kawee shares her story. We're sitting in the Thai Good News Centre, a small but welcoming room in the Golden Mile shopping complex in Singapore. Kawee nurses her infant son, remembering her former desperate situation.

A Thai national living away from home and married to an older Singapore businessman, Kawee had become depressed. Desperate to return to Thailand and her Buddhist family, she became addicted to 'scratchies', ever hoping to win enough money to escape her misery and leave Singapore forever.

'I didn't like the family of my husband', she shares. 'They were all Christian, although my husband wasn't very serious about it. My sister-in-law continued to ask me to come to worship with her. I didn't want anything to do with Christians. I asked my husband to give me the money to start my own business. But the business was a failure. I then asked him for money to return to Thailand.'

Kawee did return to Thailand, and while back in her village in the Ubon province, she met a young person, Suria, who told her he was going to Singapore to volunteer at the Thai Good News Centre.

Still desperately unhappy, Kawee returned to her husband in Singapore.

'Again my sister in-law asked me to come to church, a "Chinese" church', Kawee says. 'I went for three months, but my heart wasn't in it. Then, to get his family off my back, I told my husband that I wanted to go to the Thai Good News Centre in the Golden Mile, where Suria was volunteering.

'After worship I slipped away to buy a scratchie, still hopeful that I might be able to win enough money to save me. I walked into another shop in the Golden Mile and they asked me if I was a Christian and gave me some booklets about Jesus. With no success in my scratchies and lots of time to spare at home, I began to read the booklet. I found it interesting and kept reading. I read it all.

'I rang the phone number of the Thai Good News Centre. They were so happy. Praise God that I came to know Jesus and have been baptised',

Kawee shares. 'I went back to Thailand again, but this time because I wanted everyone to know Jesus. Now I have been granted permanent residency in Singapore.

'My brother has stopped drinking and has enrolled at the Lutheran Seminary in Thailand, and my husband is following Jesus, too.

'My life has changed so completely. I have experienced the grace of God, and I want everyone to know Jesus, this gift of God.'

We walk outside of the Thai Good News Centre, around the corner into the shopping centre.

Kawee opens the roller shutter of her shop—
'a gift from God, which I use to share the gospel and invite people to come to the Thai Good News Centre'. Each day Kawee commits her work and the shop to the glory of God.

Her family in Thailand have come to know Jesus. Kawee says sometimes she is so excited about telling others about Jesus, she forgets to eat! Her tears of joy continue to flow as she talks about the goodness of God.

The Thai Good News Centre is a mission of the Lutheran Church in Singapore. Pastor Rickson Leong (local Singapore pastor) and new Christians offer a warm welcome and place for worship, learning and friendship to many Thai nationals working in Singapore.

You're invited to volunteer as a teacher of English at the Thai Good News Centre. To know more about volunteering, contact LCA International Mission Email: lcaim@lca.org.au Phone: 08 8267 7334 Website: www.lca.org.au/international-mission

I'M JOINING IN GOOD'S MISSION BY 5 NOON S

- Pastor Amnuay and the evangelists of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT), sharing the good news with Lua people in the Nan Province, Thailand
- Sophoeurn as she continues in the ministry of sharing Jesus' love with the people in villages in the Kampong Chhnang Province, Cambodia
- Pastors Daniel, Mose and Vibol and their families, ministry support staff, Chak Mun Kong and Sohpal, and young people in training for ministry to serve in Cambodia with Lutheran World Mission (LWM) and Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC)
- The 35 young people attending baptism classes in Phum Krus, Cambodia
- Students of the Rainbow Hostel and City Church of the LCC, as they study and share Jesus' love with others in the hostel and their places of learning
- LCA scholarship recipient Pastor Dendy Vando Siduaruk, as he completes requirements for the Masters of Theological Studies at Australian Lutheran College, before he returns to Indonesia to continue ministry with Gereja Kristen Protestan Simalungan (GKPS) church
- LCA International Mission 2016 scholarship recipients (from PNG and Malaysia) preparing for study in Adelaide at ALC, Indonesia and PNG
- Planning for the next stages of the land development (Lutheran pre-school and ministry training rooms) in Phnom Penh
- Pastor Greg Schiller, lecturer at Ogelbeng Seminary of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)
- Mick Hauser as he continues his orientation in Papua New Guinea prior to teaching at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae
- The staff and faculty of all three Lutheran seminaries in PNG
- Nick and Meagan Schwarz, research assistant with PNG's Melanesian Institute
- 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 continues in the ministry of Bible translation for the Kobe people in the Gulf province of PNG
- Margaret Mickan, translator with LBTA in Northern Territory
- Nathan and Stacey, as they prepare for service in another country and culture
- Bishops, leaders and members of our overseas Lutheran partner churches in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea, as they share the love of Jesus Christ with people in their regions
- LCA International Mission Program Assistants: Colin and Ruth Hayter, PNG (volunteers), David Pietsch, and Warren and Marianne Schirmer, Cambodia (volunteers)
- Staff of Home of Praise (for children in the slums of Bangkok) and Home of Grace (home for unwed mothers) in Thailand
- For God to open our eyes to see '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!'

GOD'S MISSION BY



... LCA International Mission's work 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.)

1	and write the amount of your gift/s in the spaces prov	rided.)
	Land development, Phnom Penh, Lutheran Church in Cambodia	\$
ı	Rainbow hostel ministry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia	\$
1	Bethany Home for disabled young people in Malaysia	\$
	Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in Malaysia	\$
	Youth ministry program in Sabah, Malaysia	\$
	Mission work carried out in the	\$
	Nan Province, Thailand	
	Home of Praise, Thailand	\$
	Ministry carried out by Greg Schiller in Papua New Guinea (PNG)	\$
	Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for PNG	\$
Ī	Scholarships for children of pastors in PNG	\$
	Prison ministry in Indonesia	\$
ı	Bible translation (LBTA), Hanna Schulz	\$
	Bible translation (LBTA), Margaret Mickan	\$
ı	Scholarships (for overseas partner churches)	\$
	Books for the seminary libraries	\$
ı	(for overseas partner churches)	
	Debora Orphanage in Indonesia	\$
ī	Publication of Lutheran literature in Indonesia	\$
	Ministry in the Mekong region (through Mekong Mission Forum)	\$
	LCA lecturers to teach courses in Myanmar	\$
Ī	LCA lecturers to teach courses in Lutheran overseas partner churches	\$
1	LCA International Mission—sharing the stories of God's mission	\$
	() I would like to become a partner with LCA In	ternational
ī	Mission (please send me information)	
	Prayer Sponsorship Volunteer	
	I would like to leave a bequest for LCA International Mission in my will (please send me information)	
You can support one or more of the above mission projects in any of the following ways:		
i	 online at www.lca.org.au/international 	-mission/
	act-now/donate/	
	(credit card)	
	OR fill out the form below (credit card or c	hegue)
	OR Electronic Funds Transfer; please conf	
	LCA IM on 08 8267 7334 for more details	
ı	Enclosed is my cheque for \$(cheques payable to Board for Mission)	
	Please debit my Visa Mastercar	d
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	Amount \$	
	Name	
1	Signature	
	Address	
1		
	P/C	·

Please send me a receipt

Please send this completed form to **LCA International Mission** 197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006

I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION BY VOLUNTEEVING



The opportunities and places are many, and the experience ... life-changing!

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
- Teaching English in Sabah in the schools for 'undocumented children' or in youth ministry programs

CAMBODIA

• Teaching English at the Rainbow Student Hostel (Phnom Penh) or English and computing at the Life Centre (Phum Krus)

THAILAND

- 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

INDONESIA

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

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

 Builder/handyman able to help with maintenance, and construction of houses

I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION BY PAYTHEVING

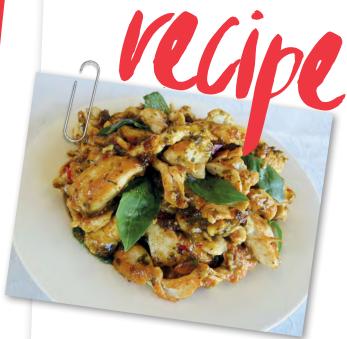


Your school, congregation, youth or fellowship group can become personally involved in a mission partnership:

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

WHAT TO DO NEXT ...

If you would like to know more about volunteering in mission overseas, or how your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group can partner in mission, check out our website www.lca.org.au/international-mission or contact LCA International Mission at Icaim@Ica.org.au or on 08 8267 7334.



SERVES 4-6

THAI CHILLI CHICKEN BASIL

Ingredients

800g chicken fillet (thinly sliced)

- 2 large cloves garlic (minced)
- 1 birdseye chilli (deseeded and finely chopped)
- 3 tbsp oil (coconut, vegetable, peanut or canola), for frying
- 1 cup basil leaves (preferably Thai holy basil)

Sauce

- 2 tsp light soy sauce
- 3 tsp oyster sauce
- 3 tbsp fish sauce
- 3 tbsp water
- 2 tbsp sugar (preferably palm sugar)

Method

- 1. Combine sauce ingredients in small bowl.
- 2. Heat oil in wok or pan over high heat.
- 3. Stir-fry chicken pieces until golden brown, then remove from pan.
- In wok, add garlic and chilli and cook for 10 seconds. Add sauce and cook for 1 minute. Add chicken and stir until coated with sauce. Add basil leaves and stir until just wilted.
- 5. Serve immediately with rice.