

# BORDER CROSSINGS



*global partners · local church*



**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION**

*global partners · local church*

ISSUE  
MARCH 2017

**21**

## BORDER CROSSINGS

Official publication of LCA International Mission



**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION**

*global partners · local church*

**DESIGNED BY:** Anna Schubert  
annaisagraphicdesigner@gmail.com

**PRINTED BY:** Openbook Howden Print & Design  
www.openbookhowden.com.au

**LCA INTERNATIONAL MISSION**  
08 8267 7300 | lcaim@lca.org.au  
197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006  
www.lca.org.au/international-mission

# TELLING STORIES



*'Thank GOD! Pray to him by name! Tell everyone you meet what he has done!'* (Psalm 105:1 The Message)

I grew up in a family in which sharing the stories of what God was doing in the lives of people overseas and even in our own community was a natural part of life. Through these stories I was encouraged to follow Jesus, even venturing to serve overseas.

The other night I had a phone call from two friends who had just spent the evening with some young people from Cambodia. Their joy was overflowing as they shared with me how much they had been encouraged and inspired. Not ashamed or afraid to share what God has done for them, these young Cambodian Christians had relit a fire in the hearts of my friends. Jesus was a master storyteller. He also calls us to be storytellers, to be witnesses of what he has done for us.

My hope is that we, too, can recapture the joy of storytelling in our homes, with our friends and with people we may not even know – sharing the good news of what Jesus has done for us.

## Glenice Hartwich

Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission  
Lutheran Church of Australia

**The LCA has two arms reaching out across the borders of our country to share Jesus' love – LCA International Mission and Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS).**

LCA International Mission has the responsibility for mission and evangelism so that, through the work of the Holy Spirit and in partnership with others, we can bring the life-changing

news of the gospel to people overseas and cross-culturally in Australia.

By supporting the work of LCA International Mission you are enabling Jesus' love to come to life in the lives of many people. This love reaches across the borders of our country and particularly in our near-neighbour countries in South East Asia and the Pacific.







Barb Smith has always felt a calling to serve overseas. In 2016 Barb returned to Cambodia for three months as an LCA International Mission volunteer for the second time. In 2017 Barb is planning to serve as a trainer for the English teachers of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia for six months. You, too, can Go as an LCA International Mission volunteer! If you would like to know more about serving as a volunteer with one of our overseas partner churches, please contact Nevin Nitschke P: **08 8267 3000** E: **nevin.nitschke@lca.org.au** or check out the website: **www.lca.org.au/international-mission**



# Dear Lord, I really need your help

What do you do when 40 pairs of large, bright brown eyes are looking at you at 4.30pm, each holding their bag with an exercise book and pencil, and waiting expectantly?

Oh no! I've only set the classroom for 25 children aged between five and eight years old and there are 40! I won't have enough tables. Also, the clouds are building up – how will I make myself heard during the oncoming thunderstorm?

Okay, dear Lord, you really have to help me this afternoon. We begin our English lesson of teaching a sound and a colour, and revise what has already been taught over the past few days, singing nursery rhymes and action songs. After an hour, the children leave, giving me a traditional bow and then a hug and big smiles as they walk out into the pouring rain.

This was my introduction to the new school for teaching English at Tang Krang Christian centre in Cambodia in October last year. I fell in love with the children who are so eager to learn. During my two months with Pastor Vibol, newly graduated teacher and Bible student Sreyliak and American volunteer Lindsay, I supported them in establishing infrastructure, finances and organisation for the school. This included daily English classes, Sunday Bible sessions for children and youth of the local and neighbouring villages, youth work and Pastor Vibol's pastoral work.

Now the English classes consist of more manageable numbers. Lindsay teaches those aged five to eight and the secondary students. Sreyliak teaches the children aged nine to 13 and does youth work among several villages. More than 100 children attend Sunday Bible sessions. Students from Rainbow Hostel in Phnom Penh travel every Sunday to support Pastor Vibol and his team in witnessing the love of God to the village children.

Living at Tang Krang Christian Centre was a very special time and I had many wonderful experiences, including love and care from Pastor Vibol, his wife Sokry and their two gorgeous, entertaining daughters, Honeylim and Hannahwim; the fellowship from Sreyliak and Lindsay; giving rice, sauces and Tiger Balm to the poor; seeing the sun rising over the green rice fields and fish ponds; eating our meals (often from pastor's flourishing garden and poultry) on the shelter built over the duck pond; walking to the local stalls and being greeted by smiling villagers; watching the men and boys take cows and goats out to the fields; seeing the progress of building a haystack next to our home; watching the women and girls sew dishcloths to sell.

If God wills, I will return to Cambodia in September this year. Please listen to our Lord – if he calls you to Cambodia or to another mission area – GO!

**Barbara Smith**





# Emily's baby shower will SAVE LIVES

My husband Anthony and I were so excited to find out we were expecting our first baby. We wanted to have an event to celebrate the baby's arrival. However, I felt uncomfortable with the conventional baby shower concept. My baby did not need piles of gifts he or she would only use occasionally.

I knew that my baby would be born in a great hospital with trained staff and whatever resources were required. I started thinking about babies who are born in more difficult circumstances and how I could do something to acknowledge these babies while celebrating the arrival of my own. I remembered that the women's group at my church (St John's Lutheran Church in Perth WA) had assembled birthing kits and I thought creating these kits could be a great activity for my baby shower.

I discussed the idea with the Soroptimist International (SI) of Perth (of which I am a member). The aim of the SI is to educate, empower and enable women and girls. The club members were very supportive of the idea and offered to host the event at their clubrooms.

On 2 January, 35 of my friends arrived at the SI Perth clubrooms laden with gifts of nappies, nappy pins, sheets, soaps and baby singlets for babies in Papua New Guinea. My friends enjoyed chatting and having afternoon tea while we assembled the packs, but more than anything they really enjoyed doing something positive to help mums and babies in PNG. One person said it was the best baby shower she had ever been to. In the end we put together 85 kits. Each contained plastic and fabric to create a clean birth environment, gloves, cord ties, scalpel and fabric wipes to assist in the delivery, and nappies, nappy pins and singlets for the new baby.

Anthony and I hope our baby and babies in PNG will have a great start to life.

**Emily Hunt**



Elle with Emily Hunt

The birthing kit program was started by Sister Margaret Voigt (a former LCA International Mission nurse who served in PNG) as a means of providing vital equipment for mothers and new born babies in remote, rural areas in PNG. If you would like to know how you or your friends or fellowship group can be involved in the program, you are invited to contact Nevin Nitschke, LCA International Mission Program Officer at [lcaim@lca.org.au](mailto:lcaim@lca.org.au) or on **08 8267 7300**



# THE NEXT STEP after my Australian scholarship

From January this year the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) assigned me to Trinity Theological College (TTC). It is a college governed by the Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches in Singapore. There are two language departments in the school, Chinese and English. I am teaching in the English department as well as offering pastoral care to students in a family group within the Chinese department.

I am teaching two subjects this semester. The first is Worship and Liturgy; the second is Lutheranism, which is compulsory for current Lutheran students of TTC. Furthermore, those parish workers and pastors who are not Lutherans but are called by the LCS must also attend this class. I am co-teaching these two subjects with Rev Dr Jeffery Truscott. He is a Lutheran missionary assigned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to the school for the past 12 years. Since I am new to the school, I have been given a lighter load by co-teaching with him. I am also preparing a course for the next semester on the 'Reformation's Ah-ha!'

Along with teaching, I have been assigned to Bedok Lutheran Church in Singapore to assist the senior pastor in pulpit ministry and Christian education. This is a homecoming for me as I grew up in this parish and was their pastor before I left for doctoral studies in Australia. I am happy to be involved in the pastoral ministry of the church.

A new work I am involved in is inter-church dialogue. With this year being the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the LCS has invited Roman Catholics in Singapore to dialogue and to jointly commemorate the Reformation. I look forward to increasing our mutual understanding and finding new ways to move forward together.

On the home front, my wife is back to teaching and my two younger children are settled back into the Singapore school system but the elder two continue their studies in Australia. I am grateful that our children get to experience life and schooling in Australia and get to experience the wider and bigger church family we have in Christ.

The Lord leads us to walk through many different open doors as we follow him. These past few years have been an adventure for us. We are grateful to our church and the pastoral students and their family at Australian Lutheran College (ALC) for journeying with us. I am especially thankful to God for Daryl and Shirley Shoesmith, as well as Lucas and Beth Matuschka, for looking after my two elder daughters in ALC as they are half-way through their schooling.

**Rev Samuel Wang**



Samuel was the recipient of a joint scholarship from LCA International Mission, Australian Lutheran College and the Australian Government. He and his family spent three-and-a-half years in Adelaide for Samuel to complete his doctoral studies.

LCA International Mission continues to provide short and long-term scholarships for pastors and teachers from our overseas partner churches to study theology both in Australia at Australian Lutheran College and in-country at some theological institutions and universities. Many of the former LCA International Mission scholarship recipients have gone on to lead their respective churches as bishops, national church department heads and lecturers at theological seminaries. If you would like to support this important ministry please visit the LCA International Mission website: [www.lca.org.au/international-mission](http://www.lca.org.au/international-mission)



# I'M THANKFUL

In a recent emailed newsletter Papua New Guinea-based Bible translator Hanna Schulz shared her thankfulness.

'I am thankful for each of you. Thank you for continuing to encourage me through your emails, letters, prayers and financial support. I could not be here doing what I do without you.

I am thankful for the Kope community and their enthusiasm for having God's word in their language. We started drafting the gospel of Luke in January this year and already have 26 per cent in draft form. For a beginning team, and considering I was away for several months in Australia, this is a fine effort. Not only are they committed to working in Kope, but they have also been encouraging and supporting the Anigibi (tribe upstream from us) in adapting the Kope drafts into Anigibi so that they too can have the Bible in their language.

I am thankful for the slow but consistent progress I am making in learning Kope. It is a complex language, and in 2017 I hope to work on an MA dissertation so that I can spend time looking carefully at what is happening with the very complex Kope verbs.

I am thankful for the relationships that I have with my Kope family. When I returned to the village after furlough, their welcome was warm and genuine. I am also thankful for the other friends I have around me in Gulf Province, in Papua New Guinea and scattered across the world. I am surrounded by people who are a blessing in my life, be they near or far.

I am thankful that during my most recent two months in the village, Hollie (intern) and I were able to live and work well together. Thank you to each of you who were praying for us as we got to know each other in this intense situation. We intend to keep working together for the remainder of Hollie's two-year internship.

I am thankful for good health and safe travel.'

*Hanna Schulz is working as a Bible translator with the Kope people in the Gulf Province in Papua New Guinea. Together with Margaret Mickan, a long-time Bible translator and linguist in the Northern Territory, they have served as dual members of Lutheran Bible Translators Australia (LBTA) and Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia (WBTA).*

*Following a restructure of the LCA Board for Mission (now the Committee for International Mission), LBTA – which reports to the Committee – has undergone a review. This included a consideration of this dual membership arrangement.*

*Based on a recommendation of the Committee, the LCA General Church Council has decided to wind up LBTA in its current form. This means our Bible translators, Hanna Schulz and Margaret Mickan, will transition to the single membership of WBTA.*

*This transition will take place with the deepest respect for Hanna and Margaret and so they can continue their work to the fullest capacity. They continue to be Lutheran Bible translators serving God through Bible translation and literacy work.*

*The process for providing ongoing financial support will be modified slightly (for now nothing changes), and supporters will be notified of these changes in due course once the next stage of this transition is in place.*

*You are invited to continue to pray for Hanna, Margaret and others involved in the transition, so that the work continues to the glory of God.*



# JOIN IN GOD'S MISSION

Through LCA International Mission, Lutherans in Australia and New Zealand are following our Lord Jesus Christ in his mission to make disciples of all nations.

## 1. PRAY

Many of our partner churches are working in new territory for the kingdom of God and spiritual attack is their everyday reality. As a member of a congregation, school or family, or as a couple or individual, please commit to praying for our partners in mission.



**I'M JOINING IN  
GOD'S MISSION BY**  
*praying for*

- Michael (Mick) Hauser, as he serves as a lecturer at Martin Luther Seminary, in Lae PNG
- Lutheran Bible translator Hanna Schulz, as she continues the ministry of Bible translation for the Kope people in the Gulf province of Papua New Guinea
- Margaret Mickan, Lutheran Bible translator and linguist in Northern Territory
- 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
- The ministry team and people of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC), as they continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ with their families and people in their schools, universities, villages, rural areas and the rapidly developing city of Phnom Penh
- The new and emerging Lutheran community in the villages of Tang Krang, Kampong Cham Province in 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
- Rev Amnuay and the nine evangelists sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the Lua people in the Nan Province in northern Thailand
- Mr Ridwin Purba (National Education Secretary for the Lutheran churches in Indonesia) and Dr Neville Hightett (LCA International Mission education consultant), as they help to support the education reform in the schools of the Lutheran churches in Indonesia.
- Lutheran school principals from Australia, as they visit schools in Indonesia in March, to explore possibilities for school service-learning partnerships
- Nathan and Stacey, as they serve in West Asia
- LCA Mission International Program Assistants: Colin and Ruth Hayter, PNG (volunteers), and Warren and Marianne Schirmer, and David Pietsch, Cambodia (volunteers)
- People willing to serve as volunteers in and with our overseas partner churches
- 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

For regular prayer point updates, check out the LCA International Mission website [www.lca.org.au/international-mission/act-now/pray/](http://www.lca.org.au/international-mission/act-now/pray/) They can also be accessed via the fortnightly LCA eNews (to sign up, go to [www.lca.org.au/enews](http://www.lca.org.au/enews)).

*'Lord, renew your church, begin with me!'*

## 2. GIVE

We take great care of your financial gifts. You can be confident they will assist our partner Lutheran churches to bring the good news of Jesus to their communities.



**I'M JOINING IN  
GOD'S MISSION BY**  
*giving to...*

... 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.)

- ☐ Teaching ministry by Mick Hauser in **Papua New Guinea (PNG)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for **PNG** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ LCA lecturers to teach courses in **Lutheran overseas partner churches** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Scholarships** for pastors and teachers of **Lutheran overseas partner churches** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ School and ministry training rooms, Phnom Penh, Lutheran Church in **Cambodia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Bethany Home for young people with disabilities in **Malaysia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in **Malaysia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Youth ministry program in Sabah, **Malaysia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Mission work carried out with the Lau people in Nan province, **Thailand** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prison ministry in **Indonesia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Bible translation, Hanna Schulz \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Bible translation, Margaret Mickan \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Books for the seminary libraries** (for overseas partner churches) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Publication of Lutheran literature in **Indonesia** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Ministry in the Mekong region South-East Asia (through **Mekong Mission Forum**) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ LCA lecturers to teach courses in **Myanmar** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **LCA International Mission** – sharing the stories of God's mission \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to **become a partner with LCA International Mission** (please send me information)

☐ Prayer ☐ Give ☐ Connect ☐ Go

☐ 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:

- ☒ online at [www.lca.org.au/international-mission/act-now/donate/](http://www.lca.org.au/international-mission/act-now/donate/) (credit card)
- ☒ OR fill out the form below (credit card or cheque)
- ☒ OR Electronic Funds Transfer; please contact LCA IM on **08 8267 7300** for more details
- ☐ Enclosed is my cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (cheques payable to LCA International Mission)

Please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card no

Expiry   /   CCV

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P/C \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me a receipt

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

Want more? You can experience firsthand how God's love is coming to life through the word-and-action gospel work of our partner churches. Please talk to us about volunteering opportunities – and be prepared to be changed forever.



## I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION BY *volunteering*

### CAMBODIA

- Teaching English at the Rainbow Student Hostel (Phnom Penh), English and computing at the Life Centre (Phum Krus) or English at Tang Krang, Kampong Cham Province

### INDONESIA

- Teaching English in the schools and seminaries
- Teaching English and practical help in church institutions
- Teaching handcrafts and English at Elim Orphanage. Specific skills in child psychology are also helpful
- Teaching conversational English at the BibelFrau school for young women learning to be church workers. The school has a strong focus on music and choirs

### THAILAND

- Giving practical help at Home of Praise – day-care centre for infants and after-school programs for children and young people
- Providing practical help at Home of Grace – for unmarried mothers and their babies
- Teaching conversational English in local schools in the Nan Province, no qualifications needed

### MALAYSIA

- Bethany Home (school/group homes for people with disabilities) – teachers with 'special' education qualifications or speech and physical therapy skills; pastors or people able to provide spiritual care and encouragement for the staff and children; adults and young adults are needed for practical service in areas that include craft, music and sport
- Rumah Luther Ria (school for people with disabilities) – needed skills include music, conversational English and computing
- Rumah Chrestus – home for abused children
- Teaching English in Sabah in the schools for 'undocumented children' or in youth ministry programs

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Builder/handyman able to help with maintenance of houses
- Writing scripts, editing and training for radio broadcasts in the communications department

### SINGAPORE

- Teaching English at the Thai Good News Center

### MYANMAR

- Teaching conversational English at a local orphanage
- Teaching farming or agricultural skills in a local village. Live in the village and plant crops with the local villagers
- Lecturing in Lutheran Distinctives

## 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](http://www.lca.org.au/international-mission) or contact Erin Kerber (LCA International Mission Program Officer) at [erinkerber@lca.org.au](mailto:erinkerber@lca.org.au) or [lcaim@lca.org.au](mailto:lcaim@lca.org.au) or on 08 8267 7300.



**SERVES 4**

## COCONUT CHICKEN PHO

Delicious meal in a bowl

### Ingredients

- 4 chicken thighs
- 4 cups coconut water (or water)
- 5 cm piece of ginger peeled and thinly sliced (julienne strips)
- 1 shallot finely chopped
- 1/3 cup kecap manis (sweet soy sauce)
- 2 star anise
- 1 cinnamon quill
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ½ tsp Chinese five spice powder
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- Lime juice
- 1 carrot peeled and thinly sliced (julienne strips)
- 100 g bean sprouts
- 2 tbsp Thai basil
- 2 tbsp coriander
- 2 tbsp mint
- 2 spring onions finely sliced
- Long red chilli, thinly sliced
- 200 g vermicelli noodles

### Method

1. Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Cook chicken for 10 mins or until browned.
2. Place coconut water, ginger, kecap manis, shallot, garlic, cinnamon quill, star anise, and Chinese five spice in a large heavy-based saucepan with a lid. Bring to the boil. Add chicken. Reduce heat to low. Add fish sauce, and lime juice. Cover and simmer for 1 hour.
3. Transfer chicken to a plate and, using forks, shred coarsely.
4. Prepare noodles following packet directions. Divide noodles among serving bowls. Add chicken, bean sprouts, carrot, mint, Thai basil, coriander, spring onions, chilli and slice of lime. Ladle broth into bowls.