



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**
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FACT SHEET

Myanmar



YOUR PARTNERS IN MISSION

Christian missionaries first came to Myanmar in the 16th century and again in the 18th century, but they saw no results for their labours. After American missionary Adoniram Judson arrived in 1813, six years passed before even one Burmese person turned to Christ. Other missionaries began serving in Myanmar and the gospel gradually spread, before most workers were expelled in 1966. Today, the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) works in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) and in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Mekong Mission Forum to help to build the theological capacity of the four LWF churches represented in Myanmar (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar, Lutheran Church of Myanmar, Myanmar Lutheran Church and the Mara Evangelical Church in Myanmar). The LCA's engagement in mission and ministry in Myanmar is very recent. Requests continue to be issued by the LCM to the LCA to provide teachers for the short-term Lutheran Distinctive training/theological capacity courses offered annually in Myanmar.

PROJECTS YOU CAN SUPPORT

- Support for LCM in Myanmar
- Guest lecturers in Lutheran theology
- Volunteers

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

- Training, encouraging and monitoring farming progress
- Teaching English at Lutheran Bethlehem Church and the orphanages of the Myanmar Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church of Myanmar
- Lecturing in Lutheran Distinctives
- Lecturing and teaching in mission, agriculture and farming at the Lutheran Bible Training Institute, Mawbi

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

You already support mission work in Myanmar through your prayers and weekly offerings. But if you would like to work more closely with the Lutheran Church in Myanmar, you could talk to Ipswich Lutheran Church, Qld, about the blessings of their partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (Lutheran Bethlehem Church).



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ERIN KERBER

your Myanmar Program Officer

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

Among the ethnically diverse nation (including the 135 officially recognised distinct ethnic groups), the beautiful people of Myanmar are living in a country which has gone through vast changes in the recent past. It is only under reforms introduced since 2011 by a new government that strict state controls, imposed after the 1962 military coup, have eased. I'm meeting people who have hope for the future of their country as they come to know God's love for them and place their trust in his goodness and grace. It's an exciting time to be involved in God's mission in Myanmar. I'd love to visit your congregation, school or group to discuss ways you can partner with our Lutheran friends in Myanmar.

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. Done!

CONNECT

Talk to me about a Myanmar partnership. 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. (You'll gain more than you give, you know!)

GIVE

Visit our donate page and select the Myanmar projects that 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

Want the face-to-face experience? Sure! You can join a mission team or create one from your congregation, school or small group, and even your family. Or you can volunteer to teach English or computing for short stints, or use your skills and gifts to contribute to a community. Do you think God might be calling you to serve in Myanmar? Call me (Erin) to talk about it.

ABOUT MYANMAR

Myanmar, also known as Burma, was long considered a pariah state while under the rule of an oppressive military junta from 1962 to 2011. The generals who ran the country suppressed almost all dissent – symbolised by the house arrest of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi – and stood accused of gross human rights abuses, prompting international condemnation and sanctions. A gradual liberalisation process has been under way since 2010. Burma's first civilian government after more than five decades of military dictatorship was sworn into office on 30 March 2016. The dominance of the largest ethnic group, the Burman or Bamar people, over the country's many minorities has been fuelling a series of long-running rebellions, although a gradual peace process yielded a draft ceasefire deal in 2015.

	Myanmar	Australia
Population	56,891,000	24,189,000
Religions	Buddhist 87.9%, Christian 6.2%, Muslim 4.3%, Animist 0.8%, Hindu 0.5%	Christian 55.4%, None 22.3%, Unspecified 9.3%
UN World Ranking	148	2
Below poverty line*	32.7%	N/A
Literacy	93.1%	96%
Infant mortality	42.2 per 1000 births	4.3 per 1000 births
Life expectancy	66.6 years	82.2 years
Clean water	80.6%	100%
Proper sanitation	77.4%	100%

* Definitions of poverty vary but often considered to be US\$2 or less a day.

MORE INFORMATION

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