



LCA Mission International

*We exist to assist the Church in fulfilling Christ's mission command to
'Go and make disciples of all people'*

Information for Lutheran Schools in Australia
seeking to partner in mission and ministry

'serving to learn – learning to serve'



Vision

We see a church whose members will be witnesses for Christ locally, nationally, regionally and throughout the world (Acts 1:8). We see a church where the joy of partnering with one another in the gospel is evident (Phil 1:3-6).

Mission

Our mission is to equip, encourage, engage in and support the growth of holistic ministry carried out in relationship with our partners overseas and the individuals, congregations, schools and Districts of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) and New Zealand (LCNZ).

Guiding principles

- We serve in a way that reflects our commitment to the teachings and confessions of the LCA
- We work in partnership
- We work for holistic ministry
- We respect and encourage the Christian's vocation
- We make good use of God's gifts

Priority Groups

LCA Mission International will focus on programs that enhance the capacity of our partners in Australian and overseas to carry out holistic ministry, with a particular emphasis on working with all parts of the LCA to create a culture of mission in our church.

Modes of operation

- Through partner Churches overseas
- Through and with other Lutheran overseas partners
- Partnering / Accompaniment
- Facilitative capacity building
- Consultancy
- Collaborative partnerships
- Graduated empowerment

Strategic Approaches:

It is the belief of LCA Mission International that we can best serve in God's mission, working in partnership by supporting our partner Churches through the work that they are doing in their countries and with their nearby neighbours. We have a particular emphasis on supporting the mission and ministry of Lutheran Churches in the neighbouring Asia/Pacific countries of Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia (West), Sabah (East Malaysia), Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, and Thailand.

A significant portion of our support to these Churches is used to provide scholarships for the training of pastors. However it is our real desire to see a strengthening of the

relationships we have with these Churches, especially through more personal contact and interaction of the members of the LCA through congregational and school partnership relationships and through volunteering. Therefore LCA Mission International is keen to help facilitate connections and the development of relationships between Lutheran communities here in Australia and with the LCA's overseas partner Churches.

LCA Mission International believes it is important to maintain sustainable partnerships when working in mission and ministry overseas and in Australia. Therefore we would encourage congregations, schools and individuals to work together with the overseas partner Churches with whom LCA Mission International has already established partnerships and where much of the groundwork in developing these relationships and protocols has been established. (Papers: *Partnerships of the Lutheran Church of Australia* and *Guidelines & procedures for developing a partnership* And *Partnerships of the Lutheran Church of Australia* are available on LCA Mission International website: www.lcamission.org.au

LCA Mission International is also keen to help facilitate partnerships with LCA congregations and schools within new and emerging missional communities in Australia.

LCA Mission International has long-standing, established partnerships with churches in:

Indonesia – LCA Mission International works with and through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) National Committee Indonesia which consists of 12 Indonesian Lutheran Churches. These churches include: Gereja Kristen Luther Indonesia (GKLI), Gereja Kristen Protestan Angkola (GKPA), Gereja Kristen Protestan Indonesia (GKPI), Gereja Kristen Protestan Simalungun (GKPS), Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) and Huria Kristen Indonesia (HKI), Gereja Angowuloo Masehi Indonesia Nias (AMIN), Banua Niha Keriso Protestan (BNKP), Gereja Punguan Kristen Batak (GKPB), Gereja Kristen Protestan di Mentawai (GKPM), Gereja Kristen Protestan Pakpak Dairi (GKPPD), Gereja Kristen Persekutuan (GKP / GPP)

Malaysia (West) – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia (ELCM) and Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM)

Sabah (East Malaysia) – Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM)

Papua New Guinea – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)

Singapore – Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS)

Thailand – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand (ELCT)

Myanmar - LCA Mission International works with and through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Mekong Mission Forum to support the ministry and mission of the 4 LWF member Churches represented in Myanmar: Lutheran Church in Myanmar (LCM), Myanmar Lutheran Church (MLC), Mara Evangelical Church (MEC) and the Lutheran Bethlehem Church (or Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar)

Cambodia – LCA Mission International works with and through the Lutheran Church in Singapore and other overseas partner Churches to support the new ministry and mission programs of Lutheran World Mission (LWM) and the Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC) in Cambodia

Through these partnerships the LCA also participates in ministry and mission in countries beyond the borders of our partner Churches as they engage in mission with their near neighbours.

Country Profiles:

Australia:

The LCA Mission through its Board for Local Mission (BLMiss) responds to the expressed needs of congregations and Districts of the LCA as they see the opportunities for sharing Jesus' love with the people and in the places where God directs. Some of these specific areas are in new growth corridors or in regions where people from a particular continent are placed or chose to live. The LCA is blessed by the many people from African and Asian nations who are coming to live in Australia.



‘Schoolies Alternative’: Students of Tatachilla Lutheran College, SA and St Paul’s Lutheran church Shepparton, Vic

Opportunities exist for support of our mission ‘at home’ through Lutheran congregations as they establish partnerships with agencies of the Lutheran Church of Australia including:

- LCA congregations where there is a high number of refugees of African decent
- LCA congregations where there is a high number of Asian decent
- LCA congregations and communities in aboriginal lands - Yalata (SA), Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal (QLD) and Finke River Mission (NT)

- Lutheran Community Care (eg. LCA South Australia District) as it relates to people in many diverse areas of need (information on specific programs can be obtained by contacting
 - LCC office in SA, Email: stateoffice@lccare.org.au
 - LCC office in Qld, Email: lcc.admin@lccqld.org.au
- Lutheran Aged Care (information on location of Lutheran Aged Care facilities in specific areas can be obtained by contacting BLACA on Email: blaca@lca.org.au)

Indonesia:

In previous years LCA Mission International has had significant relationships / partnerships with 6 of the 12 Lutheran Churches of the LWF National Committee in Indonesia. In recent years, through the LWF National Committee Indonesia, LCA Mission International is working towards developing relationships with all 12 Indonesian Lutheran Churches. In previous years the LCA's support has been varied for each of these Churches, but in the main support has been in the form of in-country and overseas scholarships for pastor training, support for the seminaries, guest lecturers from the ALC to serve short-term in the seminaries and the provision of Australian volunteers to teach English in seminaries, for pastors' and leaders and staff and children in diaconal institutions. English courses for these Churches continues to add great personal support in helping to build the capacity of the Churches to communicate with others in a world in which English is fast becoming the global language. The LCA has also supported various diaconal institutions of these churches, through their orphanages, ministry and mission to prisoners, single mothers, blind students and orphaned and abused children.

A grant from the LLL has been the impetus for a joint venture with the LCA Mission International, Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) and Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) to help build the capacity of the Churches to be to strengthen their diaconal work and live out their faith in Jesus Christ in a mostly Muslim culture. As a continuation of this effective endeavour and with the continuing support of the LLL, the LCA now funds the position of the National Education Secretary for all 12 Indonesian Lutheran Churches, and provides mentoring support for the work carried out to strengthen the capacity of the Lutheran schools in Indonesia. This is an exciting development and will provide further opportunities for personal interaction and support from LCA schools and individuals and could include teacher exchange programs.

There are a range of opportunities for schools to partner with and serve in Indonesian Lutheran churches and schools. There continues to be a demand for teachers of English to serve in varying capacities and locations throughout North Sumatra in orphanages, homes for disadvantaged children and schools. These expressed needs provide opportunities for individuals, congregations and schools of the LCA to partner in mission in practical ways.



Students of Navigator College, Indonesian school partnership

Malaysia:

There are two Lutheran Church groups in Malaysia with whom the LCA has forged strong partnerships. These are the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia (ELCM) which started as a mission to people of Tamil background and the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM), which began as a result of ministry and mission to people of Chinese heritage.

• Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia (ELCM)

LCA Mission International has supported the training of ELCM pastor's particularly through scholarships and by providing full-time and guest lecturers for the inter-denominational seminary, Seminary Theologica Malaysia (STM) at Seremban, in addition to short courses conducted for pastors of the ELCM.

Opportunities exist for schools to develop a partnership together with the ELCM through their diaconal ministries in orphanages and various homes for people with disabilities and in disadvantaged situations. Over the years, many LCA Mission International volunteers have served at Bethany Home (a school for people with intellectual disabilities) in Teluk Intan. There are opportunities for individuals, congregational teams or schools to serve within the ELCM in the following:

- Bethany Home, for people with physical and intellectual disabilities
- Rumah Hope, home for orphans and abused children
- Rumah Luther Ria, school for people with physical and intellectual disabilities
- Rumah Chrestus, home for orphans and abused children

• Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM)

The LCM is a dynamic mission focussed church. There are opportunities for teams of people from congregations and schools to work together with members of the LCM Orang Asli committee in ministry together with and amongst the Orang Asli, as well as connecting to the congregations and diaconal organisations of the LCM.

A unique opportunity exists to partner together with the members of the LCM in

- Ministry among the Orang Asli (indigenous) people

Sabah (East Malaysia):

The Lutheran Church in Sabah (East Malaysia) is known as the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM). This church also has a dynamic mission focus. The BCCM carry out ministry and mission outside of their country as well as in various regions in the interior of Sabah with the indigenous people (Bahasa Malay). There is potential for individuals, congregations and schools to participate in partnerships with the BCCM in a variety of ways.

- **Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM)**

- BCCM youth ministry program. Each year a youth camp is held in the interior of Sabah for over 1000 young people
- Schools for 'undocumented' children which are open to the children of illegal immigrants (possibility to develop a unique partnership which provides on-going opportunities to help in the teaching of English and other activities)
- Jireh Yaweh, home for orphans located in Kota Kinabalu

Papua New Guinea (PNG):

The LCA has had a long history of engagement in mission and ministry in PNG and has sent many mission personnel to serve with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG), and in partnership with other overseas Lutheran Churches.

- **Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)**

Currently the Australian staff members serving in PNG are Pastor Greg Schiller (lecturer at Ogelbeng Seminary in Mt Hagen); Nick Schwarz (Research assistant at the Melanesian Institute in Goroka); and Hanna Schulz (Lutheran Bible Translator of Australia – LBTA). Although our fulltime paid staff levels are much lower than in our previous history, the LCA still provides a high level of support for the ministry of the ELCPNG. We continue to offer support for the education of pastors - both in PNG and through scholarships for study in Australia at the ALC, provide scholarships for the children of pastors with low salaries, and provide support ELCPNG's medical and outreach ministries, consultations in parish nursing and reconciliation lifestyle ministries, and mentoring for education and governance reform in the schools of ELCPNG.

Because of our long term involvement in PNG there are many opportunities for individuals, congregations, schools to connect and reconnect with the people of the ELCPNG. LCA Mission International is keen to encourage new relationships with the ELCPNG. There are opportunities to support seminaries, hospitals, schools and congregations – and projects within these organisations. However, because of the decrease in security and the increase in the levels of violence in some areas, a partnership in PNG should be entered into with due consideration and in consultation with LCA Mission International staff.

In order to help support the ministry partnership of the LCA with ELCPNG, the LCA Mission International has appointed Colin and Ruth Hayter as LCA Mission International PNG Program assistants (in a voluntary capacity). As such, Colin and Ruth work in consultation with LCA Mission International program office to share the stories and help connect congregations and schools seeking to engage more closely in the mission and ministry in PNG.



St John's, Highgate (SA) and Siassi Islands (PNG)

Singapore:

LCA partnership with the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) has included funding scholarships for the further training of pastors. Previous partnership support with LCS has been through their mission and ministry in the Thai Good News Centre (ministry to the many disadvantaged Thai workers in Singapore). The current partnership includes the translation of LCA Christian education books into Chinese.

- **Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS)**

- Thai Good News Centre

There are opportunities for schools of the LCA to develop relationships with congregations in Singapore or for teams to help support the Thai Good News Centre (including the teaching of English). A new and exciting possibility for establishing partnerships now exists for schools to join with the LCS as they work in Cambodia in the Kampong Chhnang province and in Phnom Penh.

Cambodia:

LCA Mission International has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support work in Cambodia in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) in an inspiring program of mission and ministry which was begun by the LCS and supported by a consortium of Lutheran Churches worldwide with the encouragement and endorsement of the Mekong Mission Forum (MMF). A ministry centre (Lutheran Life Centre) and place of worship for the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been constructed in the village of Phum Krus about ½ hour drive from the town of Kampong Chhnang (the capital of Kg Chhnang and 2 hours travel from Phnom Penh). Components of this exciting and expanding mission are the medical / dental / optical / children's ministries teams from

partner churches and which are coordinated by the LCS to conduct clinics for the disadvantaged people in villages throughout the province. The LWM now owns 3 units in Phnom Penh to accommodate and minister to a growing number of tertiary students. Known as the Rainbow Hostel / City Church of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia, this has become a key focus for ministry and mission. Several LCA congregations and schools have sent members and teams to join with the teams from Singapore and other partner churches, offering support and encouragement to the LCS as they minister with local Cambodians in this emerging mission field.

There are exciting possibilities and opportunities for schools of the LCA to support this dynamic mission in Cambodia. In order to help facilitate this growing opportunity, LCA Mission International has appointed Mr Warren Schirmer as the LCA Mission International Cambodia program assistant (in a voluntary capacity). Warren works closely with LCS Mission coordinator (Sally Lim) and LCA Mission International to help facilitate teams and the additional support of LCA congregations and schools for the ministry in Cambodia.

Partnership opportunities exist for:

- Support to medical and holistic programs (livelihood programs)
- Partnership with the Rainbow Hostel (university students) in Phnom Penh
- Teaching English and computing
- Annual youth outreach and evangelism camp
- And the new possibility of helping to establish a pre-school and teaching facility on land next to the Rainbow hostel, Phnom Penh



Unity College (SA) partnership with LWM Cambodia

Thailand:

The LCA's partnership in Thailand is through and together with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT). Up until October 2013, LCA missionary Pastor Simon Mackenzie and his wife Oiy and son were serving in the Nan province amongst the Lua people. In previous years the Lifeway Lutheran church, Epping in consultation with CA Mission International has coordinated Australia-wide teams to travel to Thailand in order to work with Simon and his family in the Nan Province. This inspiring partnership is increasing with more team visits planned in the coming years.

LCA Mission International has also provided support for a variety of diaconal works carried out in a home for disadvantaged children from the slums of Bangkok (Home of Praise) and a home for single mothers (Home of Grace).

There are exciting opportunities for schools of the LCA to join in front-line mission and ministry work. These include a variety of opportunities to serve as individual volunteers, teams or schools in the various diaconal institutions of the ELCT.

- **Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand (ELCT)**

- Nan province mission teams
- Home of Grace
- Home of Praise



Home of Praise, Bangkok

Myanmar:

Myanmar, known as the 'Golden Land' is rich with natural resources and a multiplicity of people groups (135 ethnic groups). It has a population of 59 million people but is known as one of the least developed countries of South East Asia. Today it is beginning to show signs of rapid development in some areas. It has opened itself up to economic relationships particularly with China, Thailand and India.

There are four Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member Churches represented in Myanmar. LCA Mission International involvement with these 4 churches has been relatively recent and has come about through its partnership in ministry and mission in the Mekong Mission Forum (MMF) and more closely through our partnership with the Lutheran Church in Malaysia's (LCM) and its relationship and teaching ministry in and with these member Churches (particularly with the Myanmar Lutheran Church). A number of visits from LCA Mission International staff to Myanmar in recent years have provided more insight into the people and ministries of these four Lutheran Churches and to the possibilities for future partnerships in Myanmar. This is a country formed along many ethnic groupings / divisions, and the Lutheran Churches in Myanmar also reflect something of the distinctions of these ethnic groupings.

- **Myanmar Lutheran Church (MLC)**

The ministry of MLC began initially to serve the Khumi ethnic group. The church was founded on the 1st March, 1998. However, now the ministry also incorporates people from the Asho Chin, Rakhine, Hakha Chin, Burmese, Karin groups with services conducted in Burmese. The MLC is represented in 3 Districts (Yangon, Paletwa, and Miza) through 14

congregations. Yangon is the administrative head quarter and Paletwa is the minor headquarter and centre for the field ministry areas.

Today there are 2501 members, 17 ordained pastors, 22 evangelists and multifaceted ministries – an orphanage, Radio Bible Ministry, Riverbank ministry, healing ministry, student hostel ministry, organic farming project, Christian education training program and new church planting program.

- **Lutheran Church in Myanmar (LCM)**

The LCM was founded in 1995 with a particular focus on ministry to the Mizo people who have come in Myanmar from Mizoram land / state in India. The church is established in 4 Districts. It has 13 congregations, 3 mission fields and 1750 members. Diaconal ministries consist of the Immanuel Children (located close to Yangon), Shwe Pyi Ta kindergarten, children's program and ministry centre (run in conjunction with the Korean Presbyterian Church), Hope Education Centre (located close to Yangon), Hope Education Centre (Inle, in Shan State), Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation camp/programs, Women's ministries, and 'Revival' and soccer camps.

- **The Mara Evangelical Church (MEC)**

The Mara people (formerly known as Lakher) are an ethnic group whose territory is situated on both sides of the border between India and Myanmar.

In 1907 a British missionary couple began working among the Mara. Through their efforts and through the work of local evangelists and a series of revivals the entire Mara people were Christianized by 1960 and in 1987 the Mara Evangelical Church was formed. The MEC has 21,000 members, 105 local churches, 53 pastors and 78 indigenous missionaries (evangelists). Ministries include Sunday school, music, literature publication, Mara Bible correspondence course, theological education and training, mission department and Lorrain Theological College, women's ministry, and education.

- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (ELCM) / Lutheran Bethlehem Church**

The ELCM originally began as a mission of Leipzig Mission in 1878 to people from India who had been brought to work in Burma Myanmar. The ELCM has 26 worship centres. Diaconal ministries include medical mission clinics in Yangon and various regions (serving up to 2000 people annually), child sponsorship program, women's programs, livelihood programs for women, 'Revolving' pig project, children's and youth ministry, youth camps, men's ministry, music ministry, and computing and English language classes.

Myanmar and the Lutheran Churches in Myanmar are new areas for the exploration of opportunities to partner in mission and ministry. LCA Mission International is keen to help in facilitation and the establishment of meaningful partnerships for schools and congregations of the LCA and to help facilitate opportunities for volunteers to serve together with people in ministry in these member Churches.

- **Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Mekong Mission Forum (MMF)**

Established by Lutheran World Federation, the MMF is a consortium of Lutheran Churches and mission agencies from Europe and the Asia/Pacific region committed to supporting and encouraging the emerging Churches of the Mekong region in Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

The LCA Mission International as a member of the MMF gives financial support to the MMF which is used for theological scholarships, training of leaders and publication of Christian literature.

Concluding comments and your invitation to join in God's mission in the world in partnership with LCA Mission International

This is only a brief overview of the LCA's involvement with our overseas partner churches in God's mission. There are already many opportunities for individuals, congregations, schools and Districts to connect, pray for and support these Churches in mission. There is huge potential for a wide range of partnerships. For further ways to develop these connections in mission, please read the document 'Guidelines / Procedures for developing a partnership project with an Overseas Partner Church' available on the LCA Mission International website: www.lcamission.org.au (on Resources page)

LCA Mission International has developed strong, sustainable relationships with its partner churches. Through this collaboration we build on established lines of communication, sustainable approaches and transparent accountability practices. If an individual, congregation, school or District of the LCA would like to begin a relationship of support and encouragement with an overseas partner Church or one of its congregations, schools or institutions, we encourage you as a first priority to contact the office of Lutheran Education Australia followed by the office LCA Mission International. The LCA seeks to work Church to Church. Working together in unity in God's mission, we are able to achieve so much more than attempting to work alone. Please feel free to contact the LCA Mission International office if you would like further information on beginning a partnership. We are pleased to come and share the stories with your school, congregation, youth or fellowship group about the amazing things that God is doing and how you can join him in his mission in this world.

Understanding Partnership

A position paper developed by LCA Mission International, Australian Lutheran World Service and Lutheran Education Australia.

This paper aims to articulate the values and characteristics of partnership between the LCA MI, ALWS, LEA and overseas partners.

PARTNERSHIP VALUES

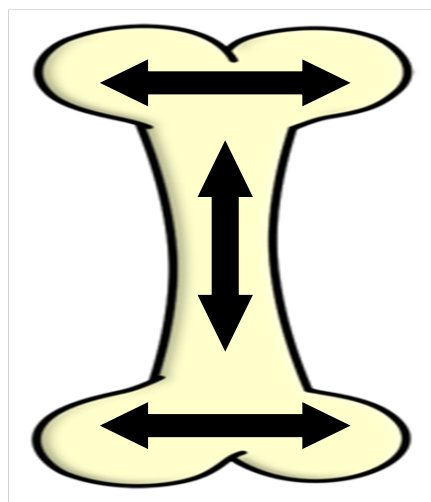
All people are invited into partnership with God's son, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9). Christians are called into partnership with each other as disciples of Jesus Christ. Christians are called as partners in the gospel (Philippians 1:5) to love and serve all people.

The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) values partnerships between its own agencies and with parties overseas to conduct its mission and ministry within and beyond Australia. The LCA values gospel centred and holistic ministry. Holistic ministry involves both the verbal proclamation of the gospel and the physical response to human need. We recognise that holistic mission points to Jesus through both the proclaimed word and action in serving. As partners of the LCA work together and work with partners overseas we achieve holistic ministry.

The LCA recognises that an understanding of partnership between people in its various agencies and with people from its overseas partners is vital for its ministry and mission. Each party has its own special contribution to make and each can be energised by others.

PARTNERSHIP DYNAMICS: DIAGRAMISING RELATIONSHIPS

The diagram seeks to describe the dynamics of partnership within the LCA, within overseas partners, and between the two. Strong partnerships within Australia (bottom), strong partnerships within the overseas partners (top) and strong partnerships between Australia and the overseas partners (centre) are essential to the success of the partnership. If Australian parties are not working in partnership (or the overseas parties are not working in partnership), then confusion or disappointment can occur and the partnerships may not be sustainable.



A DEFINITION

For the sake of this document, 'party' refers to any official or unofficial body involved in the partnership. This can include, but is not limited to, congregations, school groups, independent organisations and arms of the church.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LCA PARTNERSHIPS:

Partnerships will be characterised by:

- mutual benefit
- shared vision
- quality
- sustainability
- two-way communication
- intentional inclusion
- understanding of common goals and clear expectations
- a clear, long term strategy
- interpersonal and cultural sharing
- evaluative stages

ALWS is the Overseas Aid & Resettlement Agency of the Lutheran Church of Australia, and is committed to bringing people together in partnership to ensure the voices of the poor are heard, and God's gift of grace is shared in our serving. It strives for life-changing programs that restore human dignity, alleviate poverty and build just and sustainable communities.

LCA Mission International is the mission department of the LCA and exists to assist the LCA in fulfilling Christ's mission command to 'go and make disciples of all peoples'.

Lutheran Education Australia represents the Lutheran schools and early childhood centres of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) is committed to the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) through supporting quality, Christ centred education. It operates on behalf of the LCA in partnership with schools and regions in pursuit of this vision.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Mutual benefit

Each person within a partnership has something to contribute and no party should ever be made to feel that they have nothing to offer. Partnerships are not restricted to financial support, so regardless of wealth, all partners have much to contribute.

Shared Vision

All parties involved need to come to an understanding of the vision of the partnership. This should be developed after careful consultation, much discussion and a sharing of short and long terms goals for the partnership.

Quality

All parties aim to ensure their work is of the highest quality, and recognise that this can be achieved through sharing and learning practices from each other.

Sustainability

All parties hold to the principle of working with, rather than for, communities, and not simply being providers of welfare. This requires a long-term commitment to ensure the work carried out and the partnerships involved are as sustainable as possible.

Two-way communication

In order for a partnership to be most effective, there must be avenues for open and honest communication between people. This communication must take into account any cultural differences that are present. It also must take into account the 'power' – either real or perceived – that someone from a wealthy nation may hold over people from developing countries. Effective communication between partners develops trusting relationships where partners are able to share what they really think.

Intentional inclusion

All parties are to intentionally include all stakeholders impacted by the partnership in decision making, goal setting and planning.

Understanding of common goals and clear expectations

Clearly established common goals and expectations should be developed at the start of any partnership so that all parties involved know what to expect. This can be in the form of a partnership agreement or Memorandum of Understanding. If this is not intentional, then assumptions can be made and disappointments may arise.

A clear, long-term strategy

Any partnership should be developed with long-term thinking in mind. A long-term strategy needs to be considered at the beginning of the partnership, however, this long-term strategy will most likely develop and change over time. It is essential that both sides of the partnership are happy with the changes made to a strategy.

Interpersonal and cultural sharing

Any partnership, in country or between countries, needs to develop interpersonal understanding and have opportunity for cultural sharing. Regular face-to-face visits between people are ideal. However media provides a range of different options for regular communication.

Regular evaluative stages

All partnerships, in country and with overseas partners, need to be regularly and effectively evaluated to ensure the intent of the work is being progressed. The evaluation process is developed through a process of open and honest communication where input from the parties involved in the partnership has been considered. How well the partnership itself is embodying the partnership values described herein may also be evaluated.

It is essential that all parties, within Australia and overseas, work towards making the partnership as effective as possible.

Within Australia

Overseas mission and service arms of the LCA include, but are not restricted to, Australian Lutheran World Service and LCA Mission International. Congregations, groups or schools who have independently developed partnerships with overseas churches or parties are encouraged to inform the LCA departments involved in overseas mission or service and to uphold the principles of effective partnership as described in this document. The LCA, through genuine cooperation and collaboration, within and between congregations and groups, seeks to optimise opportunities for mission and service with overseas churches and countries in a shared, united approach.

Abbreviations: ALC: Australian Lutheran College, ALWS: Australian Lutheran World Service, BCCM: Basel Christian Church in Malaysia, BLMiss: Board for Local Mission, ELCM: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia, ELCM: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Myanmar, ELCPNG: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea, ELCT: Evangelical Lutheran in Thailand, LCA: Lutheran Church of Australia, LCA MI: Lutheran Church of Australia Mission International, LCC: Lutheran Church in Cambodia, LCM: Lutheran Church in Malaysia, LCM: Lutheran Church in Myanmar, LCS: Lutheran Church in Singapore, LEA: Lutheran Education Australia, LLL: Lutheran Laypeople's League, LOPC: Lutheran Overseas Partner Churches, LWF: Lutheran World Federation, LWM: Lutheran World Mission (Cambodia), MEC: Mara Evangelical Church, MLC: Myanmar Lutheran Church, MMF: Mekong Mission Forum, PNG: Papua New Guinea .

For stories and further information on service learning through LCA Mission International partnerships check out:

www.lcamission.org.au (<http://www.lcamission.org.au/act-now/service-learning/>)

and

Lutheran Education Australia (service learning):

<http://www.lutheran.edu.au/teaching-and-learning/service-learning/>



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