

BORDER CROSSINGS



global partners · local church



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**

global partners · local church

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OUR THANKFUL PRAYER

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:2,3 (NIV)

These words of St Paul reflect the deep thankfulness we have for you and for your partnership in the gospel.

Though small in number, the people of the Lutheran Church of Australia are privileged to join in God's mission in the world. Just as he did with the loaves and fishes, Jesus takes our gifts and multiplies them for his glory, in order that many others can come to know him and be baptised into the family of believers.

Thank you that you Pray, Give, Connect and Go

Glenice Hartwich

Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission
Lutheran Church of Australia



As you Pray, Give, Connect and Go your actions have eternal consequences.

- Every time you give an offering in worship this reaches within and beyond Australia and New Zealand and is used together with the power of the Holy Spirit to change peoples' lives with the good news of Jesus.
- In 2016 LCA International Mission has received \$500,000 from the LCA budget to support international mission. This, together with backing from the LLL Overseas Mission Fund and from your generous donations, enables the good news to be shared with people we will most likely only meet around the throne of God
- Your prayers and giving make it possible for LCA International Mission to share gospel partnerships with Lutheran churches in PNG, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Burundi.
- You have enabled Mick Hauser (LCA lay theologian) to teach at Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, PNG.
- Your giving makes it possible for Hanna Schulz (Gulf Province, PNG) and Margaret Mickan (part-time in the Northern Territory) to serve as Bible translators.
- In the past three years you have enabled LCA International Mission to provide 16 scholarships at Australian Lutheran College for pastors and teachers of our overseas partner churches.
- You have enabled LCA International Mission to provide scholarships in country for theological studies in Indonesia, PNG, Thailand, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia and Burundi.
- You have enabled LCA International Mission to provide LCA lecturers and teachers for nine long-term or shorter overseas assignments in PNG, Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia and Indonesia.
- You have provided \$40,000 to publish Lutheran identity material in PNG and Indonesia.
- Your giving has enabled LCA International Mission to provide \$30,000 for the purchase of books for seminary libraries in PNG, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia.
- Your giving has enabled the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia to share Jesus with more than 1000 indigenous young people at their annual youth camps.



- Your giving has enabled the Lutheran Church in Malaysia to minister to the indigenous Orang Asli people and many are coming to faith.
- You have enabled five Lua evangelists to share the good news of Jesus Christ with their own marginalised people in northern Thailand. Today the number of baptised Lutheran believers has grown from 146 in 2006 to more than 1120 in 2016.
- Your giving and off-budget support for ministry in Cambodia has enabled the purchase of land in Phnom Penh for a pre-school and ministry training centre, the opening of a new outreach ministry centre in Kampong Cham Province, scholarships for poor students to stay at the Rainbow Hostel in Phnom Penh, and many people – young and old – to come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- You have provided for the theological training of pastors and lay people in Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, PNG and in Thailand.
- You have enabled LCA International Mission staff to support the exploration and establishment of 11 LCA schools' service-learning partnerships with overseas partner churches and organisations.
- You have made it possible for LCA International Mission education consultant Dr Neville Highett to support education reform in Indonesia's Lutheran schools.
- You have helped support 15 LCA congregations as they explore and establish partnerships with overseas churches and partner organisations.
- You have made it possible for the LCA to welcome and host 27 overseas partner church guests from Germany, Indonesia, PNG, US, Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia, Nepal and Myanmar) – who have come here to learn about the LCA as we partner together in God's mission in the world.
- Your prayers change people's lives from darkness to light, from fear to peace, as they come to know Jesus Christ.
- You have enabled the Lutheran understanding of theology to be taught at the Lutheran Study Centre in Sabah.
- In past years 55 people have served as volunteers overseas and in Australia through LCA International Mission Volunteers in Mission program.
- Your volunteering makes a big difference in the lives of people in our partner churches and can have a life-changing effect for you.
- Your partnership in the gospel makes it possible for the saving message of Jesus to be shared with people across our borders.

DID YOU KNOW?



LCA International Mission, previously the LCA Board for Mission, is now working under the Office of the Bishop in the trial restructure of the LCA during this current synodical period.

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. ALWS has responsibility for overseas aid and development and is the resettlement agency of the LCA.

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



THE MISSIONAL DRIP

Drip ... drip ... drip! It has to be one of life's most annoying sounds when you are trying to sleep. You try to ignore it, but no amount of pillow hugging, thinking about something else or covering your ears can take away that persistent sound. Drip. Drip. Drip! The dripping only stops when you get out of bed and do something about it!

In many ways the dripping tap is a metaphor for the missional journey that LifeWay Lutheran Church Epping in Sydney's west has been on over the past eight years. It began with a group of young adults which met weekly to grow deeper in the word of God. Drip. We were studying the book of Acts. Drip. Drip. Each week there was a growing discontent. Drip. Drip. Drip! Each week, the drips were harder to ignore until one person asked, 'don't you think God is calling us to something more?'

What transpired was months of wrestling and praying that eventually led to the first mission trip among the Lua people in Thailand, and now to Cambodia where we are privileged to partner in God's mission with the Lutheran Church Cambodia. Over the past eight years, more than 50 of our people (as well as others from the LCA) have had the opportunity to see God at work in an unfamiliar environment, to see the gospel transform hearts and lives before their eyes, and to see the power of prayer.

It has left an indelible imprint and enlarged our capacity as a church and the generosity of our hearts in so many ways.

But for us at LifeWay, it didn't stop the dripping tap! If anything, the drips became more frequent. The overseas mission trips were never about feeling good or serving for serving's sake. It was about *'living, sharing and growing'* in our God-given purpose; to live out the Great Commission daily and bring Jesus, the 'Good News', to others wherever they are living, in actions and language they can understand.

The dripping tap of mission became so annoying that we began asking seriously 'what is God calling us to here?' He has been leading us on an incredible journey locally, with the re-potting of a satellite community in Newcastle, and becoming a 'sending church' with the formation of two new missional communities, one on Sydney's northern beaches and another right under our nose in Epping. We don't know how we will resource all that, but if there is one thing we have learnt, it is that God just wants us to get up and go and he will provide more than enough to do what he calls us to do!

Drip. The missional journey is a messy one, for relationships are messy! Drip. Drip. The journey is often uncomfortable, but brings blessing upon blessing. Drip. Drip. Drip! Is God calling you to get up and do something about the dripping missional tap too?

NEWS SO they have t



It was a moving moment to step out of the bus and see for the first time the new church built in the Kampong Cham Province in Cambodia, primarily from funds provided by LCA congregations in Epping and Newcastle NSW and Woden ACT.

Just 12 months earlier we stood under a tree on the same site, a vacant block of land funded by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bavaria and purchased by the Lutheran Church in Cambodia.

For more than 18 months Pastor Vibol, pastor at the City Church and Rainbow Hostel in Phnom Penh, along with students from Rainbow Hostel, had been visiting the villages of Tang Krang and Bek Piang in Kampong Cham Province, sharing the good news of Jesus.

The group of people – children and adults who were being baptised, and those interested in learning more about Jesus – was continuing to grow. The leaders of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia identified a significant opportunity for spreading the gospel and decided that this new ministry in Kampong Cham would be the next major mission initiative for their church.

Pastor Vibol was invited to consider moving to reside permanently in Kampong Cham as pastor in this brand new mission field. Once future ministry decisions had been confirmed and Pastor Vibol had accepted the challenge to move, the only thing delaying mission expansion plans was a lack of funds.

GOOD to share



In July 2015 Pastor Mark Schultz from Epping, and Ward Westphal, chairperson of Woden, made a commitment to speak to their home congregations about raising money to support the church planting. The stories of what they witnessed in Cambodia in 2015 had a powerful effect, resulting in enough funds to begin building the worship centre and manse.

One year later here we were, celebrating the dedication of these facilities. What a day of joy! People from different cultures, from God's family, but with one heart and purpose, joined in worship.

The mission team from Epping and Woden were exhausted but joyful, having worked the week prior to the dedication to erect a fence around the property, which also included a fish pond for income generation.

Pastor Mark preached at the dedication service, and was joined by Bishop Terry Kee from Singapore and Pastor Rob Bartholomaeus from Woden in the dedication of the new buildings.

The students from Rainbow Hostel have worked with Pastor Vibol in this emerging mission field, travelling two hours each way each week to Kampong Cham. The dedication day saw the culmination of much of their hard work and the answer to their prayers.

All new believers, these students were also joined by members from the original congregation of the Lutheran Church Cambodia at Phum Krus in the province of Kampong Chhnang. Their overwhelming joy at the sight of new believers and further evidence of the growing Lutheran Church in Cambodia, was palpable.

And there's more ... after the dedication service there was a second service, where a further six students from Rainbow Hostel were baptised!

We experienced church planting in its rawest form and the sheer joy of our Cambodian sisters and brothers over what God is doing in their country. They simply can't hold back telling other people about Jesus!

Warren and Marianne Schirmer

▶▶ As people of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand, you join in partnering in God's mission in Cambodia, together with the pastors, evangelists and people of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia and the Lutheran churches from Singapore, America, Hong Kong and Germany.



Warren and Marianne Schirmer are volunteer program assistants with LCA International Mission. In July this year they led a group of people from the LCA to Cambodia to be with the people of this new and emerging Lutheran Church in Cambodia.

You, too, can Go as a volunteer

If you would like to know how you can become Volunteers in Mission in Cambodia or in other partner churches, check out the LCA International Mission website www.lcamission.org.au/join-gods-mission/volunteer/ or phone Nevin on (08) 8267 7300 or email lcaim@lca.org.au

If you, your school or your congregation, would like to know how you can Connect to the mission of God in one of the LCA's international mission partnerships, you are invited to phone Erin on (08) 8267 7300 or email lcaim@lca.org.au

Scotty's great mission support

'The dog is the most faithful of animals and would be much esteemed were it not so common. Our Lord God has made His greatest gifts the commonest.' This quote is often attributed to Martin Luther.

When Scotty the dog forgets his manners inside the house, his behaviour is usually graciously forgiven! In a community where driving down the street requires care and theft is commonplace, Scotty is a valuable guard dog, 'but even more, he's a companion and a listening ear', his owner says. His owner is Michael 'Mick' Hauser, an LCA-employed missionary based in Papua New Guinea.

Being from a social minority in a community is difficult, as Mick is finding out. When you are a seminary lecturer far from home, teaching students from a background where English is a second language, in a country with more than 1,000,000 Lutherans, you need to be a special person.

When I ask Mick why he came to Lae, he replies in an understated manner: 'I was called to the role'.

Mick has been lecturing at the Martin Luther Seminary for the past 12 months and is amazed by how much he enjoys it. 'The joy it has given me is a surprise, the surprise of finding joy in the way I'm called to serve people both in the classroom and in the very different and sometimes difficult situations that arise.'

He has the privilege of seeing students grow in their understanding of their faith and in their confidence to be the next generation of people who speak of Jesus' love. This continues the tradition of Lutherans proclaiming the gospel in New Guinea, which dates from 1885 when missionary Johann Flierl first began establishing relationships with the people there, to the mission work since through pastors and lay people.

By Mick continuing to grow himself and his students into a Lutheran heritage that is practical and not just theoretical continues this rich history.

'At the core it's practical and simple. God works in people through word and sacrament', Mick says, viewing life as being attached to theology. 'Jesus touched my life through my baptism and continues to touch my life through word and sacrament ... the ways he has chosen to work. My hope is in Christ.' Taking a leaf out of the essence of the Reformation, he adds, 'trusting the gospel is both what saves and makes us, what stills and moves us'.



Being able to walk freely around our communities without feeling threatened is a given for most Australians and New Zealanders. For Mick that kind of freedom is exercised with care and often limited to certain hours of the day. Safety is not taken for granted; hence the value of his companion Scotty.

For Mick the partnership between the Evangelical Lutheran Church PNG and the LCA means walking side by side and realising that at points in each church's history, there have been holes to stumble in. 'We all need a hand up at some stage ... both ways', he says.

The change seen in the growth of believers in PNG over the past century has been an amazing story and, like the Australian mission story, has had some major twists, turns and challenges.

In Mick's humble and inspiring way, he has continued the task of answering God's call on an individual's life, and is making a difference.

Just for the record, Mick's favourite local food delicacy is pork. I have a feeling it might also be Scotty's favourite!

Nevin Nitschke

Nevin Nitschke is Program Officer for PNG and Indonesia, as well as scholarship recipients and volunteers, with LCA International Mission.

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 lectures at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae, PNG
- Rev Jack Urame (Bishop), Rev Lukas Kedabing (Assistant Bishop), Mr Bernhard Kaisen (Church Secretary) and Rev Kinim Siloi (Director Inter Church Relations and Ecumenism) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG (ELCPNG)
- The people of the ELCPNG as they live out their faith in a rapidly changing country
- The staff and faculty of the seminaries in PNG
- LCA International Mission scholarship recipients pastors Daniel and Mose following their return to Cambodia after studying at ALC
- The Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC) as they share the good news of Jesus Christ
- New and emerging Lutheran communities in the village of Tang Krang in Kampong Cham Province
- Students of Rainbow Student Hostel and City Church of the LCC, as they study and share Jesus' love with others
- President Rev Joseph Soren as he returns to the Nepal Evangelical Lutheran Church following his recent scholarship at ALC
- Planning for the next stages of the Lutheran pre-school and training rooms development in Phnom Penh
- Hanna Schulz, translator with Lutheran Bible Translators Australia (LBTA), as she ministers with the Kobe people in Papua New Guinea
- Margaret Mickan, translator with LBTA in Northern Territory
- Nathan and Stacey, as they serve in West Asia, in another country and culture
- Bishops, leaders and members of our overseas Lutheran partner churches in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar and PNG, as they share the love of Jesus Christ
- LCA International Mission Program Assistants Colin and Ruth Hayter (PNG), and Warren and Marianne Schirmer, and David Pietsch (Cambodia)
- Brittany Whitfield and Hanna Schmidt as they prepare to volunteer in Thailand at the Home of Praise and Home of Grace
- Devon and Sybil Dutschke and Dianne Kluge as they serve as volunteers on the medical mission team in Cambodia
- For God to open our eyes to see the 'fields that are ripe for the harvest' (John 4:35)

For regular prayer point updates, check out the LCA International Mission website 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).

'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 the **Lutheran overseas partner churches** \$ _____
- ☐ School and ministry training rooms, Phnom Penh, Lutheran Church in **Cambodia** \$ _____
- ☐ Rainbow hostel ministry in Phnom Penh, **Cambodia** \$ _____
- ☐ 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** \$ _____
- ☐ Prison ministry in **Indonesia** \$ _____
- ☐ Teaching in Reconciliation Ministry in **overseas partner churches** \$ _____
- ☐ Bible translation (**LBTA**), Hanna Schulz \$ _____
- ☐ Bible translation (**LBTA**), 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 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/ (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 _____

☐ 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

THAILAND

- Serve at Home of Praise – day-care centre for infants and after-school programs for children and young people
- Help at Home of Grace – for unmarried mothers and their babies

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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

MALAYSIA

- At Bethany Home (school/homes for people with disabilities) teachers with 'special' education qualifications are needed; as are pastors or people able to provide spiritual care and encouragement for the staff and children; and adults and young adults who can offer practical service
- Help at Rumah Luther Ria - school for people with disabilities
- Assist at Rumah Chrestus - home for abused children
- Serve at Rumah Hope - home for orphans, abused and neglected children
- Teach English in Sabah in the schools for 'undocumented children' or in youth ministry programs

CAMBODIA

- Teach English at the Rainbow Student Hostel (Phnom Penh) or English and computing at the Life Centre (Phum Krus)
- Teaching piano or guitar at City Church (Phnom Penh) or at the Life Centre (Phum Krus)
- Training, encouraging and monitoring farming progress at Phum Krus

SINGAPORE

- Teach English at the Thai Good News Center

INDONESIA

- Teach English in the schools and seminaries
- Give practical help and teach English in orphanages

MYANMAR

- Teach English

What to do next ...

If you would like to know more about volunteering in mission overseas, or how your congregation, school, youth or fellowship group can partner in mission, check out our website www.lca.org.au/international-mission or contact LCA International Mission at lcaim@lca.org.au or on 08 8267 7300.



SERVES 4 PEOPLE

CHICKEN MEE GORENG

Quick, easy and very tasty

Ingredients

- 750 g chicken thigh fillets, trimmed and diced
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil (peanut)
- 250 g packet long-life dried noodles
- 4 shallots, sliced thinly
- 2 bunches of bok choy, trimmed, stems sliced and leaves shredded
- ½ cup of kecap manis (a sweet soy sauce available in most supermarkets in sauce aisle)
- Garnish: finely sliced chilli or capsicum

Method

1. Place noodles in a heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water. Stand for 8 to 10 minutes or until just tender. Drain. Using a fork, separate noodles.
2. Heat wok or frying pan to medium heat and add oil.
3. Fry shallots for 2 minutes until softened.
4. Add diced chicken and stir-fry for 3 minutes or until just cooked.
5. Add sliced bok choy stems and stir through.
6. Add bok choy leaves, noodles and kecap manis and stir-fry for 1-2 minutes.
7. Add garnish and serve immediately.