



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA**

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**
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FACT SHEET

Papua New Guinea



YOUR PARTNERS IN MISSION

The LCA has a long and valued history with the ministry and mission in PNG. Many of us have a connection in one way or another to people who have served in PNG directly or have supported God's work there in significant ways.

Our in-country partner church is the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG), which has about 1.2 million baptised followers of Jesus. While this number of Lutherans in our neighbour country is reason for joy and thanks, at the same time the ELCPNG experiences many challenges, and they seek the support of their partner churches.

In particular, the new leaders of the ELCPNG have expressed a desire to focus on the development of the theological capacity of the seminaries and the training of pastors and lay people in theology. Bishop Jack Urame has asked the ELCPNG's overseas partners for assistance by providing resource people and scholarships to support their church in this key area.

PROJECTS YOU CAN SUPPORT

- LCA staff serving in PNG: Mick Hauser (lecturer at Martin Luther Seminary) and Hanna Schulz (Bible translator with Wycliffe/SIL)
- In-country scholarship for doctoral program for Bishop Jack Urame
- Masters of Theological Studies scholarship in Fiji for Rev Gabriel Sogimo, lecturer at Ogelbeng Seminary
- Short-term scholarship in 2017 at Australian Lutheran College
- Program Assistants Colin and Ruth Hayter – visits to PNG and service in Australia
- Freight and costs for shipments to PNG of books, birthing kits etc

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

- Repairing the guest house in Lae (ideal for a Shed Men project)
- Teaching opportunities at Martin Luther Seminary (Teachers with a Master of Theology)

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

You already support mission work in Papua New Guinea through your prayers and weekly offerings. But if you would like to work more closely with the ELCPNG, you could talk to any of these congregations or schools about the blessings of a partnership:

- St Paul's, Hahndorf SA, with Heldsbach
- Good Shepherd, Ringwood Vic, with Siassi High School
- Golden Grove, SA, with Asaroka
- Glandore, SA, with Logaweng Seminary
- Grampians Parish Vic, with Gaubin hospital
- Trinity, Horsham Vic, with Ogelbeng Seminary
- Concordia (St John's) Primary School, Highgate SA, with Siassi
- Tatachilla Lutheran College, SA, with Banz/Milep
- Peace Lutheran College, Gatton Qld, with Bernal



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CONTACT US

***Halo, yu orait ah?* (Hello, how are you?) I'm Nevin Nitschke, your LCA International Papua New Guinea Program Officer.**

I'm here to help you and encourage you to join God's mission in PNG. Over 600 couples and individuals representing the LCA have worked among the people in PNG over the past 100 years. These numbers have declined since independence 40 years ago. Now we have only two people working full-time in PNG. While the Lutheran church in PNG has over 1 million members, the teaching of the gospel faces many challenges. I meet people who have a deep love for Jesus and a strong desire to walk in partnership with the LCA. I'd love to visit your congregation, school or group to discuss ways you can partner, or reconnect, with our nearest neighbours and be encouragers of our Lutheran friends in PNG.

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 PNG 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 PNG projects 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, even your family. Do you think God might be calling you to serve in Papua New Guinea? Call me (Nevin) to talk about it.



ABOUT PNG

The eastern half of the island of New Guinea was divided between Germany (north) and the UK (south) in 1885. The latter area was transferred to Australia in 1902, which occupied the northern portion during World War I and continued to administer the combined areas until independence in 1975. Nearly 40 per cent of the population lives a self-sustainable natural lifestyle with no access to capital. PNG has several thousand separate communities (most with only a few hundred people) divided by language, customs and traditions. Some of these communities have engaged in low-scale tribal conflict with their neighbours for millennia; the advent of modern weapons and migration into urban areas has greatly magnified the impact of this lawlessness.

| | PNG | Australia |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Population | 6,790,000 | 24,189,000 |
| Religions | Catholic 27%, Lutheran 19%, Other Protestant 50% | Christian 55.4%, None 22.3%, Unspecified 9.3% |
| UN World Ranking | 158 | 2 |
| Below poverty line* | 37% (2002 est.) | N/A |
| Literacy | 64.2% | 96% |
| Infant mortality | 37.4 per 1000 births | 4.3 per 1000 births |
| Life expectancy | 67.2 | 82.2 |
| Clean Water | 40% | 100% |
| Proper sanitation | 19% | 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 Papua New Guinea, on your LCA International Mission website **www.lca.org.au/international-mission** or call or email me (Nevin) nevin.nitschke@lca.org.au | lcaim@lca.org.au | 08 8267 7300