

# border crossings

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Stories from the Board for Mission of the Lutheran Church of Australia

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**the less  
I know**

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First time  
**veteran**

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June 2011

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## A call to prayer engaging in God's mission in our world

In the hours before his arrest, torture, death - and resurrection - Jesus invited his disciples to join him in prayer.

*Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come". (Mark 14:37-41b NIV)*

Jesus' disciples failed him at the simplest of tasks. They went to sleep, when he only required them to "keep watch for one hour"! But Jesus forgave them and they went on to be people that God used in a mighty way, to extend His rule and reign in this world.

Many are the examples of prayer in the life of Jesus, and the people of God, outlined in the Bible.

Prayer is vital to who we are as children of God – sons and daughters of the missionary God (Immanuel – God with us).

We actively enter into the mission of God through prayer. When we pray for others, we are also aligning ourselves with God's will for them. We begin to see them through God's eyes; we begin to hear and see God's love for them. As we do, we also can affix ourselves to how God is specifically working in their life.

The mission of God - in our home, in our neighbourhood, our country, our world - is a call to prayer. God invites you and me to join him in his mission in the world we live in.

But are we sleeping, or keeping watch?

The hour has come! 

**Glenice Hartwich**

Project Officer **Board for Mission** Lutheran Church of Australia

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# We're on the road with Jesus



As the Lenten season began, I was with about 80 Christians (from twenty countries across Asia) at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur. News filtered in about the terrible earthquake that hit Japan minutes earlier. Live images were beamed onto the big screen and news of the tsunami showed terrible devastation.

Japanese people were in the room. What was going on in their homeland? More importantly, how were their families and churches?

It was hard for them to make contact back home.

We stopped and prayed, asking our God – who, in Jesus Christ, goes to the cross for all, to bring hope where there seems to be none - “Lord have mercy!” God’s people from different countries prayed, cried and struggled together.

That’s the way of partnership in the gospel. Only weeks before, people from the Japanese Lutheran churches wrote to me about their care and prayers for victims of the Queensland and Victorian floods. They also asked me how they could best care and pray for those affected by the Christchurch earthquake.

This is gospel partnership in action, as God’s global disciples follow Jesus on the road to the cross. Gospel partnering is: being met by Jesus on the journey we share; being taught and fed by him; and, ultimately, going to others to share (and witness to) the good news of hope. “We have seen the risen Lord!”

Caring for, listening to, working with, praying for and learning from each other on the road to (and from) the cross leads to powerful witness and hope that alone comes through our crucified and resurrected Lord.

Sometimes we seem to think we have to do it all on our own as Christians. I am convinced that Christians witness best when we partner, in love and grace.

There are so many examples of gospel partnering, involving our LCA churches, congregations, schools, seminaries, and people in all sorts of places. Thank you for your support, as you pray for fellow Christians who carry the gospel of hope to people who don’t know Jesus.

In this edition of Border Crossings you will learn about some of these partnerships. There are exciting new partnerships developing where Lutheran Christians, often in the minority in their homelands and cultures, are helping and supporting each another to bring the gospel of hope right across Asia and the Pacific.

You too can be involved - through prayer, volunteering, financial support of ministries, or exploring congregation and school partnerships.

But don’t just take my word. Listen to Christians in Japan who share the journey with you...

“Although we’re stretched to the limit, we feel oddly buoyant as we serve the Lord. Actually, I suppose there’s nothing odd about it at all. Being ‘upheld’ by many people in prayer makes one feel exactly this, I think.” (a pastor of the Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church)



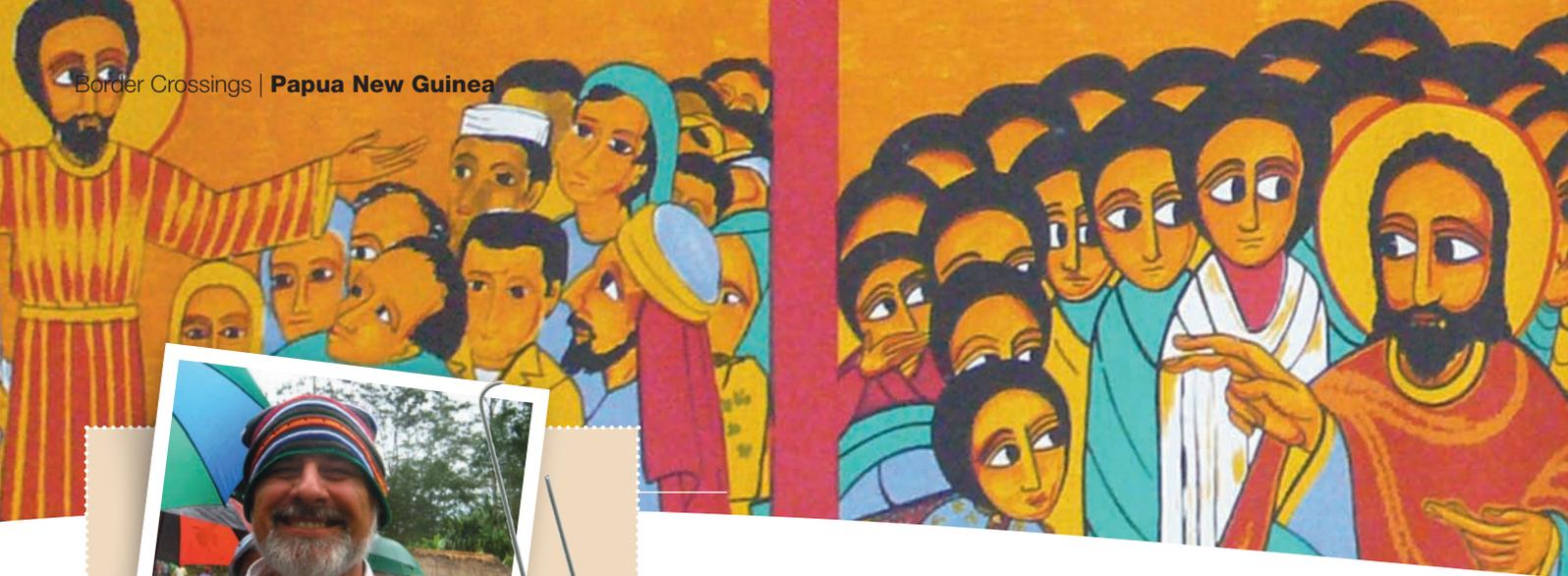
“Although we’re stretched to the limit, we feel oddly buoyant as we serve the Lord”

Prior to the quote below, a member of the Japanese Evangelical Church (from the city of Sendai, near some of the worst devastation) outlined many hardships and concerns:

**“Despite this, we are fine.  
We eat something every day.  
We are laughing every day.  
We are praying to God every day.  
Please pray for us.”**

Neville (praying and partnering with you) 🌿

**Rev Neville Otto**  
Director **Board for Mission** Lutheran Church of Australia



*Of the past 25 years he has been a Lutheran Church of Australia pastor, Greg Schiller has spent 22 of them in Papua New Guinea, in a diverse range of settings and circumstances. The lessons and insights gained over these years prepare him well for the next season of ministry as he becomes advisor in the Evangelism department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) based in Lae. Greg shares some of his story and insights into PNG life and culture, which has helped to shape who he is.*



# The more I know... the less I know.

## The joys and challenges of being an Australian Lutheran in Papua New Guinea.

*Born in Angaston, South Australia, in January, 1960, Greg was baptised into God's family at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Light Pass. During the ensuing years, he was nurtured in the faith. Greg's life was based around the family property, and he worked weekends in the vineyard. For Greg, everything centred on the small village of Light Pass and he didn't venture much beyond it until after high school.*

a compulsion to apply to study at Luther Seminary (now known as Australian Lutheran College, North Adelaide). After year 12, I began my studies at Luther Seminary in 1978. In those days, the course went for seven years! In 1982, I deferred and worked as a teacher support at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Angaston. In 1983, I returned to the seminary and eventually gained my BTh, graduating in 1985.

At the seminary, I made many close friendships with international students who were boarding. I had never met anyone from another country before; my world had been Light Pass! From those friendships I realised it came naturally to me to be with, accept, and enjoy the company of those from different nations. The great times I had with my friends from Kenya, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea stirred my interest in cross-cultural ministry. I learned a lot from them and these friendships contributed significantly to who I am today.

### **In his own words, Greg continues...**

Growing up in this community, I was encouraged by people at church and Sunday School to think about being a pastor. I remember in my early years I didn't want to be a pastor and I used to react strongly against those suggestions. I was reserved and nervous as a teen and couldn't see myself in that role. Yet, when I started year 12, I felt



I was always known, at seminary, as the friend of the international students. I often took them home to Light Pass. My family was great, always ready to look after another international guest and often getting them to pick grapes as well. Added to this, I was also encouraged in the direction of cross-cultural ministry when I visited Ceduna and Yalata during one seminary holiday field trip. There I observed the ministry of Mark Thiel, Murray Thomas (now Rev), and Rev Robert Winderlich (now deceased). I saw these people grappling with the task of understanding a community quite different to any I had experienced, and communicating Christ into that context. I came back from that trip with a new enthusiasm to learn more.

When I was ready for vicarage in 1984, an opportunity in PNG was suggested. I jumped at this, spending 12 months, supervised by LCA missionary pastor Rev Cecil Logan (Bulolo and Siassi) and others. That year confirmed God was guiding my life and experiences for a cross-cultural ministry.

While originally positioned in PNG for one year as a vicar, I remember consciously thinking, "I'm going to be living here, not just breezing in and out". I had to live within the context of this culture and country, as best I could. So I was thorough in learning Melanesian Tok Pisin. I appreciate Cecil didn't just let me tag along, following him around everywhere. He used to drop me off somewhere with some people and I'd spend all day, every day, stumbling through the language. We would learn, swim, eat and share the day together, without another white

person in sight. It was the best thing for me. I quickly felt at home and bonded with local people.

Following graduation I was called to PNG and, from 1986-1990, worked with the ELC-PNG Jiwaka District. I was based at Banz as a pastoral advisor – quite amazing, as I was only fresh out of seminary! Between 1991 and 2001, I served as a lecturer at the Highlands Seminary, Oglebeng, a role which also included dean of studies, treasurer, vice-principal, and acting principal.

Following this season I returned to Australia and, for three years, served as pastor in South Australia's Nuriootpa parish. I returned to PNG in 2005 to serve as lecturer and dean of studies at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae, until the end of 2010.

The Papua New Guinean people are very relationship - oriented, whereas we Westerners are generally very individual-centred. I am naturally a solitary person, so PNG brought me out a bit. Therefore, I had to risk myself more in relationships. I learned the importance of relationships, and social interaction - how people support each other and work things out together. At the same time, this can cause problems, as people cover up for each other and don't address problems/issues, in order not to disrupt relationships or cause shame.

In PNG, people learn more by doing than by reading or analysing. I found modelling the pastor's life and the Christian life very important and that actions speak louder than words. I've also discovered Christian clichés aren't helpful, so I have had to think through

things, often in a different language, or ask others to think things through to understand how the message is coming across.

PNG has a strong lay participation in the church. People are keen to be involved and contribute - even young people! Papua New Guineans are great at celebrating and feasting. I think this would be a good thing for Australian Christians to adopt!

Over the years, there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of LCA members serving in PNG. Because of the relationship orientation of PNG people, they have wondered what has happened to the Australian Lutherans.

At the same time, it is right and high time for PNG Lutherans to own programs and serve in their church with their gifts and local resources. What is sad is that we (Australian Lutherans) stopped visiting PNG, appearing as if we no longer cared. Australian Lutherans should know they have friends in PNG from whom they can learn and experience, instead of always thinking the only reason for us to come to PNG is as experts showing how it's done.

I'm often afraid of the word "partnership" as too often, it ends up as "sponsorship", resulting in people developing an unhealthy dependent mentality. As much as we (including me) try to, we do communicate a message that we are the ones with the resources, money and knowledge. Subsequently, Papua New Guineans feel they don't have anything to contribute.



# Thank you for all you did.

Sadly, this mentality develops from some “partnerships” and keeps the local church from being what it can be with God-given gifts and resources. There are ways for all to contribute meaningfully in a partnership, but it takes a lot of wisdom (and not always money). One of the major challenges is for PNG to locally own, resource and operate church/mission programs.

PNG’s people already have strong beliefs in spiritual powers. Often, a Christian veneer covers the continuing fear of, and activity with, the demonic. Some “Christian” teaching seems to reinforce animistic belief, and doesn’t point to Christ and His message. The whole area of spirit powers, as well as health and healing, needs to be dealt with. Linked with this, I also see the health/wealth/prosperity preaching picked up by itching ears, as some preach it as the Word of God.

People connect a misfortune or sickness to something wrong that they have done. Similarly, success and blessing must be linked to something good they have done. These issues are not thought through enough. There are some pastors taking up the challenge to combat this teaching and thinking, but more needs to be done. The church’s pastors and leaders must address many issues relevant in PNG, to ensure the gospel is clearly proclaimed and church practices correspond to the gospel message.

In all regions, PNG Lutherans have written and continue to write their own songs based on traditional tunes and words. I see local and indigenous theology; people thinking through the word of God and what it means to them.

The longer I stay, the less I know! So I have to stay longer - to learn more! I’ve never felt like an expert here and have learned a lot from many. I thank God for my friendship with many PNG people and their willingness to share with me – especially my friendship with Penga. I never could have stayed so long without his and his family’s love and acceptance of me.

My hope and prayer for the ELC-PNG is the work that it becomes a Church confident in using its God-given resources. That it not be dependent on others, but seeks what it can contribute beyond its own borders.

I also hope the ELC-PNG would clearly communicate the Good News in relevant ways that touch people where they live. ELC-PNG began as an evangelistic church, evangelists sent into new regions with the support of local Christian congregations. I pray for a revival in that evangelistic zeal to bring the Good News in fresh and relevant ways, to communities all around PNG. 🌿

**Pastor Greg Schiller**  
Lae, PNG

**Dorothy Heller returned to Papua New Guinea after 40 years and was touched by the commitment and vision of women in the Church.**

Wherever we went, people were so friendly and welcoming. The people of ELC PNG remember the work of the missionaries with grateful hearts, and asked us to tell former missionaries to come to see them! They love to hear stories of the missionaries – this history has become important to them.

The work of women in the church impressed us most. While in Lae, we spoke with leading women of



In November last year, I realised my dream of returning to Papua New Guinea to show my husband, John, where I had lived and worked at Baitabag Girls School in the 1960s. We invited my co-worker, Connie Landstrom from Canada, to join us. She brought a friend, Joy Ann Detzler. What a wonderful time we had meeting former students and many others.

The highlight of our trip was the visit to Baitabag Girls School near Madang, where Connie and I were the first teachers in a two-year program which provided girls with training in the Bible and Home Economics.

The girls and teachers warmly welcomed us with their singing, actions and music. Connie and I spoke to the girls, sharing the Word of God. We were thanked for returning and the contributions we had made to the school. They presented us with bilums, made the traditional way by the girls. Following a tour of the school we were invited to lunch prepared by the girls.

What a joy to see the school still training girls and working towards developing a three-year program. We were humbled by the welcome and the love shown to us. We would not have wanted to miss such an experience. It was a “God moment”!



ELC PNG. These women are Co-ordinators in Women’s Work, Stewardship and Socio-Economics. Their vision and commitment to make a difference in the lives of others touched our hearts.

In Madang, too, we were encouraged by the work of the School of Nursing, where women have taken up the challenges in health. A group of women in Madang has taken the initiative to set up a Women’s Health Facility. This will enable women to have tests (such as mammograms, currently only available in Port Moresby), as well as educate them in female health issues.

In returning after 40 years, we saw changes in PNG – some not so good, but many that were pleasing. Security is a major change, but at no time did we have any difficulties. We were always accompanied, and cared for, by New Guineans. It was indeed a great experience for us all and we were truly blessed. Thanks to our Heavenly Father for His protection and for the joy of being with our PNG sisters and brothers.

## Partnerships that strengthen faith and love

The transforming power of God is truly evident in the life of the newly elected bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand (ELCT). On Friday the 1st April 2011 at the General Assembly of the ELCT in Bangkok, **Rev Dr Banjob Kusawadee** was installed (for a new and second time!) as the Bishop of the ELCT to lead the people of God in this Church into this next season of history.

Born into a Buddhist family, Banjob came to know the saving love of Jesus Christ and entered fulltime ministry as a pastor. He went on to become the Bishop of ELCT in the 1990's prior to receiving an LCA scholarship. The scholarship provided the opportunity for Banjob to study at the Australian Lutheran College (ALC) in Adelaide from 1999 to 2005 to gain his doctorate. He was accompanied by his wife Mundrudee and their two children. The topic of his thesis was "Suffering and the Cross" and through this, Banjob explored issues of Christ's suffering and death for all people and how this impacts on the Buddhist belief system. This thesis has now been published under



the title "Holy Suffering". Following his return to Thailand after his scholarship, Banjob served as principal of Lutheran Seminary of Thailand, up until his re-election as Bishop.

We can give thanks to God for allowing us in the LCA and LCNZ to partner with Him in encouraging and growing Banjob in his faith through his LCA Board for Mission/ALC scholarship; and also as we join together with the ELCT in sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the people of Thailand through the partnership we share together.

The Australian Lutheran College, through the scholarships offered by the LCA Board for Mission, has played, and continues to play a significant role in the spiritual formation of many pastors, leaders, and bishops of the LCA's overseas partner Churches. We can never underestimate the power of God at work through the LCA as we partner together with the agencies and institutions of the LCA in his mission, and as we help to support the theological capacity-building of our partner Churches.

Glenice Hartwich

### Former scholarship recipients

from our partner Churches who have received a LCA BfM scholarship at the ALC, currently serve their churches in significant leadership roles:

**Thailand:** Rev Dr Banjob Kusawadee, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT)

**Malaysia:** Rev Dr Solomon Rajah, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (ELCM)

**Singapore/Geneva:** Dr William Chang, Area Secretary for Asia in the LWF-DMD for a period of four years (pastor of the Lutheran Church of Singapore (LCS)).

**Sabah:** Rev Dr Wilfred John, Vice Principal of the Sabah Theological Seminary (STS)

**Indonesia:** Rev Pinda Harahap, General Secretary of the Gereja Kristen Protestan Angkola (GKPA); Rev Elimanson Sumbayak, General Secretary of the Gereja Kristen Protestan Simalungun (GKPS); Rev Dr Binsar Nainggolan, head of the Maturia department of the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP); Rev Manjalo Hutabarat, General Secretary of the Huria Kristen Indonesia (HKI).

These join the list with many others who have served before as bishops, or currently serve as leaders of various church departments.

**Let's thank God for the Australian Lutheran College.**

## Where to from here?

**Hanna Schulz** is a woman with vision, energy and calling – a calling to serve as a Bible translator. This year Hanna has relocated from Adelaide to Kangaroo



Ground, Melbourne, following the completion of her theological studies at the Australian Lutheran College in 2010. At the Wycliffe/Summer Institute of Linguistics headquarters in Melbourne,

Hanna is immersing herself in the intensive language studies and courses relating to the life of a fulltime Bible translator in a foreign land.

Currently Hanna is known as a "Member-in-training" of Lutheran Bible Translator Australia (LBTA) – a committee of the LCA BfM which has also supported the Bible translation work of Margaret Mickan and Bill and Di Eckermann. (Both Margaret and the Eckermanns continue in various aspects of Bible translation and literacy related tasks).

At this point in time Hanna doesn't know where she will be working and with whom. When her studies are completed

at the end of this year, and when there is sufficient financial support offered for Hanna, she will leave the comforts of life in Australia to go, live and work with a people-group who do not have the scriptures in their mother tongue.

As this year moves quickly on, Hanna's invitation to you is to join her in prayer as she discerns where God will lead her to work and with whom she will share this translation task.

If you want to financially support the work of Hanna Schulz, Margaret Mickan, or Bill and Di Eckermann, please contact the Board for Mission office E: [bfm@lca.org.au](mailto:bfm@lca.org.au) or P: (08) 8267 7334 for more details.

# First time veteran

Simon King



## Friday, January 7, 2011. 8am. Sydney's Kingsford Smith International Airport.....

Ten expectant faces looked at me. "Okay, this is it", I thought. This was quickly followed by a tumble of other thoughts....

"Do I have the tickets and my passport?"

"Do I have enough spare batteries?"

"Do I have enough clean underwear!?!?"

With the help of a quick prayer, my attention turned back to the faces before me. Though this was my third mission trip to Thailand, it was my first as Team Leader, and as the LCA Board for Mission (BfM) Program Co-ordinator for Thailand (Volunteer)... a first-time veteran!!!

"Okay, team!!! Grab your gear and let's get in the queue!!!"

So began the "MT2011: Beyond Borders" trip to North East Thailand. Fourteen days of travel, fellowship, work and growing in our relationship with God.

Admittedly, I was a little scared by the thought of leading the team. We had all met for the first time less than 12 hours prior to getting to the airport. There also was a substantial spread of ages and experience among team members. Twelve months of planning and prayers had got me to this point and I didn't want to "trip at the last hurdle". I didn't want to disappoint God - or the team!

To understand how I ended up leading the team, a little history lesson is required. I was 'christened' by a Lutheran pastor in my grandparent's home. That was about all the involvement I had as a Lutheran, except for the odd time I was taken to a Latvian Christmas or Easter service.

This all changed about six years ago, with the impending birth of my first son. My wife, Louise, had lived in Epping when we met, and during our courting and early marriage we must have driven past St Mark's Lutheran Church practically every day. Often I thought, "I really should check out what this Lutheran stuff is all about". Six months before Cailan was born, Louise and I discussed getting him 'christened' as a Lutheran. Louise asked me, "Why?" My honest answer was, "I don't know, but it's the right thing to do."

Louise said "Okay" - and I did nothing for six months.

Not long after Cailan was born, I finally emailed St Mark's, asking how I could arrange for my son to be 'christened' in a private home (as I had been). We had a visit from Mark Sempendorfer, who explained we couldn't get a private ceremony. He suggested we visit a Sunday service and see what it was like. Sliding into the back row, we witnessed one of the first Sunday services where Pastor Mark Schultz was preaching, at St Mark's. We sat through the service, mumbling along to the songs and prayers; nervous, aware of the occasional look from other worshippers. It came to an end and Pastor Mark approached us and told us we were on his list of people to contact. We made a time for him to come to discuss our 'christening' plans. Again, we were told no private ceremony. More importantly what we were about to do was a commitment, not something that was "the right thing to do". By the end of conversation, not only had we decided to still go ahead with getting Cailan baptised, but Louise decided to also be baptised. We also both decided to have our first communion. By the way, Louise was brought up in an atheistic family. Little did we know what God had planned for us.



# Buckets

- Buckets of love for the Lua people
- Buckets of water
- Buckets of sand
- Buckets of gravel
- Made into buckets of cement to make a road to the church at Baan Den
- Buckets of water to wash the walls of the church before painting at Baan Den
- Buckets to clean the brushes
- Buckets to wash our clothes
- Buckets to wash ourselves
- Buckets of dirt
- Buckets of gravel to put the culvert in place
- Buckets of stones to improve the road
- And still more buckets of gravel and stones for the road
- Buckets of excess dirt cut out of the bank to widen the road at Ban Napong
- Buckets of food prepared with love by women of Baan Den
- Buckets of memories for MT2011 to take back to Australia.

*"It has been a privilege to be part of the MT2011 team to Thailand, to help the Lua people in Pastor Simon Mackenzie's area. We were all blessed with good health and, to improve local infrastructure, we were able to contribute financially, in prayer, and with manual labour."*

**Helen Walter**, Team member, Victor Harbor Lutheran Church, SA.

**Fast forward six years:** We have been blessed with the birth of two more sons, Aidan and Ewan. With three extremely energetic boys under five, Louise and I are both very active within St Mark's and the wider church. Louise has become the Ministry Assistant at St Mark's and I am the LCA BfM Program Co-ordinator for Thailand (Volunteer).

So we come back to the start of the story, Sydney International Airport - and Thailand.

We had a slightly "disastrous" start to the trip after a safe flight and arrival in Chiang Rai. First, I discovered my mobile phone had not been set to "roaming", so I couldn't contact my family or Pastor Simon Mackenzie. Then I found out Christine Paech, who was meeting us in Thailand, couldn't join us because she had come down with a chest infection. A little later, one of the vehicles in the convoy got "geographically misplaced" on the way to the villages and the little CB radios I had organised for each vehicle didn't work as well as expected. So, as I was driving across northern Thailand with some team members, I again found myself praying that the others were following behind and weren't to "geographically misplaced".

At a re-fuelling stop, I was able to call Pastor Simon, a little stressed out and worried. Much to my relief, he advised that the "geographically misplaced" vehicle had contacted him and he was going to meet up with them. After this early drama, we had an amazing 14 days in Thailand. The worries and doubts I had about the team, and myself, soon disappeared. Why? Because of the faith and trust I had in Jesus. What further proof did I need than God keeping an eye on the team and making sure we all arrived safely in the village?

I feel particularly blessed by the team I was entrusted to lead. On every single task we attempted - whether it was mixing concrete for a road, digging a ditch for a culvert or praying for a sick villager - the team enthusiastically took up the challenge. Even when I had to get more cement or paint, I knew that by the time I returned, the team would ask "What is the next task?"

So to Kate, Tara, John M, John P, Vic, Helen, Maree, Tim, Colin, David and Christine (who I know was praying for us, even though she couldn't be with us), it was an honour and a privilege to serve as your Team Leader.

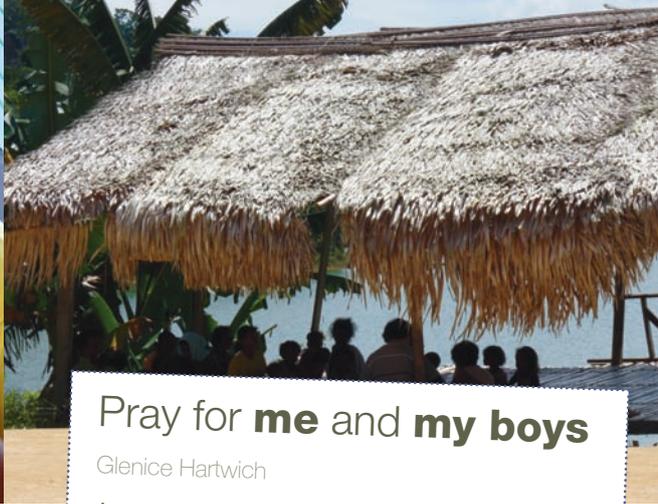
Now we are back in Australia, I know all the team members were changed by the trip. Whether it is realising that God's grace is given to everybody (including the poor), or realising the trust we have in God is something that will never be broken. More importantly, the trip allowed me to see the love of God brought into focus in the simplicity of two different cultures praying together.

**Planning for "MT2012: Disciples of all Nations" is already underway.**

If you would like further information, I am able to visit your congregations to do a presentation on the mission to Thailand. I can be contacted through the LCA Board for Mission at [bfm@lca.org.au](mailto:bfm@lca.org.au) ; [project.thailand@lca.org.au](mailto:project.thailand@lca.org.au) ; or on 0403 999 979.

# Precious cargo

Glenice Hartwich



Despite the trying natural and man-made conditions around them, the Orang Asli people of Malaysia are finding hope, strength and love in the Messiah they have been introduced to.



Sitting under a bamboo constructed shelter-cum-worship place on one of the islands, women and children share stories with Pastor Lui about their lack of food and their hunger. Frequently, the 100 people in the two villages we are visiting have only one meal a day. To survive, they often are forced to eat the insects or roots of trees .

Water sprays along the side of the speeding boat as we travel toward the distant huts perched on the raised ledges of the islands in the middle of artificial Lake Temenggong in northern Malaysia.

Formerly nomadic people, the Orang Asli (indigenous people of Malaysia who roamed this region) have been forced to settle in small communities on these islands, due to the creation of the massive inland lake and dam, which supplies water to northern Malaysia.

Part of our boat's precious cargo includes bags of rice, biscuits and medicine as well as Pastor Liu (from the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore) and Orang Asli ministry co-ordinator, Garry Lee.

Life on these islands is isolated and harsh. Taking up to an hour and only operational during daylight, boat rides connect the Orang Asli villages to the nearest road. Restrictions also apply to the times that people can visit the islands. And no one other than the Orang Asli people can inhabit the region.

Illegal logging in the region has seen massive areas of native forest denuded, which also strips native animals of their habitat. This has had a disastrous effect on the food supply available to those who live on the islands. Also, the previously nomadic Orang Asli people are not adept in the cultivation of food crops.

For the past 15 years, those living in two of the dam-created island village settlements have been visited every second week by Pastor Lui – a woman with a great heart to share the love of Jesus Christ. Together with the support of Mr Lee and LCMS teams from various parts of Malaysia as well as the support of the LCA, these isolated people are experiencing the love of Jesus Christ in, and through, his Word. Gifts of love, in the form of rice, tinned foods, biscuits, medicine and clothing, are practical ways Jesus love is also demonstrated here.

The original Orang Asli people of Malaysia are animistic; worshiping and fearing the spirits around them. Through the love and care of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (LCMS) members - as well as the partnership between the LCA and the LCMS in northern Malaysia and in the Cameron Highlands – many are coming to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Together, we join with God in His mission of bringing the love of Jesus to these people.

Asked why he has continued to be a member of the LCMS Orang Asli ministry committee for more than ten years, Mr Lee simply answers: "I love these people."

Praise God that many people know Jesus and are keen to make him known to others.

## Pray for me and my boys

Glenice Hartwich

A smile lights up Rosmah's face as she sits in the office of the Vice Principal of Sabah Theological Seminary (STS) and shares her story. But her lips begin to tremble as she asks us to pray for her and her boys - Jimie and Joshua.

Rosmah is one of the Orang Asli – indigenous people of Malaysia from the Cameron Highlands (West Malaysia).

She is separated from her boys by four to five hours of car travel plus a three-hour flight from Kuala Lumpur to Kota Kinabalu/Sabah, on the island of Borneo.

Several years ago Rosmah came to know the love of Jesus Christ through the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (LCMS) ministry. Knowing who Jesus is, what he has done and continues to do for her, Rosmah has been led to study theology, so she can minister to her people with the love she has experienced in and through Jesus Christ.

Via the LCA Board for Mission, and its partnership with the LCMS, you and I support Rosmah's scholarship. This allows her to be equipped through her theological studies for ministry among her own people.

Rosmah will complete her studies at STS in June 2012. Following her graduation, she will return to West Malaysia to minister alongside Pastor Timah, who serves as a pastor to her people in the Orang Asli villages in Cameron Highlands.

Pastor Timah became the first Orang Asli female pastor to graduate from Sabah Theological Seminary and, in 2005, returned to serve God among her people. Pastor Timah works with three other Orang Asli pastors who have come from Sabah to serve as missionaries.

God is doing amazing things in these regions, as more people learn about his love as powerfully demonstrated in Jesus Christ.

What a privilege we, in the LCA, have to join him in this mission and ministry amongst the Orang Asli people of Malaysia.



## Please pray for...

- Bishop Banjob Kusawadee, Mundrudee, their children, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand
- Pastor Greg Schiller, as he takes on his new role as advisor in the Evangelism Department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) in Lae
- Pastor Simon, Oiy and Nopakorn Mackenzie, our missionary family serving in the Nan Province, Thailand
- For Rev Anmouy and the evangelists of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand (ELCT) as they share the good news of Jesus Christ with the Lua people in the Nan Province, Thailand
- Simon King as he serves in the volunteer role of Program Coordinator for the mission to Lua people in the Nan Province, Thailand
- Sally Lim - Lutheran Church of Singapore (LCS) as she takes up the role of Director for Mission of LCS and coordinator of Lutheran World Mission Cambodia and continues the work begun under the leadership of Dr William Chang to establish a holistic mission and ministry in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia
- Dr William Chang as he settles into his life and work in Geneva and the role of LWF Secretary for the Asia Pacific region
- Warren Schirmer as he serves in the volunteer role of Program Coordinator for the Cambodia mission program of the LCA Board for Mission together with the Lutheran Church in Singapore and other overseas partner Churches
- Stan Dudgeon and his wife Gwen serving on Karkar Island, PNG for two years to manage the reconstruction and restoration of Gaubin hospital
- Nick Schwarz, serving as a research assistant with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG
- Leaders and members of our partner Churches in Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Malaysia, Sabah, Thailand and Indonesia

Get involved in  
God's mission Through  
Prayer

- Leaders and members of the emerging Churches in the Mekong region as they share the love of Jesus Christ with people in their countries - often oppressed and in hostile situations
- Pastors, leaders and people of the Chinese and Asian Lutheran churches in Australia, and LCA pastor, Rev Brian Shek as he coordinates and supports the Chinese ministry of the LCA
- Pastors and leaders of the emerging African congregations in the Lutheran Church of Australia
- Hanna Schulz as she studies in Melbourne at Wycliffe, Kangaroo Ground in preparation for life as a fulltime Lutheran Bible Translator. For God's direction to the language group, location and for the provision of a translation partner
- LCA Scholarship recipients
  - Noa Sokhom, Cambodia (studying at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong)
  - Rev Albert Purba, Indonesia
  - Kristiani Siphutar, (training in education for blind students), Indonesia
  - Various students from Mentawi Islands, Indonesia
  - Javentus Pasaribu, Indonesia (Abdi Sabda seminary)
  - Jufri Simorangkir, Indonesia
  - Rev Jonathan Kua, from Balob Teachers College, Papua New Guinea at ALC
  - Pastors and evangelists at Lutheran Seminary of Thailand (LST), Thailand
  - Rosmah studying at the Theological Seminary of Sabah (STS) and her boys Jimie and Joshua
- Young people from Mentawi island, Indonesia, receiving music scholarships
- For the members of the Prison Ministry team of Abdi Sabda Seminary in Medan, Indonesia as they go into the prisons each week to take the love of Jesus to inmates with words and actions
- Congregations and schools developing mission partnerships with overseas partner churches
- Australian Lutheran World Service as it seeks to be the hands and feet of Jesus while building the capacity of people-groups and churches to respond to the needs of people in their region
- The LCA Board for Mission, ALWS and LEA as they seek to support and build the capacity of Lutheran schools in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to deliver quality, Christ-centered education to the young people in their care
- The growing partnerships with Lutheran Education Australia, LCA Board for Mission and Australian Lutheran World Service as they seek to encourage Service Learning in Lutheran Schools
- The Lutheran Laypeople's League as they join together with the Board for Mission in various programs to support the mission and ministry of our overseas partner Churches
- For God to open our eyes to see the "fields that are ripe for the harvest" (John 4:35)
- For a mighty group of people of prayer in the LCA to pray for God's mission and the reign and rule of God to be extended throughout Australia and New Zealand and the world
- For workers for the harvest that is all around us - in our homes, in Australia and overseas (Matthew 9:38)
- 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
- "Lord, renew your church, begin with me"

Fragrant and delicious



Serves 4

## Fruity spiced Indian rice

### Ingredients

2 cups of long grain rice  
3 tbs butter  
Pinch of salt  
1 ½ tsp garam masala  
¾ cup diced dried mixed fruit medley  
2 cloves  
2 cardamom pods  
1 cinnamon stick

### Method

- Melt butter in large saucepan
- Add rice and stir for 2-3 minutes
- Add remaining ingredients and stir
- Add 2 ¼ cups of water
- Bring to boil and reduce heat
- Cook on low heat with lid on for 18 minutes

# Mission Response form

You are invited to join in God's mission in the world by supporting the LCA's Board for Mission work through our partner churches.

Please tick the people and projects you would like to support and write the amount of your gifts in the spaces provided

## I would like to support the following

- Mission work by Simon and Oiy Mackenzie in Thailand \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Mission work by Greg Schiller in Papua New Guinea (PNG) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Support for restoration of Gaubin Hospital on Karkar island, PNG \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for PNG \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Scholarships (for church partners in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, PNG, Sabah and Thailand) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Youth work programs in Sabah \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Mission outreach to Kubu tribal people in Indonesia \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Orphanages in Indonesia \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- LCA/LLL projects in Indonesia \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Bible translation (LBTA) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Mission outreach to indigenous people (Orang Asli) in Malaysia \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Scholarships for children of pastors in PNG \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Training of evangelists and church leaders in China (partnership program with BCCM, Sabah) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Seminaries in Sabah, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and PNG \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Medical mission work in PNG \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Books for the seminary libraries of our overseas partner churches \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Prison ministry team of Abdi Sabda Seminary, Indonesia \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Mission work in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- International Giraffe courses \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Homes for neglected and abused children in Malaysia \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Bethany and Luther Ria Homes for disabled people in Malaysia \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Yapentra school for blind students in Indonesia \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Singapore International Seafarers' Mission \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Singapore Thai Good News Centre \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Options

If you would like to sponsor one or more of the above mission projects, you can do so in one of the following ways:

### Online or by Electronic Funds Transfer

Please contact the BfM on 08 8267 7334 for more details

### Credit Card or Cheque

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (cheques payable to *Board for Mission*)

Please debit my  Visa  Mastercard

Card no. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Your details Please send me a receipt

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed form to:** BfM, 197 Archer St, North Adelaide SA 5006

*Donations to LCA Board for Mission are not tax deductible.*

Getting involved...

# volunteer opportunities

Have you considered volunteering in mission with one of our overseas partner churches?

**The opportunities and places are many and the experience - life-changing!**

## Indonesia

- Teaching English in the schools
- Teaching English in the seminaries
- Practical service at Yapentra School for blind students in Medan
- Teaching English for the pastors', leaders' and seminary students' courses
- Teaching English and practical help in various orphanages

## Malaysia

- Bethany Home and Rumah Luther Ria (schools / homes for people with disabilities) – teachers with special education qualifications; pastors or people able to provide spiritual care and encouragement for the staff and children; adults and young adults needed for practical service
- Rumah Chrestus (home for abused children)
- Rumah Hope (home for orphans and abused and neglected children)
- Rumah Love and Care (home for aged people)
- Teaching English to the indigenous children and adults (Orang Asli)

## Sabah

- Teachers of English, music and computing at the Grace Centre (3 schools for the "undocumented" children – from the families of migrant workers and illegal immigrants in Sabah)
- Practical service at Jireh Foster Home for neglected, underprivileged and abused children

## Papua New Guinea

- Librarian to catalogue donated books in the seminary libraries
- Long term volunteer (up to 2 years) to assist in training and support for Hospital Administrator and Hospital Management Team Braun Memorial Hospital/Finschhafen

**Consider encouraging your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group to become personally involved in a mission partnership**

## Thailand

- Congregations willing to pray for, support and partner with Pastor Simon Mackenzie and his wife Oiy as they serve in the

Nan province in northern Thailand

## Indonesia

- Partnership with Lutheran schools
- Regional partnership
- Partnership with an orphanage
- Support for Indonesian scholarship recipients studying at Australian Lutheran College (ALC) or in-country

## Malaysia

- Youth partnership
- Congregation to congregation partners
- Supporting a scholarship recipient
- Supporting Bethany Home and Rumah Luther Ria Homes for people with disabilities

## Singapore

- Supporting a scholarship recipient

## Cambodia

- Partnership with Lutheran Church Singapore working in teams in Cambodia

## Papua New Guinea

- Congregation willing to pray for, support and partner with Pastor Greg Schiller as he serves in Lae
- Support for scholarship recipient studying at ALC
- Congregation to congregation partnership
- Youth group exchange and youth music/ministry teams
- Maintenance teams in various locations
- Teachers for youth ministry leaders' and pastors' courses
- Partnership with Lutheran schools

## Sabah

- Youth group participation in youth camp ministry
- Supporting students studying for pastoral and lay ministry
- Supporting lecturers at the seminary (Sabah Theological Seminary)

If you would like to know how you can volunteer in mission overseas or if you would like to begin to understand how your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group can partner in mission, please contact the Board for Mission:

**Email [bfm@lca.org.au](mailto:bfm@lca.org.au) or Phone (08) 8267 7334**