

border crossings

issue
08

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

Creating
Christ's Church in
Cambodia

Rebuilding
Burundi
Africa

try a
taste
of Africa

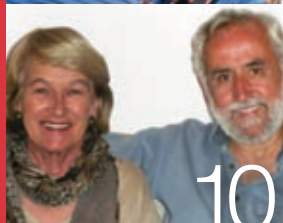
Something to
pray
about

August 2010

Welcome...

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Lemon and Dates



What takes your breath away?

There are plenty of things in life that get us excited, that can even take our breath away. The sight of a favourite team as it enters the sporting arena; the moment you reach the top of a mountain, after a long hike, and look out across the horizon (if you like climbing mountains!); when you see a newborn child or grandchild; the sight of the awesome power of waves crashing on the rocks....

The list of breathtaking possibilities is as endless as there are people.

I wonder, then, if we associate "breathtaking possibilities" with what the **writer to the Hebrews states...**

But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can

they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That's why Scripture exclaims,

*A sight to take your breath away!
Grand processions of people
telling all the good things of God!*

But not everybody is ready for this, ready to see and hear and act. Isaiah asked what we all ask at one time or another: "Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?" The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to. Romans 10:14-15

We are beginning to see a procession of people in the LCA who are willing to go as individuals, as congregations, together in procession with others to tell the good things God has done. That takes my breath away.

I hope that you are excited, inspired and your breath is taken away as you read the stories in this edition of Border Crossings of what God is doing in, and through, his people, as they gather together with others to share the good news of Jesus Christ, in word and action. 🌱

Glenice Hartwich

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

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Unity

in “messy” mission

“All the believers
were one in heart
and mind”.

Is that how we
look, as the
LCA in mission?
Indeed, could it -
or should it - be us?

As I reflect on the wonder of the resurrection life we have received because of Jesus, and on the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost, I thank God for his saving work and new life in me - and in you.

This new life is evident in the growing passion that I have sensed, within the Australian church scene, for sharing the gospel in word and deed, in Australia and beyond. This is exciting but, as a missionary mentor once wisely told me, “mission is messy”. Passion and structure don’t always go together, after all.

In sections of the LCA, I have also sensed something of a growing fervour for mission. The early church certainly bore this trait; for example, Luke records that “with great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and much grace was upon them” (Acts 4:33).

Surely, then, we are in good company. But it is the preceding verse in Acts that attracts my attention. “All the believers were one in heart and mind...” Is this true of the LCA in our growing fervour for mission?

Many individuals, small groups, congregations, and schools have become involved with mission in recent times but we are not always pulling in the same direction. As a result, my concern is that, as disciples, we are not as effective as we could be.

Can/should we look like the Christians described in the verses above?

Let me begin to share my struggle with this by also sharing some recent joys. It has been a privilege for Glenice and I to work closely with people from Lutheran Education Australia (such as Executive Director Dr Adrienne Jericho) and Australian Lutheran World Service (such as Executive Secretary Peter Schirmer and Chey Mattner in Indonesia and PNG). Working together with our partners is bringing blessing! Our partners tell us this and I see it for myself.

The Board for Mission is working through a strategic planning process. Our goal is to build the capacity of the church in Australia, New Zealand and beyond to proclaim the Gospel. To do so, we know we must be working together for the sake of the Gospel.

At the end of Acts 4, we meet a man named Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). I would like to encourage you to be a “Barnabas” for others in mission, so we are the people described today as “all the believers [who are] one in heart and mind”.

.....

We must work
together for the sake
of the Gospel and the
people we say we
want to serve! 🙏

.....



Rev Neville Otto
Director
Board for Mission



Creating Christ's Church in Cambodia

Aiming to more actively share Christ's love with one of our Asian neighbours has fuelled an exciting new mission movement.

You are strongly encouraged to read about this exciting mission in Cambodia, and other noteworthy items from our partner churches in the Asia Pacific region, by clicking on to Asia Lutheran News at <http://www.asia-lutheran.org/index.php>

New doors have opened in Cambodia for members of the Lutheran Church of Australia, through the LCA Board for Mission, the Lutheran Church of Singapore (LCS) and a consortium of churches who have partnered in this new and emerging mission field.

Lutheran churches have long been involved in Cambodia. For many years, Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) has been deeply involved in Cambodia, carrying out vital development work in various regions within the country.

In 2004, members of the Mekong Mission Forum (MMF) interested in holistic mission work in the Mekong region requested the LCS spearhead a study of ministry opportunity and co-operation in the area. Two fact-finding visits were undertaken by the LCS leaders, as well as several visits by mission teams from LCS congregations (one which included pastors and people from several LCA congregations). The mission teams carried out medical and healthcare services, education and feeding programs, livelihood projects and evangelistic activities.

To provide the legal basis for work in Cambodia, Lutheran World Mission Limited (LWM) was registered in Singapore on November 13, 2006. On August 25, 2008, it also became an International Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Cambodia.

These preceding initiatives and activities culminated in the signing of an historic mission document. On April 30, 2010, during the meeting of the Mekong Mission Forum (MMF) in Hong Kong - as a response to this mission impulse - a significant Memorandum Of

Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Secretary of the LCA/ Mission Director, Rev Neville Otto, as well as representatives from other Lutheran churches and various mission agencies, to further the program begun in Cambodia in the province of Kampong Chhnang by the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS).

This Cambodian mission of co-operation is based upon the partners' common Lutheran heritage. Its vision is to proclaim the Gospel and bring God's love to the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The Mission is a holistic one - faith active in love - and centres on the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and meeting human needs in God's name. The MOU states "We believe every man and woman is created by God, bears the image of God and belongs to God. Therefore, God is claiming them through his Gospel and cares for them through his church. We see ourselves as God's partner in this work."

"The partners are committed to the goal of establishing one local Lutheran Church in Cambodia, which declares and demonstrates God's love for the world through the saving work of His Son, Jesus Christ."

"This will include the establishment of Christian ministry and diaconal work, incorporating education and health services, livelihood projects, other community-based activities, the founding of Christian institutions and development of other potential ministries consistent with the Vision, Mission & Goal (of the MOU)."

The Memorandum Of Understanding has been signed between the following partner churches and mission organisations: Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS), Evangelical Lutheran Church of

At a glance

With an initial focus on medical and dental clinics, evangelism and the feeding of many hungry young children, the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) has been taking teams from their congregations in Singapore, together with one team from Australia to serve the people of Cambodia, particularly in the province of Kampong Chhnang during the past 5 years.



The program has continued to expand to include the development of livelihood programs for impoverished villagers, computing and English classes, Sunday School classes and regular worship services.

The vision for the future development of the program includes: cataract surgery for the elderly, ministry to HIV/AIDS infected people, the extension of Project Daily Bread to feed up to 150 children and sick and elderly people, as well as vocational programs to support

Bavaria (ELCB), Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), Evangelical Lutheran Church Hong Kong (ELCHK) and Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (CRCHKS).

The LCS has already established a presence in Kampong Chhnang and a building has been constructed as the central base for many of the activities which have already commenced. Angie Ng (the LCS female evangelist), together with local pastor Daniel Orn Tina and his wife, Srey Pov are based at this new centre. The LCS regularly sends teams to Kampong Chhnang to conduct medical ministry; provide feeding programs for the many children who live on one meal per day; and develop farming projects and teach handicrafts, which will help to provide sustainable agriculture and income for the region's people. Along with these practical programs, the LCS continues to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the people it interacts with. Already there are more than 40 people worshipping regularly at the centre in Kampong Chhnang.

The MOU further states: "It is envisaged that the major LCA support for this exciting mission opportunity will come through the provision of teams from various Australian Lutheran congregations and schools, who will work together with the LCS and its designated representative, Dr William Chang."

Already several congregations have decided to support this endeavour. They have worked together with the Board for Mission project officer and prayerfully sought to discern where God might be calling them to engage in his global mission, beyond the borders of Australia.

To help facilitate this new program and coordinate the LCA's congregational support and volunteer involvement in Cambodia, Warren Schirmer has been appointed as the Cambodia Program Coordinator. Warren will carry out this role in a voluntary capacity, working closely with Neville Otto and the Board for Mission project officer, Glenice Hartwich.

God has given us an amazing opportunity to use our gifts in the LCA and work together with others from around the world to build his kingdom through the Word and practical acts of love and service.

This is the body of Christ working together as it should – with respect for each other and the dignity of the people we serve. To God be all glory!

If you or your congregation would like to know how you can become involved in this exciting mission opportunity in Cambodia, please contact Board for Mission Project Officer Glenice Hartwich at bfm@lca.org.au or phone 08 8267 7334.

young and disadvantaged people. Details of the ways and means by which members and congregations of the LCA can join in this new and emerging mission program have still to be clarified. The Board for Mission looks forward to being able to share these details with you as they are worked out over the next six to nine months. We thank God for the willingness of Warren Schirmer to give his time to serve as a volunteer to support and foster the mission of God in this exciting new venture.

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' and leaders' courses
- Teaching English and practical help in various orphanages

Malaysia

- Rumah Chrestus (home for abused children)
- Rumah Love and Care (home for aged people)
- Bethany Home - 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

Sabah

- Practical service at Jireh Foster Home for neglected, underprivileged and abused children
- Teachers of English, music and computing at the Grace Centre (school for the "undocumented" children in Sabah)

Papua New Guinea

- Librarian to catalogue donated books in the seminary libraries

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

Malaysia

- Youth partnership
- Congregation to congregation
- Supporting a scholarship recipient

Singapore

- Supporting a scholarship recipient
- Partnership with Lutheran Church Singapore working in teams in Cambodia

Indonesia

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

Sabah

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

Papua New Guinea

- Congregation willing to pray for, support and partner with Pastor Greg Schiller
- Support for scholarship recipient, Pastor Timothy Kising 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 school

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 or Phone: (08) 8267 7334

The Board for Mission will endeavour where possible to help to provide opportunities for individuals to serve as volunteers. However this is not always possible due to Australian Government (DAFT) travel warnings for certain countries and the changing needs of the institutions of the partner Churches.



Having fled from civil war, many people are returning to their African homeland of Burundi, with the help and support of members of the Lutheran Church

Rebuilding

Bu

As we stand, in the hot sun, on the dusty track alongside cultivated gardens belonging to the gathering group of men, women and children from the agricultural association of the Muvumu settlement in the Mwiruzi region a small Muslim man stretches out his hand and shakes ours, greeting us with “welcome” and “thank you”. What a privilege to receive this greeting on behalf of Australian Lutherans.

We’ve come on this long and dusty journey to look at land planted with peanuts, growing in ordered rows, and to hear the stories of the people who belong to this association of former Burundian refugees (now referred to as ‘returnees’). They have returned to their home country from Tanzanian refugee camps and settled on land among those who are called “receivers” (people who accept newcomers to their community).

Civil war in Burundi ravaged the country for over 10 years and only ceased about five years ago. However real peace as we know it has been present for only approximately two years.

Now, many who fled Burundi in fear for their lives have returned to be repatriated on new lands, among others who reside there.

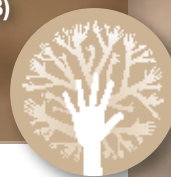
These people share their personal stories with Narelle Bowden-Ford from Australian World Service (ALWS) and other Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Burundi staff. Narelle is gaining insight into the impact of use of funds that many Australian Lutherans have given during recent years, through ALWS, to support the Community Empowerment Program of LWF Burundi. ALWS joined its gifts with LWF Burundi in the new program, which was initiated in 2009 to follow on from the Peace and Reconciliation Program established by LWF with funds from Dan Church Aid and the Danish government’s development body, as refugees returned to Burundi following the cessation of civil war.

In Burundi – a country where many Non Government Organisations (NGO’s) have come and gone, and many still remain - the work of ALWS, through LWF Burundi, reaches to the ends of the earth, where others do not go.

During a journey that can take up to three days from Australia – 14-and-a-half hours by air from Sydney to Johannesburg; 3 hours flight from Jo’burg to Bujumbura (the capital of Burundi); and the best part of two days travel by car over



Glenice Hartwich, LCA Board for Mission Project officer accompanied Narelle Bowden-Ford on an ALWS monitoring visit to Burundi and Mozambique in April. During this visit Glenice also met with leaders of the new and emerging Lutheran Churches in these countries – the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burundi (ELCB) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mozambique (ELCM).



rough, almost inaccessible roads to Muvumu on the Tanzanian border - Australian Lutheran World Service, through the LWF Burundi staff, are touching these disadvantaged people of Burundi with the practical love of Jesus in areas that for most of us living in Australia are at the ends of the earth.

What is so powerfully evident about this work carried out by LWF Burundi/ALWS is it is done in ways that respect peoples’ dignity, empowering them to make changes which, in turn, can change their circumstances. They are receiving a hand up, not a hand out, as they are touched by the love and respect of Jesus.

The stories of thankfulness were echoed again and again - as we visited crowded classrooms of people (young and older), sitting three abreast at school desks or bunched together on wooden benches, eagerly learning to read and write; as we met with young people who had received help to build a soccer field; as we spoke with those who had started a goat-raising project, or others who had started agricultural projects, or rebuilt their roads, with the support of ALWS through LWF Burundi. 📍

Burundi

By Glenice Hartwich

LWF Burundi was originally invited by the National Council of Churches in Burundi (CNEB) to commence the program in Burundi to support refugees returning from the refugee camps in Tanzania. CNEB continues to provide valuable support and advice to LWF Burundi operations as a member of the LWF Burundi Steering Committee. The offices of LWF Burundi are also located in the CNEB compound in Bujumbura.

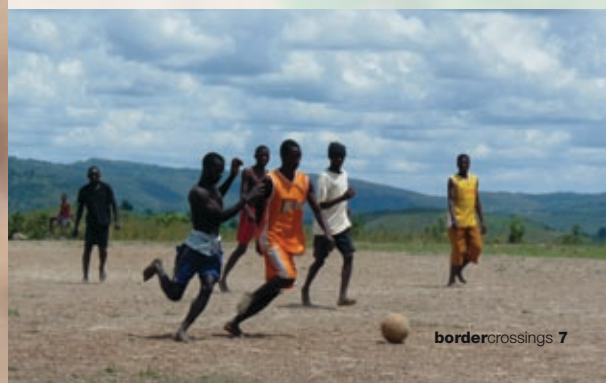


Shepparton's Burundi bond

Since the signing of a peace agreement in 2005 and with the final quashing of civil unrest during 2008, there's been a time of relative peace in Burundi.

Civil war raged in Burundi for over 10 years with a great loss of life and a massive exodus of Burundian refugees into neighbouring countries, particularly Tanzania. Within refugee camps in Tanzania, many have come to experience and know the love of Jesus (and the Lutheran Church) in very practical ways. These people, who have known such tragedy through war, are returning to Burundi or being repatriated to America and Australia – and they recognise the Lutheran Church as a community which cares for them.

In Shepparton, Victoria, the local Lutheran church had grown quite small; with around 25 members, it had almost been at the point of closure. Several years ago, a group of people from the Congo (who had been settled in Shepparton by Australian Government agencies) knocked on the door of this small congregation and asked if they could join. Today, St Pauls Shepparton is active, alive and growing at a steady rate, as more people from various African nations, including Burundi, join them in this expanding family of God.





worship

after war-time



A long way from Bujumbura, in the distant Mishiha region (in the Cankuzo province),

I met another faithful worker in the Lutheran church of Burundi – Jean Macumi. Jean came to know the Lutheran Church as a refugee from Burundi, sheltering in the Rukole refugee camp in Tanzania. Not able to return to his former land in Burundi, he was lead to Mwiruzi in the Mishiha region and settled there with his wife and child.

The Lutheran Church began there in Mwirui in January, 2009, with just three people – Jean’s small family. Presently, 85 people worship regularly in the makeshift shelter.

With the permission of the ELCB leaders in Bujumbura, Jean is discipling other people and taking them into remote regions to share the good news of Christ.



It's Sunday morning in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. As our vehicle weaves through traffic to take us to church, we see the roads crowded with an endless stream of people involved in eclectic activities - in their houses and shopfronts; playing soccer on open sports fields; women walking leisurely to local markets with their perfectly balanced cargo resting on their heads; or families carrying bibles on their way to worship in one of the many churches. There's an election imminent in Burundi and because of this we also see several groups of politically minded young people running and exercising along the roads with sticks in hand, chanting to the call of their leaders.

As we leave the reasonably good bitumen road and pass a sign announcing the Lutheran Church, we continue down a dirt track, leading through shanty housing opening up into a cleared space revealing a temporary structure. Walls of green plastic, with LWF (Lutheran World Federation) stencilled on the sides, surround roughly cut timber posts covered with a corrugated iron roof. This is one of the three places in Burundi where members of the new and growing Lutheran Church gather to worship (gatherings of other Lutheran Christians are in Gitega, in the Gitega province, and Mwiruzi, in the Cankuzo province).

Having been warmly greeted by men and women worshippers, we are ushered to wooden seats placed on the floor which consisted of dirt and broken patches of concrete. Out the front, young people dressed in black and white sing gospel songs, accompanied by a young keyboard player and an even younger drummer.

The service is led by two men in white

gowns - Salvator Nduwayo is also the legal representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burundi (ELCB), and Nicodeme Ahishakiye is vice representative of ELCB. These men have been trained in a practical way for ministry by the pastors and bishops of the Lutheran Churches of Congo and Rwanda. They will be ordained in October as pastors of the ELCB, along with a man serving in another part of Burundi.

Together with their joyful female leader, young children bring tears to our eyes as they sing and dance with “all of their hearts” and praise God during the service in words that we can’t understand but know and experience as joyful praise to God. They add sound to their joyful singing by shaking tins filled with rice.

The words of the service and sermon are translated for us by Moses Ndayiragije – a young man who is the ELCB Secretary. Burundi was a French colony for many years, so the common language is French, as well as Kirundi - the local people’s language. (I speak neither!)

The makeshift church we are worshipping in soon will be pulled down, as the land owner wants to use the land for other purposes. New land has been purchased where a more permanent worship building is intended - but a lack of funds means the future is uncertain for this Lutheran congregation.

In 1986, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania received temporary authorisation from the Burundian Government to begin work in Burundi. Through this mission endeavour, the seeds of God’s kingdom were planted; the Lutheran Church in Burundi began when pastors and evangelists came from Tanzania, prior to the civil war, and shared the good news of Jesus Christ.

In 1992, the Burundian Government allowed the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burundi (ELCB) to become a legal entity. The civil war halted efforts to establish the ELCB but, in 2000, the



Get involved in God's mission Through Prayer

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo began to further establish the Lutheran Church in Burundi. In 2002, the growth of the ELCB was further encouraged when the Lutheran Communion in Central and East Africa (LUCCEA) designated the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rwanda as another sponsoring Church.

Currently one young man, Emile Nkurunziza, is studying theology at the University of Lubumbashi, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to become an ELCB pastor. His studies have been made possible by a LWF scholarship.

When meeting with Salvador and Moses during my week-long visit to Burundi, I heard of the desperate need pastors and leaders have for training, so they can continue to carry out the vision God has given them to share the gospel and build His kingdom in Burundi and beyond. They invite others to join them in this work, and other Churches to help them establish permanent structures where they can have regular worship.

The vision for the ELCB is as follows:

1. To worship God with all our heart
2. To evangelise the World
3. To develop diaconal ministries
4. To make disciples of Jesus
5. To send disciples all over the world, starting first by changing Burundi.

Many of the people of the ELCB have come back to their country from Tanzanian refugee camps and other neighbouring countries of Rwanda and

Congo. Many are poor and marginalised yet they still want to share what they have with others. In two of the three regions where the Church has commenced ministry, the ELCB has started various programs to support and reach out, including literacy classes, goat farming and sports activities for young people.

Links between Australian Lutherans have already been established by Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) and its involvement in the programs of LWF Burundi. The links are growing as people from the refugee camps and other countries arrive in Australia and find a place of welcome in some Lutheran Churches (read the separate articles about the great things happening at St Paul's Shepparton!).

There is still much more to do in the new and emerging Lutheran Church in Burundi. As members of the LCA, are we being called to share in its work of establishing God's kingdom? Can we maximize the work that ALWS has started through involvement in LWF Burundi and the ELCB? This issue is one of many facing the LCA Board for Mission as it considers God's mission for the LCA and as it works to develop a strategic plan for mission in and beyond our borders. 🌍

Glenice Hartwich

Pray for...

- 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 volunteer research assistant with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG for two years
- Mark and Marion Schubert, Julian Pfitzner, James and Jennie Jones and David and Ruth Craig as they serve as teachers of English in various courses in Indonesia
- Warren Schirmer as he takes up the volunteer role of Program Coordinator for the Cambodia mission program
- Ray and Marcia Smith serving as volunteers in mission in Shepparton, Victoria
- The Lutheran Church of Singapore and Dr William Chang as they continue to establish a holistic mission and ministry in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia
- Pastor Greg Schiller, our missionary in PNG
- Pastor Simon, Oiy and Nopakorn Mackenzie, our missionary family serving in the Nan Province, Thailand as they take holiday/ leave in Australia
- For Anmouy and Tawee as they share the good news of Jesus Christ with the Lua people in the Nan Province, Thailand
- Leaders and members of our partner Churches in Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Malaysia, Sabah, Thailand and Indonesia
- 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 hostile situations
- LCA Scholarship recipients
 - o Rev Timothy Kising, Papua New Guinea (Australian Lutheran College, Adelaide)
 - o Rev Albert Purba, Indonesia
 - o Kristiani Sipahutar, (training in education for blind students), Indonesia
- o Various students from Mentawi Islands, Indonesia
- o Javentus Pasaribu, Indonesia (Abdi Sabda seminary)
- o Jufri Simorangkir, Indonesia
- o Bishop Philip Lok, Malaysia (Distance Education through ALC, Adelaide)
- o Pastors and evangelists at Lutheran Seminary of Thailand (LST), Thailand
- Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burundi as they share the good news of Jesus Christ with people recovering from the ravages of civil war
- 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 developing mission partnerships with overseas partner churches
- The LCA Board for Mission as it works to develop a strategic plan
- Australian Lutheran World Service as they seek 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
- Lutheran Education Australia as it seeks 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 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 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"



Grey nomads offer helping hand

Ray and Marcia Smith moved locations to dedicate their lives to loving and supporting Shepparton's African community.

In late November 2009, my wife Marcia and I had just returned from three weeks holiday on the South Island of New Zealand. We were looking forward to a break before the Christmas festivities began but noticed an unusual item in the Sunday bulletin at church (St Johns Southgate). "Grey nomads" were invited to stop at Shepparton, Victoria, for a while, to join the local Lutheran congregation in its ministry to a large number of African immigrants who had recently arrived in Shepparton and had joined the church.

This seemed like something we could become involved with but we didn't have a caravan or mobile home - not even a tent - probably didn't qualify as nomads. Nevertheless, we felt God was encouraging us to get involved. Being well-connected Lutherans, we contacted our nephew who, at the time, was vice-chairman of the Shepparton congregation. He suggested we could be the right people for the job and encouraged us to pray about our involvement, and to contact Pastor Matt in Shepparton.

Pastor Matt Anker invited us to share in the once-a-month congregational lunch on January 10. When we arrived, we quickly learned that the "church hall" was a large tree with table and chairs under it. We had a lovely time with worship and fellowship over lunch and met a lot of people who encouraged us to join the fun in Shepparton.

On our way back to Melbourne that Sunday afternoon, neither Marcia nor I could think of a good excuse not to make the move to Shepparton. We realised God had very gently (although quickly) cleared the way for us to pretend that we were "grey nomads" and join the Shepparton congregation in their work for the Lord.

So, with the help of Glenice Hartwich and the Board for Mission, the wheels were put in motion. After a very generous farewell from St Johns - that included a generous donation to the Shepparton building project, as well as prayers and much encouragement - we left Melbourne. We took the soft option, though, and didn't

buy a caravan. We rented a house and, with help from three members of St Pauls congregation, moved to Shepparton on February 20.

The congregation has made us feel very welcome and helped us settle in to our new environment. So far, we have been involved with driving the choir to the church for practice, picking people up for church, taking people to the hospital for appointments, helping others move house, assisting others in getting driving tests, getting people to the local TAFE for community seminars, and picking up primary school children for Kids Club. This is just helping those who have been here for a while to get settled; for new arrivals, there are lots of things to do before they actually land in Australia - getting accommodation ready, working with Centrelink and Medicare, school enrolments and so on.

As you could appreciate, one of the major difficulties is learning English, particularly for adults. The local TAFE is only able to provide a certain number of hours for English classes and, once those hours are used up, students are on their own. This provides another opportunity to spend time with those who need a little extra help with learning our funny (strange) language.

Since we have been in Shepparton, we have been involved with lots of African migrants. They are very appreciative about living in Australia and the opportunities it presents for them and their families. I cannot begin to imagine what it would be like relocating to a new country with all the challenges that brings, so for us to be able to help in any way is a privilege. It is also a way of living out the love that God has shown to us in Christ.

So, to all you "grey nomads" out there, the next time you see an opportunity to volunteer, don't hold back. It could be a great experience and an opportunity to show God's love to those you meet.

To all those congregations out there that may have specific ministry needs, both short and long term, don't hesitate to ask for help. Who knows who our gracious Lord has in mind to help.



On a *ding* and a *prayer*



Bags of coffee, rice, biscuits, shovels, machetes, mail, a coffin containing a body, together with people going to and from geographically isolated villages in the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea – all these can be part of the precious cargo transported, on any given day, by a Twin Otter plane in this region.

Flying around mountains and banks of clouds, or taking off from rough and steeply sloping airstrips is also what Australian pilot, Greg Falland, encounters as he serves as a Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) pilot based in Goroka.

Originally from Nuriootpa in the Barossa Valley, Greg (with wife Jaquie and children Lewis and Rachel) have lived and served in PNG for more than 10 years.

Greg is one of only two Twin Otter pilots working for MAF in PNG. He provides a vital ministry and service to missionaries serving in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of (ELC-PNG), as well as other denominations' staff, and Papua New Guineans.

Life in PNG is also a mission field for Jaquie who, among her other roles in Goroka, serves as member of a ministry team that regularly visits people in the Goroka jail. Lewis and Rachel have had the privilege of being able to stay with Greg and Jaquie during their time in Goroka, by studying at an international school on the outskirts of the town.

Life in PNG is different from the carefree days of former times when many Australian Lutherans served there and no one feared for their safety as they went about work or leisure in regional towns and cities such as Goroka, Lae, Pt Moresby and Mt Hagen. These days, many precautions need to be taken to help ensure personal safety. Greg has suffered injuries at the hands of "rascals" who beat him up and stole his vehicle as he and his children returned from a family outing.

In part, financial backing for Greg, Jaquie and their children has come from funds that they themselves need to raise from supporters.

Over the years, a portion of this required amount has been provided by faithful support from members of their home congregation of St Petri in Nuriootpa. Such giving enables the Falland family to carry out this vital ministry. However, from 2011 onwards,

the amount Greg and Jaquie are required to raise from supporters will increase significantly.

It's with real joy and thanks that you and I can share in this ministry carried out by Greg (in partnership with Jaquie, Lewis and Rachel). Commencing in 2011, the LCA through the Board for Mission will add support of \$10,000 each year to assist the Fallands to continue to the ministry they have been called to. Joined with this LCA pledge will be support from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bavaria and additional funding from the Lutheran Overseas Partner Churches (LOPC) of the ELC-PNG. This is yet another example of the spirit of cooperation that continues to grow as the LCA and its overseas partner churches work together in the work we have been called to do.



Please pray for Greg, Jaquie, Lewis and Rachel as they live and serve in PNG.

By Glenice Hartwich



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

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homes for neglected and abused children in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yapentra, school for blind students in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore International Seafarers' Mission | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore Thai Good News Centre | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission work carried out by Simon & Oiy Mackenzie in Thailand | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission work carried out by Greg Schiller in PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships (for church partners in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, PNG, Sabah and Thailand) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth work programs in Sabah and PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission outreach to Kubu tribal people in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanages in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LCA/LLL projects in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible translation (LBTA) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission outreach to indigenous people (Orang Asli) in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships for children of pastors in PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training of evangelists and church leaders in China (partnership program with BCCM, Sabah) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seminaries in Sabah, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical mission work in PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books for the seminary libraries of our overseas partner churches | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prison ministry team of Abdi Sabda Seminary, Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission work in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support for ministry carried out by Missionary Aviation Fellowship pilot Greg Falland | \$ _____ |

Payment Options

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

• Online or by Electronic Funds Transfer

Please contact 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 \$_____ ☐ Yes, please send me a receipt

Your details ☐ Yes, 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.



A taste of

Africa

Chicken with Lemon & Dates

ingredients

- 8 chicken thigh fillets (or other larger pieces of chicken)
- 2 cloves of finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp chopped ginger
- cracked black pepper & salt
- extra virgin olive oil
- 1 unpeeled lemon finely sliced and chopped
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 2 chopped onions
- 1 cup water
- 2 sliced carrots
- 1 cup peas (can be frozen)
- 10-15 dates pitted and halved (fresh or dried)
- Chopped coriander leaves

Serves 4

method

1. Place chicken pieces in bowl and add 3 tsp of olive oil, garlic, ginger, paprika, cumin, cracked black pepper, sliced and chopped lemon. Mix thoroughly and stand covered in fridge for 10 minutes.
2. Pre-heat oven to 200C.
3. In large frying pan heat 1 tbsp of olive oil and add chopped onions and turmeric. Stir and cook for 2-3 minutes. Add cup of water, chicken and lemon marinade.
4. Remove from frying pan and place in ovenproof dish. Bake for 20 minutes.
5. Add carrots and peas, dates and pinch of salt.
6. Cook for 20-30 minutes until chicken is cooked through.
7. Serve chicken, vegetables and juices on bed of couscous or mashed sweet potato. Garnish with chopped coriander.