



40 Days

a Lenten prayer guide



In the 40 days of this Lenten season, I invite you to join me and people in the Lutheran Church of Australia and the Lutheran Church of New Zealand to pray for our partners in mission.

Prayer is a vital part of mission, of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those who don't yet know him.

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:3-6*

The LCA has two arms reaching out across the borders of our countries to share Jesus' love – LCA International Mission and Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS).

LCA International Mission has the responsibility for mission and evangelism, so that, through the work of the Holy Spirit and in partnership with others, we can bring the life-changing news of the gospel to people overseas and cross-culturally in our own countries.

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

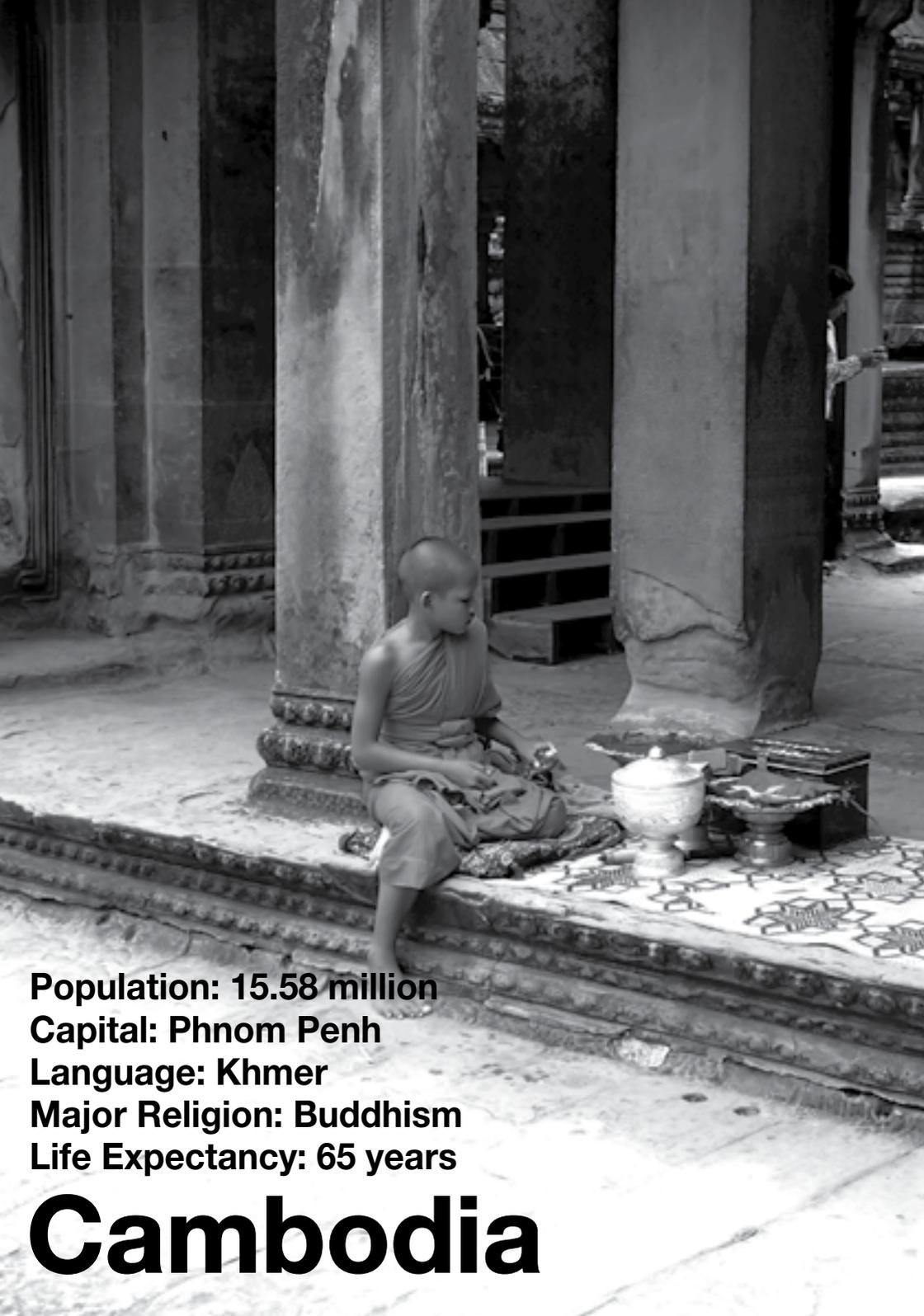
Please pray with them and for them.



Glenice Hartwich

Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission
Lutheran Church of Australia

Ps: Visit our website www.lca.org.au/international-mission to learn more about the ministry you support through LCA International Mission.



Population: 15.58 million
Capital: Phnom Penh
Language: Khmer
Major Religion: Buddhism
Life Expectancy: 65 years

Cambodia



Day 1, March 1

Pray for the Lutheran Church in Cambodia and its mission and ministry communities in Phum Krus, Tang Krang, Bek Piang and the Rainbow Hostel/City Church in Cambodia, that they will be places shining with the love of Jesus Christ

While the main religion in Cambodia is Buddhism, the Lutheran Church in Cambodia is growing quickly. LCA International Mission has partnered with the Lutheran Church in Cambodia prior to its inception in 2010. Its mission work takes place primarily from three hubs: in Phnom Penh, at the City Church and the Rainbow hostel for students; in the village Phum Krus, where there is a church and outreach centre; and in Tang Krang in the Kampong Cham province.

The Lutheran Church in Cambodia was established in 2010 after partnering Lutheran churches from around the world bought land and built the first church in Phum Krus. In 2011 the city church congregation was started as a ministry to university students. Nine people were baptised at the church's first service in 2010, and today there are more than 220 baptised brothers and sisters in the Lutheran Church in Cambodia.



Daniel was a baby born into poverty, who became a fisher boy to feed his family, and is now a fisher of men, feeding God's family.

'There were nine of us in the family. I was the oldest child. My older brother passed away due to malnutrition when he was only one month old. Later, one of my sisters died. That was at the time after the Pol Pot regime. My parents sent me to school only in 1990, when I was nine years old. My studies were disrupted two years later and I had to work as a fisher boy to help support my family.'

Daniel was able to go back to school again in 1993. It was in high school where a friend shared the gospel with Daniel. 'He shared with me many things about Jesus, and one day he gave me a tract called 'Life's Destiny'. The content gripped my heart.' In August 1998 Daniel was baptized. From that time, Daniel's focus has been on sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. He has been with the Lutheran Church in Cambodia since its beginning. 'I am one of the founding staff members of the church', says Pastor Daniel. 'I have always considered myself a part of the Lutheran family, and my commitment is to serve the church as long as my service is needed.'



Day 2,
March 2

Pray for the leaders of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC): Pastors Daniel, Mose and Vibol and Mr Chak Mun (Lutheran Church in Singapore) serving in Cambodia



Day 3, March 3

Pray that people will be willing to volunteer or develop a school or congregation partnership with the Lutheran Church in Cambodia

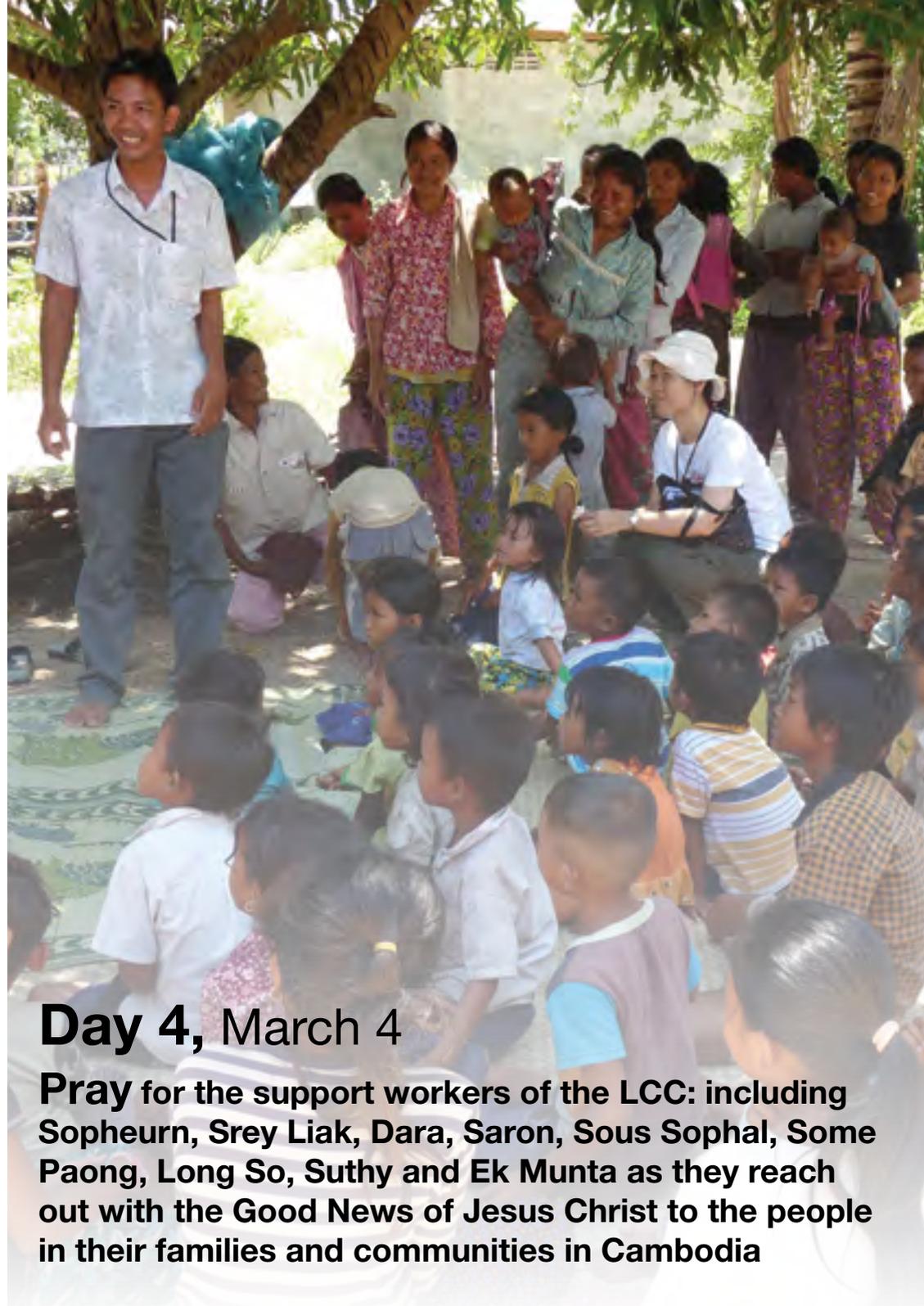


For three days, 18-year-old, Ek Muntha laid among the hollow-eyed dead, awaiting burial, while the pit was dug. On the third day she opened her eyes, struggled to her feet and wobbled shakily from the mound of corpses. Life under the Pol Pot regime was like hell on earth.

During the Pol Pot regime, she was forced to oversee the work of the children in the labour camps. 'I had to persuade them to keep working', Muntha says, 'or they would be punished. And so would I. A lot of children died under Pol Pot. My brother was one of them. But, not even one of the children under my care died. I was able to save all of them.'

Now Muntha works as the head cook for the Lutheran Life Centre in Phum Krus village. The centre provides daily lunchtime meals for the village's poorest children, and for elderly and disabled people too. Here is where you see the gospel preached in word and deed in equal measure. All they are doing is replicating what Christ has done for them: offering loving kindness to those who need it most.

'I was a Buddhist', she says. 'Buddhism doesn't have a personal god. You are all on your own. There is no-one to call out to, to help you, or who loves you. You are all alone through the bad times. But now God has given me a wonderful new life', she beams. 'Now I get to love and care for children, to give them good meals and to hear their laughter every day. It's like heaven.'



Day 4, March 4

Pray for the support workers of the LCC: including Sopheurn, Srey Liak, Dara, Saron, Sous Sophal, Some Paong, Long So, Suthy and Ek Munta as they reach out with the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people in their families and communities in Cambodia



**Day 5,
March 6**

Pray for the tertiary students boarding in the Rainbow Hostel in Phnom Penh, that they will continue to be open to learning about, and knowing Jesus Christ

'I was contemplating suicide.' Life for Srey Liak was very hard and after her father died she had many added challenges.

In October 2010, Srey Liak went to the Lutheran Life Centre in Phum Krus village and saw children come for the feeding program and stay for an hour of English classes taught by other youth like herself. Srey Liak had a great time with the children and got to know some of the youth. She found herself going to the centre to help and participate in the programs.

"My life has changed and I now follow Jesus and have been baptised. My grandma and siblings are all coming to church now and it seems the many problems we used to have at home are no longer there! There is now peace in the family!" Srey Liak stayed at the Rainbow Hostel in Phnom Penh while completing her Bachelor of Theology. She is now working fulltime in the ministry program of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia. "I am so happy now serving God. God has been so good to me!"

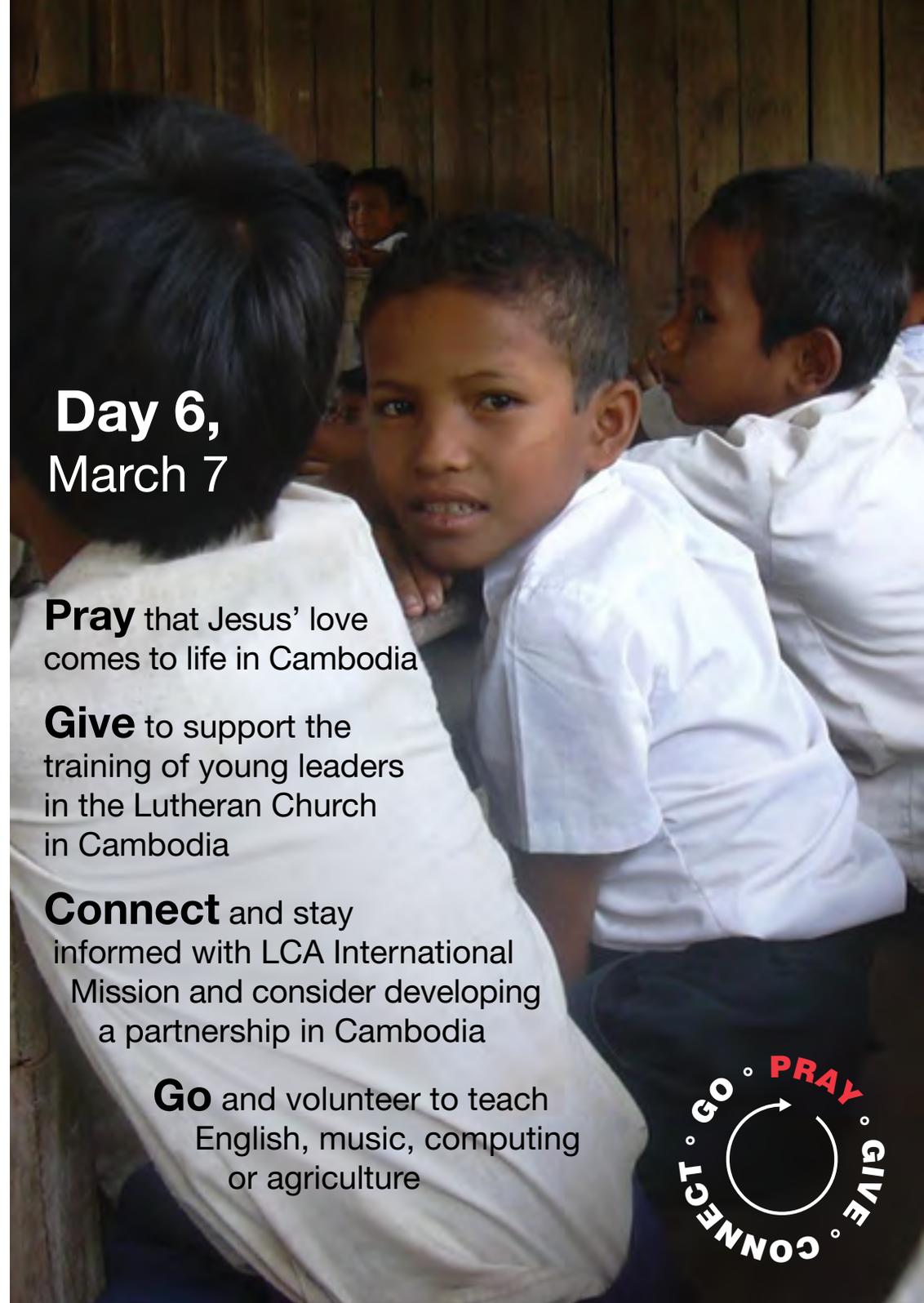
**Day 6,
March 7**

Pray that Jesus' love comes to life in Cambodia

Give to support the training of young leaders in the Lutheran Church in Cambodia

Connect and stay informed with LCA International Mission and consider developing a partnership in Cambodia

Go and volunteer to teach English, music, computing or agriculture



Thailand



Population: 68,200,824

Capital: Bangkok

Major Religion: Buddhism

Language: Thai

Life expectancy: 75 years



Day 7, March 8

Pray for Bishop Banjob Kusawadee, the pastors, evangelists and other ministry workers serving in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand

Thai culture is deeply influenced by religion, with around 95% of the country being Buddhist. The belief system and values of Buddhism play a huge role in day-to-day life. LCA International Mission has partnered with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT) since 1994. The partnership has included scholarships for people

in-country and in Australia, as well as providing a missionary to work with the ELCT from 2004 to late 2013. Now the partnership also focuses on supporting the ministry and mission carried out by Rev Amnuay and local evangelists who work with the Lua people in the Nan province of Northern Thailand.

**Day 8,
March 9**



**Pray for the Lua people
who have come to know
Jesus and who are being
baptised into God's family
in the Nan province**

Day 9, March 10

**Pray for LCA scholarship students
studying at the Lutheran Seminary in
Thailand: Jiraporn Chomsri, Suphachai
Thangnoi and Yohan Na Nongpham**



In villages in the mountainous region of Nan province, in northern Thailand, spirit doctors have reigned over the marginalized and impoverished Lua people with threats and fear, demanding sacrifices and rituals to appease the spirits. People have lived scared and oppressed lives at the mercy of the spirit doctors.

Nyman was one such spirit doctor, bringing darkness and fear to the lives of villagers. However now as a baptised Lutheran Christian he gathers regularly with Lutheran Lua evangelist Pim and other baptised believers to share in the hope of Jesus Christ.

People are being transformed. They are learning of the love and peace of Christ and are being set free from their formerly dark and fearful lives. Today there are more than 1120 baptised Lutheran Christians living in Nan province.



Day 10, March 11

**Pray for ministry staff serving in the Nan province:
Rev Amnuay and his wife Yai and the five evangelists
sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the
marginalised Lua people living in the mountainous
region in northern Thailand**

Day 11, March 13

**Pray for the children and staff at Home of Praise
and Immanuel Day Care Centre in the slums of
Bangkok, Thailand**



When a little boy, NumMan, first came to Home of Praise in the slums of Bangkok the staff would give him a bottle of milk, and after a few minutes he would begin to cry again. NumMan was 2 years old when he was first brought by his neighbour to Home of Praise. Workers found out that from the time he was a baby NumMan had been left alone in the house each day while his drug addicted mother went to work in a karaoke bar in Bangkok.

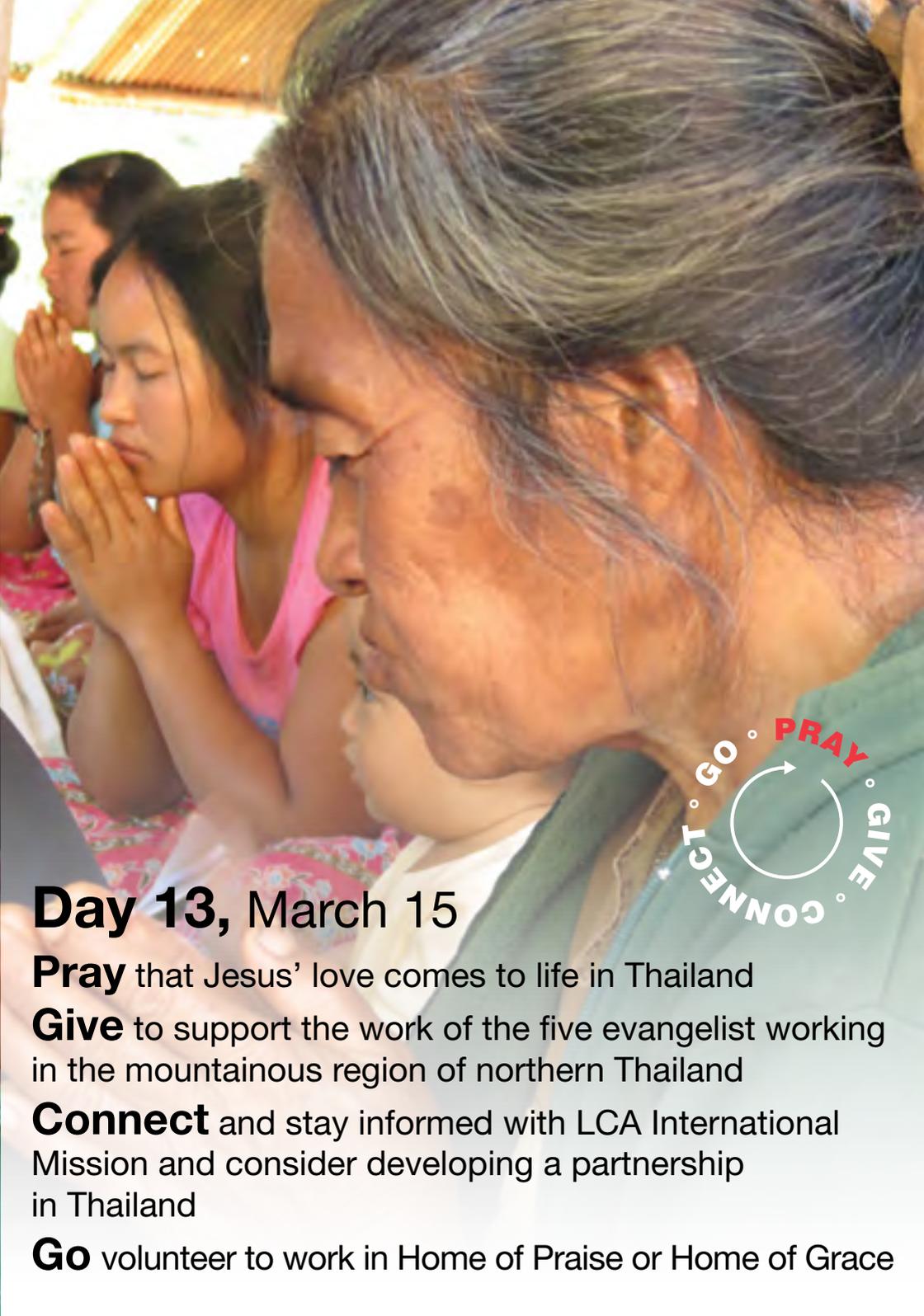
His father had left and never returned. All NumMan knew what to do was to cry. He cried incessantly. Through the love he receives from the staff at Home of Praise, NumMan can now smile. Sao, the director of Home of Praise, said, Jesus wraps his arms around NumMan here at Home of Praise

This is just one of the many stories of the children who come to Home of Praise each day. The infant children of people living in the most horrific conditions and experiencing the horrors of life are brought to this place of light and love.



Day 12, March 14

Pray for the staff and mothers and babies at Home of Grace (for unwed mothers) in Bangkok



Day 13, March 15

Pray that Jesus' love comes to life in Thailand

Give to support the work of the five evangelist working in the mountainous region of northern Thailand

Connect and stay informed with LCA International Mission and consider developing a partnership in Thailand

Go volunteer to work in Home of Praise or Home of Grace



Papua New Guinea

Day 14, March 16

Pray for Bishop Jack Urame, the leaders, pastors and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea



Population: 6,791,317
Capital: Port Moresby
Major Religion: Protestant
Life expectancy: 67 years
Language: Pigin and English



With a population of nearly seven million people, Papua New Guinea is incredibly rich in cultural diversity with more than 200 cultures, each with different traditions, and 800 different languages. It is estimated that there are 1.2 million Lutherans in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG). LCA International Mission has a long and deep connection to the ministry and mission in PNG.

Many people within the LCA have some connection in one way or another to people who have either served in PNG or supported this ministry and mission in significant ways. Over the last 130 years, more than 800 Australian Lutherans have served together with the Lutheran Church in PNG.



For Mick the partnership between the Evangelical Lutheran Church PNG and the LCA means walking side by side realising that at points in both our histories there have been holes to stumble in. "We all need a hand up at some stage... both ways."

Mick has been lecturing at the Martin Luther Seminary in PNG for more than a year and is amazed by how much he is liking his role. "The joy it has given me is a surprise, the surprise of finding joy in the way I'm called to serve people both in the classroom and in the very different and sometimes difficult situations that arise."

Mick has the privilege of seeing students grow in their understanding of their faith and in their confidence to be the next generation of people who speak of Jesus' love.

The change seen in the growth of believers in PNG over the last century has been an amazing story, and like the Australian mission story has had some major twists, turns and challenges. In Mick's humble and inspiring way he has continued the task of answering God's call on an individual's life, and is making a difference.

Day 15, March 17

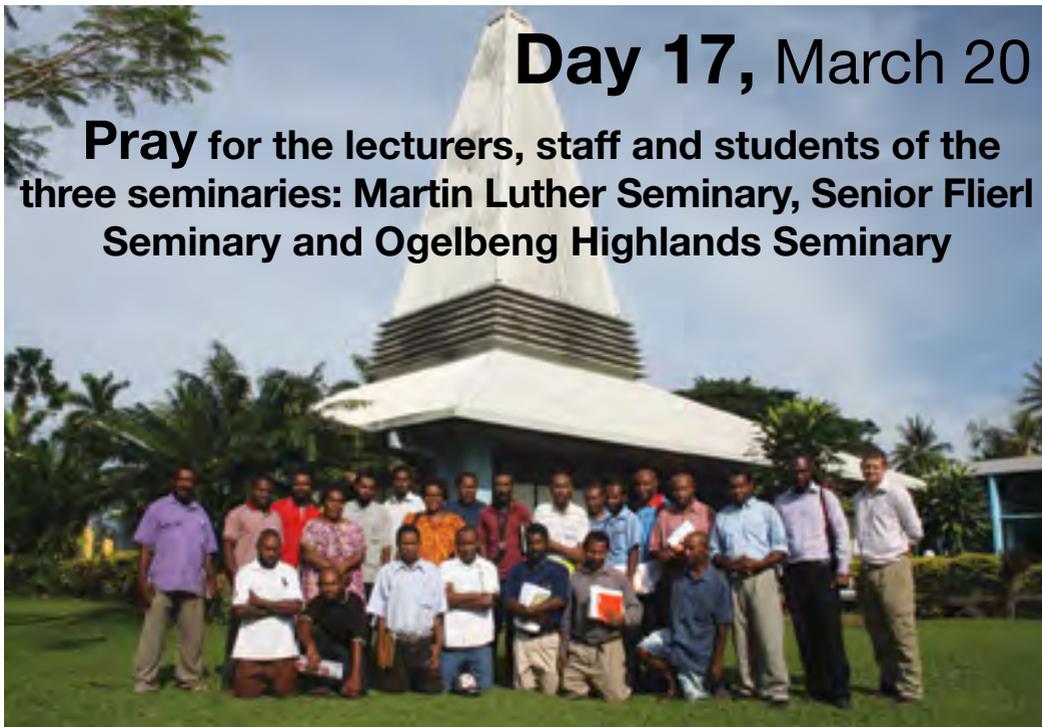
Pray for LCA staff member, Mr Michael (Mick) Hauser serving as a lecturer at Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, PNG





**Day 16,
March 18**

**Pray for Hanna Schulz,
serving as a Bible
translator for the
Kobe people in the
Gulf Province of
Papua New Guinea**



Day 17, March 20

**Pray for the lecturers, staff and students of the
three seminaries: Martin Luther Seminary, Senior Flierl
Seminary and Ogelbeng Highlands Seminary**



Day 18, March 21

**Pray for the teachers and students of the Wok Meri
Training schools (Women's Ministry training schools)
of ELCPNG**



Day 19, March 22

Pray for school partnerships that exist between Lutheran schools in Australia and Lutheran schools in PNG and that more will be established

Since 2011, Concordia College's St John's Campus at Highgate, South Australia, has partnered with approximately 40 kindergartens, elementary and primary schools on the Siassi Islands of Papua New Guinea.

In 2016 the school hosted two primary school teachers. They spent a week at St John's school, visiting classrooms to share their story and observe teaching and learning; participate in TESOL training (teaching English to speakers of other languages), and immersing themselves in the school context.

Since the partnership began, three teams of St John's staff have travelled to PNG, while Siassi teachers have made three visits to SA. Through these visits the students gain a deeper understanding of the PNG culture and the value of being in partnership with the schools of Siassi. They are also able to connect with the human face of our partnership, to develop relationships and truly appreciate the oneness of God's people across locations and cultures.

Pray that Jesus' love comes to life in PNG

Give to support the work of Mick Hauser

Connect and stay informed with LCA International Mission and consider developing a partnership in PNG

Go volunteer to work doing maintenance

Day 20, March 23



Myanmar

Day 21, March 24

Pray for the Bishops, leaders and people of the four Lutheran Church synods represented in Myanmar: Lutheran Bethlehem Church, Lutheran Church of Myanmar, Myanmar Lutheran Church and Mara Evangelical Church



Population: 56,890,418
Capital: Naypyidaw
Language: Burmese
Major Religion: Buddhism
Life expectancy: 67 years



There are more than 100 ethnic groups in Myanmar, all with their own languages and dialects. The majority of Myanmar's population practices Buddhism, but there are substantial numbers of Christians, Hindus, and Muslims. The history of the Christian Churches in Myanmar is a long and colourful mix of Christian denominations which have come to the country to share the message of Jesus

Christ with the people of the many ethnic groups. Some missionary groups have been working in the country for more than 100 years. In more recent years LCA International Mission has established relationships with the four Lutheran World Federation Churches represented in Myanmar.

Day 22, March 25

Pray for the Lutheran Bethlehem Church (Myanmar) as they reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ to the Hindustani people living in rural areas in Myanmar



Brothers Jesurathnam and Victor had often wondered why their parents sent them to a school where Hindi was the language of instruction—rather than the English school. But God had plans that they could not foresee. Today Jesurathnam and Victor together with Rev Jenson Andrew and others from the Lutheran Bethlehem Church in Myanmar, are using these skills in ways they never thought possible.

In December 2013 an elderly man from the Lutheran Bethlehem Church was in hospital in Yangon. Members of the church were at his bedside praying for his healing. A small Hindustani boy, from a rural village some five hours drive away, lay dying in the bed alongside. Looking over at the elderly man and the Christians with him, the boy's family asked them what they were doing. 'We are followers of Jesus, and we are praying for this man', Jesuratham answered in Hindi. 'Can you pray for our boy too?' was the response. Without hesitation they prayed for the boy.

Returning to the hospital the following day, they saw that the boy's bed was empty. Thinking that he may have died, they were amazed to learn that he had recovered and had returned home to his village. The story of his remarkable recovery and the message of the Christians spread among the villagers and they sent word back to Yangon asking Jesurathnam, Victor and their leader, Rev Jenson Andrews, to come to their village to tell them about Jesus and to pray for them.

Since February 2014 they have made several visit to this group and other groups of Hindustani people living in villages in rural Myanmar. They spend days staying with the people, sharing about Jesus and praying for the people who come with their many needs. As the message of Jesus is being shared in Hindi, people's lives are continuing to be changed by the power of Holy Spirit. Today there are 35 baptised believers from the Hidustani villages.

Day 23, March 27

Pray for peace
amongst the ethnically
diverse
people in
Myanmar
(100
different
ethnic
groups)



Day 24, March 28

Pray for the growth of Christian fellowship and mutual encouragement in the faith within the newly established Federation of Lutheran Churches in Myanmar



Day 25, March 29

Pray that Jesus' love comes to life
in Myanmar

Give to support the work of the
teaching ministry in Myanmar

Connect and stay informed with
LCA International Mission and
consider developing a partnership
in Myanmar

Go volunteer to teach English
in various locations



Indonesia

Population: 258,316,051

Capital: Jakarta

Language: Bahasa Indonesian

Major Religion: Islam

Life expectancy: 73 years



Day 26, March 30

**Pray for the 12 million Christians living in Indonesia
(population 258 million people)**

Indonesia is a Southeast Asian nation made up of thousands of volcanic islands and is home to hundreds of ethnic groups speaking many different languages. Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim-majority nation.

LCA International Mission works closely through the Lutheran World Federation National Committee Indonesia, with the 13 Indonesian Lutheran Churches.

Through the collaborative partnership, LCA International Mission seeks to build the educational and theological capacity of the member churches. The partnership also focuses on providing volunteers as well as scholarships for pastors and teachers.

Day 27, March 31

Pray for the Bishops, leaders and people of the thirteen Lutheran Church synods in Indonesia



Day 28, April 1

Pray for Dr Neville Highett, the LCA International Mission education consultant, and Mr Ridwin Purba, Indonesian Lutheran Education Secretary, as they provide consultation on education reform in Lutheran schools in Indonesia



Since October 2012, students and staff from Navigator College in Port Lincoln, South Australia, have been partnering with Gereja Kristen Protestan Simalungun (GKPS) high school (SMA) in Pematang Raya, North Sumatra, Indonesia. The College has an amazing school partnership with GKPS, regularly sending teachers and students to their GKPS partnership school to teach English and Maths, as well as bringing teachers and students over from Indonesia to Australia.

The partnership has been of immeasurable value to both schools, but in particular to GKPS. Since the partnership began, the school has increased the number of student enrolments as well as the standard of education. The Indonesian Government has also recognized the high standard of education now being delivered and has given additional funds for infrastructure and resources.

The Navigator school community has been significantly impacted by the partnership too. For many of the Navigator students who visit GKPS, their lives are changed by the experience. They see the poverty in North Sumatra, yet they meet people who are relaxed, kind and cheerful. Navigator students have even changed career paths as a result of going to Indonesia, opting for careers that focus on helping others.

Day 29, April 3



Pray for Navigator Lutheran College (SA) and their sister school partnership with the Lutheran school in Indonesia

Day 30, April 4



Pray for students, teachers, principals in Lutheran schools in Indonesia

Day 31, April 5

Pray that Jesus' love comes to life in Indonesia

Give to support theological education

Connect and stay informed with LCA International Mission and consider developing a partnership in Indonesia with a Lutheran school or congregation

Go volunteer to teach English in various locations



Malaysia



Population: 30,949,962
Capital: Kuala Lumpur
Language: Bahasa Malaysian
Major Religion: Islam
Life expectancy: 75 years



Day 32, April 6

Pray for Bishop Aaron Yap and leaders of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM)

Malaysia is a bustling melting-pot of races and religions. However, the Malaysian constitution declares Islam as the state religion while allowing freedom of religion for non-Muslims. In West Malaysia, LCA International Mission has had a long standing partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (ELCM), which started as a mission to people of Tamil background, and the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM), which began as a result of ministry and mission to

people of Chinese heritage. In East Malaysia, LCA International Mission has an established relationship and long-term partnership with the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM) and has supported the development of the Lutheran Study Centre at Seminary Theologica Sabah.

Day 33, April 7

Pray for Bishop Solomon Rajah, leaders and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia (ELCM)



Day 34, April 8



Pray for Bishop James Wong, leaders and people of the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM), Sabah



Vigneswary, or Vicky as she is called in English, came to visit Bethany Home over seven years ago at the invitation of her sister, a long-time teacher there. Brought up in a Hindu family in a Malaysian village, she had heard her sister talk about the amazing care and opportunities given to people with multiple disabilities through the ministry at Bethany. Vicky came—and stayed.

Vicky shared, 'Sometimes it is hard, tiring work, but the people at Bethany give me so much joy. They are keen to learn. They are given hope here, and so am I. There is no difference between me and the people I support. They teach me so much—particularly patience. I came to Bethany as a Hindu, but I have come to meet Jesus. And this is the best thing for me.'

Bethany Home is a home of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia for children with disabilities. Established in 1966, the focus of Bethany Home is not only to serve the people with disabilities, but also the parents and their families and has grown to be a 'lighthouse' in a dark world.

Day 35, April 10

Pray for the indigenous young people (Bahasa Malay) of the BCCM as they live out their faith in Jesus Christ in often difficult and dangerous situations



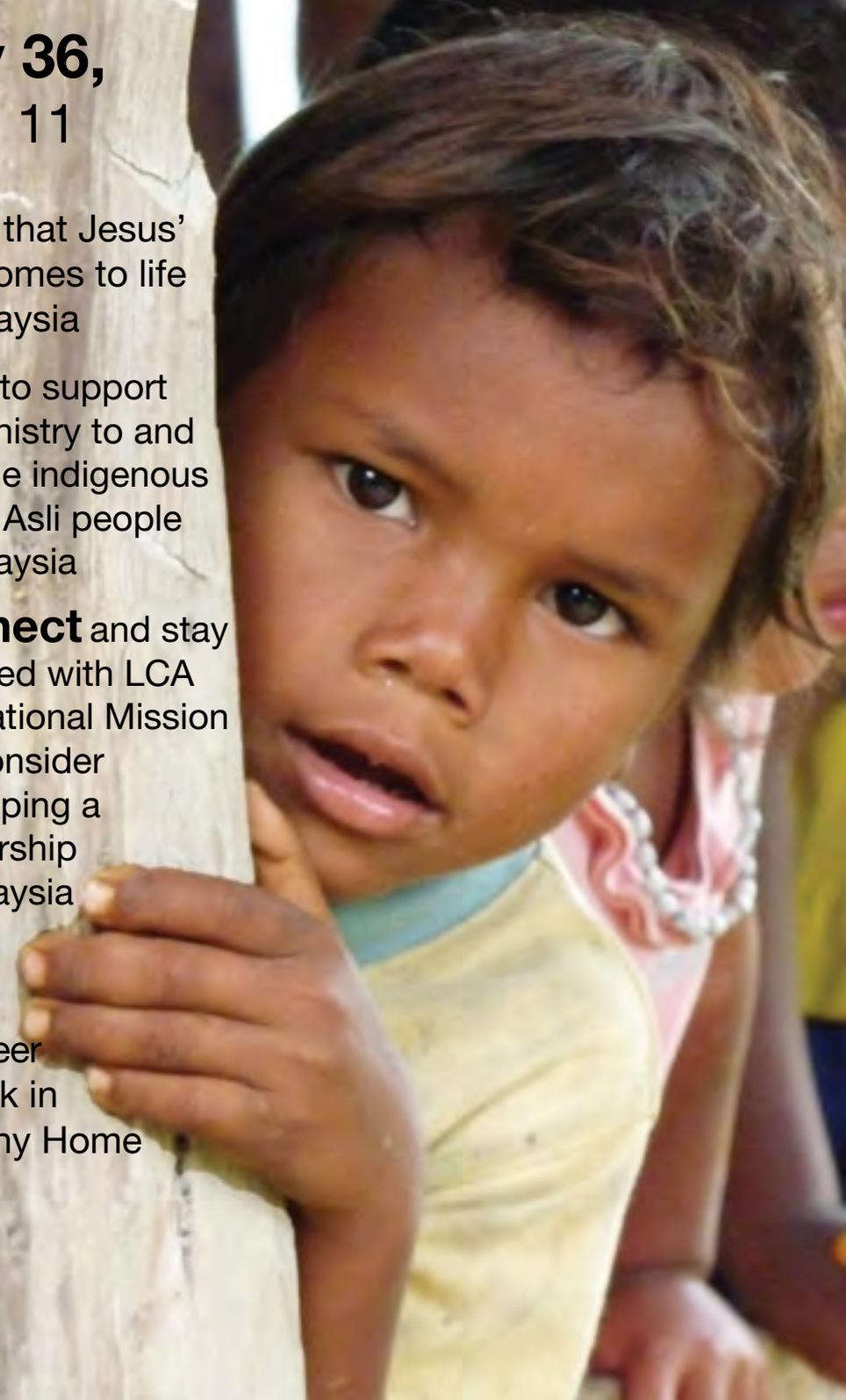
Day 36,
April 11

Pray that Jesus' love comes to life in Malaysia

Give to support the ministry to and with the indigenous Orang Asli people of Malaysia

Connect and stay informed with LCA International Mission and consider developing a partnership in Malaysia

Go and volunteer to work in Bethany Home



Singapore

Day 37, April 12

Pray for Bishop Terry Kee and the pastors and people of the Lutheran Church in Singapore

Major Religion: Buddhism
Life expectancy: 85 years
Language: Mandarin, English and Malay

Population: 5,781,728
Capital: Singapore



Singapore is a thriving country and no longer just a transit lounge on your journey to somewhere else in the world. It has a multicultural population and a range of religions with Buddhism taking the small majority.

The Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) shares its early history with the Lutheran Church in Malaysia. The LCS is a mission focused church with established mission areas in China, Mongolia, Thailand and Cambodia,

together with major mission through the Thai Good News Centre and through the International Seafarers' Mission in the ports of Singapore.

The partnership of LCA International Mission together with the LCS is a graduated partnership, where both churches join together in mission and ministry. The partnership currently focuses on mission in Cambodia.



Kawee had become very depressed. She was a Thai national, married to an older Singapore businessman and living away from home. Desperate to return to Thailand and her Buddhist family, she became addicted to 'scratchies', ever hoping to win enough money to escape her misery and leave Singapore forever.

'I didn't like the family of my husband', she shares. 'They were all Christian, although my husband wasn't very serious about it. My sister-in-law continued to ask me to come to church with her. I didn't want anything to do with Christians.'

Then, to get his family off my back, I told my husband that I wanted to go to the Thai Good News Centre in the Golden Mile, where she knew one of the volunteers. 'After church I slipped away to buy a scratchie, still hopeful that I might be able to win enough money to save me. I walked into another shop in the Golden Mile and they asked me if I was a Christian and gave me some booklets about Jesus. With no success in my scratchies and lots of time to spare at home, I began to read the booklet. I found it interesting and kept reading. I read it all.

'I rang the phone number of the Thai Good News Centre. They were so happy. Praise God that I came to know Jesus and have been baptised', Kawee shares. 'I went back to Thailand because I wanted all my family to know Jesus.'

'My life has changed so completely. I have experienced the grace of God, and I want everyone to know Jesus, this gift of God.' Kawee now owns her own shop — 'a gift from God, which I use to share the gospel and invite people to come to the Thai Good News Centre'.

Day 38, April 13

Pray for the people of the Lutheran Church in Singapore as they reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ to people in their own country, and in Cambodia, Thailand, China and Mongolia



Day 39, April 14

Pray for Rev Wilson Wong and staff from the Lutheran Church in Singapore who serve at the International Seafarers' Mission





Day 40, April 15

Pray that Jesus' love comes to life in Singapore

Give to support the work of Mr Chak Mun (from the Lutheran Church in Singapore) as he serves as the mission and ministry facilitator for the Lutheran Church in Cambodia

Connect and stay informed with LCA International Mission and consider developing a congregational partnership in Singapore

Go volunteer to teach English at the Thai Good News Centre in Singapore





40 DAYS - a Lenten Prayer Guide

Contents designed by Hart and Soul

Covered designed by Anna Schubert



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**
global partners · local church

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