

border crossings

issue
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Papua New Guinea

Different gifts, same service

Volunteers on the frontline of mission



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October 2009

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Border Crossings

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welcome



Not so well adjusted!

Returning to Australia after
volunteering overseas some years
ago, I was confronted by the
affluence, self-centeredness and
frenzied work ethic that seemed
to have invaded our society.

On one occasion at that time I
remember standing in the middle of a large department
store, overwhelmed by the seemingly huge array of choices –
tears flowed – 'Why did we have so much here when others
had so little?', 'Why did we need so much?' I'd come from
a situation where there were no choices – you bought the
only item that was available even if it wasn't quite right. As
I looked around, it seemed to me that Australians had no
time or need for God. They were self-sufficient and caught
up in an all consuming cycle of work and pleasure. I was
determined at the time not to get caught up in the grab for
goods, and all that that entailed.

But how easily I slipped into those patterns of living again!

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take
your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-
work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as
an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best
thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to
your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead,
fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside
out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly
respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging
you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out
of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.* Romans 12:1-2.

These words of Paul written to the Romans and paraphrased
by Eugene Peterson in the MESSAGE speak to us (me) today
and call us (me) to a different way of living. How different our
lives, our country and our world will be if we can 'place our
everyday, ordinary life before God as an offering' and not
become 'so well adjusted to our culture'. 🌳

Glenice Hartwich

Project Officer

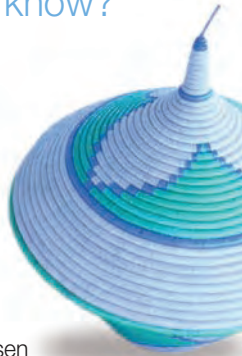
Board for Mission Lutheran Church of Australia

Scripture taken from the MESSAGE. Copyright© 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002.
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Board For Mission's new director, Rev **Neville Otto**, shares his excitement and dreams about being part of a Spirit-led Church which reaches out to bring grace and God's word to all.

"The Spirit-led Church in mission"

Does this sound like a church you know?
Maybe even the LCA?



Judea, Samaria,
and across to the
ends of the Earth.

The crucified and risen
Lord is with us. By his
Spirit we are led in mission.
I pray to the Lord of the Church for
his guidance and I ask you to be a
mission prayer partner.

Acts shows God provides for us as
we respond to his call to the mission
road. Think of Phillip and his mission
encounter with the man from Ethiopia
as recorded in Acts 8. God provides!

And Acts also shows that God's
people will be called and challenged.
I can't get out of my mind the vision
God gave to Paul in Acts 16 of the
man from Macedonia. "Come over to
Macedonia and help us." And Paul
and his mission partners went!

How do we respond when the call
comes to us? Can you hear the call?
Can you see the opportunities? Will
you be a partner in God's Spirit-led
mission here and abroad?

Always remember — God has sent
his Spirit to point us to Jesus and to
lead us in mission.

The LCA a praying church seeking
God's guidance on the
mission path.

The LCA having a strategic
approach to partnership
in mission at home and
overseas.

The LCA the Spirit-led church in
mission.

At least, that's how I see our LCA.
How about you? 🌱

"The Spirit-led Church in mission, strategically working in partnership with Lutherans around the world." To my ears, that sounds very much like the LCA, as we work with partner churches in PNG, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sabah, Thailand and beyond.

I'm excited to learn much more about the Spirit-led mission through such partnerships with churches overseas. I also know the challenges are many, from my own experiences and those of my son, who was part of a mission team of young adults from Sydney who visited Pastor Simon Mackenzie in Thailand.

"The Spirit-led Church in mission, working through partnerships strategically planning and resourcing mission in Australia and New Zealand." This is the vision I have for LCA mission at home. I ask our Lord to lead us by his Spirit and renew us in our mission focus at home, so together we may bring the Gospel in a sustained way to people who do not know it.

The story of Acts is the story of Spirit-led mission, the continuation of God's saving presence in Jerusalem,



Anger, sadness and frustration – mixed with love and desire for a renewed partnership – confronted Board for Mission’s, Glenice Hartwich, on the visit to LCA “family” members in Papua New Guinea who wanted to know where we had been.



A brief history of LCA and PNG

When Papua New Guinea achieved independence in 1975, the Lutheran church in PNG subsequently desired to be more detached from its former mission partners. As

a result, the LCA began to withdraw full-time staff and did not replace those whose contracts expired. In the 120-year history

of the Australian Lutheran partnership with the Lutheran mission/church in PNG, more than 600 people have served in some missionary capacity (mechanics, nurses, doctors, teachers, pastors, accountants, builders...the list goes on).



“Welcome!”

“Why did you leave us?”

“Where are the Australians?”

“Where have all the missionaries gone?”

“When is the Lutheran Church of Australia coming back to Siassi?”

These questions, and many like them, were part of every welcome singing (ceremonial dance), worship service, meeting and conversation we had as we went from village to village in the Siassi island region of Papua New Guinea in April this year. Some words were mixed with deep sadness, others with a sense of frustration, and others tempered with regret or anger. Pain was evident as some people reflected on the loss of contact with the LCA members who had been their teachers, mechanics, nurses, doctors, pastors, friends, and more importantly, their “family”.

Despite some piercing words, my first visit to Siassi left a lasting impression, encouraging me to see the power of God at work in people’s lives, as well as his ability to take what we give him in service and worship - and multiply it in amazing ways.

Shortly before Bishop Wesley Kigasung died in May 2008, he asked me to visit Menyamya and Siassi – two districts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) where the LCA previously had significant involvement - and make efforts to reconnect with the local people who see Australian Lutherans as family.

In a brief visit to Menyamya last year, members of the church expressed the same comments and concerns about the LCA as the people of Siassi voiced in April.



In both places, questions were full of love, even when tinged with anger or feelings of rejection at loss of contact. But people asking “Where have the Australians gone?” and “Why have you left us?” provided wonderful opportunities for us to hear each others’ concerns, hurts and sadness, to share stories and give thanks to God for the amazing things He has done. As fellow followers of Jesus, we also looked to new ways of partnering.

My visits to Menyamya and Siassi became journeys of reconciliation and healing.

Siassi and Menyamya Districts have been part of the mission story of the LCA (formerly known as the “Australian Lutheran Mission” in Papua New Guinea) for more than 73 (Siassi) and 58 (Menyamya) years. Stories shared by the many people who returned to Australia from these PNG districts inspired people of all ages to follow a “missionary” life of service overseas – or in Australia.

The Australian Lutheran connection to the people of PNG began when Rev Johann Flierl landed on the shores at Simbang on the 12th July 1886.

In the years that followed, hundreds of Australians left the comforts of home to give their lives to serve God as they shared the message of his love with PNG – not only in words, but in many practical acts of love and service. This love of Jesus, lived out through the lives of Australians in Siassi, Menyamya and many other remote and challenging places in PNG, is etched deeply into the life of the people there.

Australians remain their family - and they are our family.

To begin reconciliation and healing with the people of Siassi, my visit could not take place from a distance but needed to be experienced. The 20-hour boat trip on the crowded, upper deck of the MV Rita did nothing to deter the expectancy and excitement I had as the boat sailed along the coastal shore of the island and eventually drew close to the wharf at Lablab station - and the waiting crowd. Hundreds of people crowded onto that wharf to meet family, warmly welcome us with singing and floral lays, or just gather to watch, buy local produce and chew buai (betel nut).

After unloading much of its cargo of goods and people, and collecting equally as much of the same, the MV Rita returned to Gasam beach – our drop-off point.

Due to mooring some distance offshore, we had to awkwardly clamber aboard a flotilla of small boats which carried us to an awaiting group of local women, men and the inquiring stares of smiling children. A pattern of hospitality and help for our week-long walkabout was set as soon as we began our climb up the mountain tracks to our first night in the village of Oropot.

Women took our weighty luggage and supplies in bilums (PNG string bags used to carry cargo - and babies) on their heads, while men walked ahead to clear the path with machetes. Others followed behind, walking bare-foot over rough, overgrown tracks. Their steadying hands were always reaching out to hold us up when we began to slide on the steep, wet and slippery paths.



How you support God's work in PNG

The LCA makes a significant financial contribution to the ministry and mission of ELC-PNG in the areas of medical work, extra support for pastors’ and their families, support for the seminaries, youth work, women’s work, translation and printing of Christian literature, as well as other projects when requested.

The LCA also supports one full-time missionary position, filled by Pastor Greg Schiller, who serves as a lecturer and Dean of Studies at Martin Luther Seminary in Lae. In July this year, we had the privilege of sending and supporting Nick Schwarz as a full-time volunteer to work as a research assistant at the Melanesian Institute in Goroka (see article page 9).





“When will the Australians come back to help us with our buildings?” was a common question, and allowed us to talk about new ways to be in partnership.

Part of the track to Gasam village (on the way to Oropot) had freshly cut grass edges. However, throughout the island, roads which were once the cleared tracks for mission four-wheel drives and makeshift vehicles long had been washed away. They had become narrow waterways and walkways, overgrown with lush tropical vegetation.

Throughout the week, the distant tones of drums and the shrill sounds of men and women singing in preparation for our visit alerted us to each traditional welcome singing we received in each village. Embraced by the generous gift for hospitality which Papua New Guineans are so well known for, we came together for worship, shared stories and prayer.

“When will the Australians come back to help us with our buildings?”

was a common question, and allowed us to talk about new ways to be in partnership. The buildings and infrastructure of past mission endeavours had long fallen into ruin. In some cases, the rotting, termite-eaten “shells” remained as testament to another time.

I was able to assure the faithful people of Siassi that despite the poor, neglected and sometimes desolate buildings and mission stations in their villages, the Church of God – that is, the Body of Christ - had grown beyond all human expectation and

understanding among them. All praise to God, who has taken our offering of time and money and personal sacrifice to grow His kingdom.

The people in Siassi and Menyamya need us to pray for them. The loss of contact with their Australian “family” has taken its toll, physically and spiritually. In some cases, the PNG people have been influenced by old “spirit” practices; in other places, fervent minority religious groups have pulled families and churches apart with fanatical teaching and practice.

Even government infrastructure is woefully neglected in these remote PNG areas, highlighting the important, continued role LCA can play in assisting Siassi and Menyamya people with their needs. 🌳



Get involved

There are many ways to partner in mission with our brothers and sisters in the ELC-PNG. If you or your congregation would like to prayerfully consider a new partnership in mission with the people in Siassi and Menyamya, or another area of the ELC-PNG, you’re encouraged to contact the Board for Mission, Project Officer; 197 Archer Street, North Adelaide, 5006; or email bfm@lca.org.au, or phone (08) 8267 7334





Me a volunteer?

Volunteering to serve God overseas can be life-changing for you and the people you serve. Serving others in another country, and being a living example of God's word, is faith in action which can produce incredible fruit for the Gospel.

Throughout the Lutheran Church of Australia's history, many different people have served as full-time workers or volunteers - for various periods of time - particularly in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

God uses people from a huge variety of backgrounds to humbly do his will overseas. Doctors, nurses, teachers, mechanics, accountants, research assistants, students, retired people and even young people wanting to fill a gap year - have been able to join pastors in serving God and his people in other nations.

The LCA has two full-time paid missionaries serving overseas - Rev Greg Schiller (lecturing at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae, PNG) and Rev

Simon Mackenzie (serving in the Nan Province, Thailand).

However, a growing number of volunteers are offering their time to serve in a wide range of exciting ministry areas with our overseas partner churches.

Some of our volunteers have served as

- Teachers of English in schools and orphanages.
- Practical assistants in orphanages and homes for people with disabilities.
- Research assistants
- Lecturers at seminaries
- Maintenance workers
- Ministry workers... and the list goes on!!

If you or your congregation members would like to know more about volunteering in mission overseas - or here in Australia - or how you can encourage your congregation to develop a partnership in mission, please contact the Board for Mission office on bfm@lca.org.au or phone (08) 8267 7334.

You can make a difference to the lives of others.

Different gifts | same service

Meeting several godly volunteers in Bangkok who confront enormous problems and difficult situations every day, The Lutheran editor, Linda Macqueen, found herself wondering why more Australians aren't on the frontline of mission.



Anja Markkanen pauses mid-sentence, takes a deep breath, looks away. It's a hopeless exercise though; nothing will stop her tears. So she cries ... along with Jeab - and me.

At the Home of Grace in Bangkok, I've been listening to the heartbreaking story of Jeab, who is pregnant and unsupported; her husband left her two months ago. "We used to be so happy. But he left me without saying goodbye. I just want him to come home." That's when Anja cries.

This is not the first sad story Anja has heard. Every mother at Home of Grace has their own. And still Anja cries, as though Jeab's story is the first she's heard, as though it's her own heartache. Her compassion for those who find refuge at Home of Grace is as fresh as the day she arrived three years ago.

My three-day stay in Bangkok has involved visiting programs of the Lutheran Diakonia Department (LDD) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand – projects supported by Lutheran Church of Australia members.

The work is truly inspirational, as are the missionaries. I have met Lutheran laypeople from Finland and Norway who gave up secure jobs to follow God's call to Thailand. In each case, it is amazing to see how God has placed them in a mission role where their life and work experience, and ministry gifts, are used to full effect.

Anja is a nurse. As well as dispensing loving care, she provides training in health, nutrition and childcare to mothers. "I don't want to preach only in words", Anja says. 'I like to work where I can show the love and mercy of God more by what I do.'

Another example of this attitude is violin teacher **Solveig Johannessen**.

The sound of violins and children's laughter rings out from Home of Praise in Klong Toey, Bangkok's largest slum and home to about 400,000 people.

When Solveig left Norway eleven years ago, she knew God would find a way to use her gifts for his purpose. At Home of Praise, Solveig teaches slum children how to make music, feel proud and, perhaps, find a way to break the cycle of poverty and despair that is their unwanted inheritance.

Kirsi Mikkola, from the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, is a psychiatrist nurse and art therapist who works with the LDD's HIV-AIDS support ministry. "Our ways are holistic", she explains. "We support the people who have HIV in every aspect of their lives: physical, mental, spiritual and social. So I am able to use my training in both psychiatry and art therapy to help people on their road to wholeness."

A nurse, a violin teacher, an art therapist ... how could these people be missionaries? In Thailand, I have witnessed how clever God is in using all the gifts, professional training and life experience presented to him - and then multiplying them.

Spending time with Anja, Solveig and Kirsi made me ponder: Where are all the Australian missionaries? We have only two full-time missionaries overseas: Pastor Simon Mackenzie in Thailand, and Pastor Greg Schiller in Papua New Guinea.

I wonder if we think that only pastors and others with hefty theological degrees can be missionaries.

Being a "missionary" is one way that many Christians, not only pastors, can present their giftedness to God for use in his kingdom of grace. And every one of us can actively promote and honour the position of "missionary" as a calling for each of us. 🌱



Supporting missions



Miriam Fiebig,
co-convenor of St Martin's trading table

For about 14 years, **St Martin's Lutheran Congregation, Mannum**, has hosted a weekly trading table on Sundays, to aid Bible translation and various missions. Initially, most donated money went to the work of Bill and Di Eckermann, who lived in Papua New Guinea, translating the Bukawa language. Since their return to Adelaide, we continue to support Bill and Di as they work with Pacific islands, Central Australian and Sudanese translators. As funds grew, money was also sent to other missions, including Ministry to the Deaf, Lutheran Media Ministry, Training Aboriginal Leaders, Samaritans Purse (Water Project), Bible Society, Finke River Mission, and the Sudanese Ma'di translation. We also support an Australian Lutheran College student, and the school chaplain.

In total, we have raised more than \$53,000 - from local gardens, orchards and donations, as well as the generosity of time, effort, commitment, and the blessings of a living God.

Going back to Goroka

Having spent his childhood in Papua New Guinea as the son of a missionary, Nick Schwarz has been called to return and serve in the footsteps of his father.

By the time you read this, I hope to have moved from my Adelaide home and church at St Stephen's in the CBD to be a volunteer researcher at the Melanesian Institute (MI) in Goroka, in Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Eastern Highlands. The MI is an ecumenical institute which researches, publishes and teaches topics relating to PNG culture.

The current focus of MI research is on PNG church workers' knowledge, attitudes and responses in relation to the country's HIV and AIDS epidemic.

This research will help MI to develop and deliver HIV and AIDS-related educational workshops for people working for the churches, other Non-Government Organisations (NGO) and the PNG government.

Goroka was my father's first posting after his ordination as a Lutheran pastor. I arrived there in March 1969 as a 6-week-old baby, with my parents Brian and Janet. My brother Ben (currently a teacher at Faith Lutheran College, Tanunda) and sister Jackie (community carer/counsellor at St John's Lutheran School, Highgate) were born in the Goroka Base Hospital.

My father was an MI staff member from 1982 to 1986, when the research focus was on marriage and family life.

So why, 23 years later, am I returning to work in Goroka?

In September, 2008, I accompanied former LCA Mission Director Pastor Wayne Zweck, and Board for Mission treasurer Gordon Samuel to Goroka for a meeting between PNG Lutheran Church leaders and their overseas partners from Australia, Germany and USA.

Pastor Wayne asked me to speak at a seminar, on the topic of "Climate Change and Development". I had recently finished a Masters in Health and International Development, but finding a job using my new degree, and suiting my interests and experience, proved tough. The seminar topic was right up my alley, and the chance to revive old friendships and make new ones was appealing.

Two of the seminar participants were Lutheran staff members of the MI who learned of my post-graduate qualifications and childhood experience in Goroka. After a separate "HIV and Culture" symposium, they asked me to consider serving as an MI volunteer. It didn't take much arm-twisting!

Organising the work permit and visa has been a slow process. However, the waiting time has been a blessing. Among other things, I have read religious responses to HIV and AIDS, and written a discussion paper on food and hunger for the Lutheran Church's Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions.

There is a lot of fear, blame, disinformation, exploitation and misunderstanding in PNG about HIV and AIDS; church workers included. Please pray that our work will promote better knowledge, understanding and wisdom, as well as greater care and compassion toward those infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS. 🙏



Nick Schwarz, Volunteer at Melanesian Institute in Papua New Guinea



SAVING STAMPS helps fund God's work

Congratulations to all who have helped to make the Stamps for Mission project so successful. Established in 1953, SFM had raised more than \$306,000 by the end of 2008.

Sincere thanks to the hundreds who have been involved with this vital fund-raising effort, which God has bestowed wonderful blessings upon.

Special thanks to our volunteers; it is remarkable how many people in their 80s or 90s still collect and clean stamps for us.

In order for \$10,000 or more to be raised annually for mission projects, we must keep on task. But what is needed for SFM to actively contribute to the work of overseas missions?

- Continue collecting stamps; encourage more to collect from businesses and other sources.
- Soak off the stamps and sort them.
- Stamps must be bundled into batches of 103 of the same stamp (not just from the same series).
- Pass the stamps on to your state receiver (as listed in the LCA's year book), or deliver to the LCA office at 197 Archer Street, North Adelaide. Alternatively, post them directly to Peter Nitschke.

Peter Nitschke,

Stamps for Missions' Project Director & Salesperson
24 Gameau Road, Paradise, SA, 5075
Phone (08) 8365 7717

NOTE WELL: Please remember many philatelic products can be profitable. This includes collections, mint stamps, overseas stamps, and the like.



Thai Chicken & Vegetable Curry

Serves
4-6

Ingredients

2 tbsp oil
4 tbsp Valcom curry paste
800 g – 1 kg sliced diced chicken
(or other meat of your choice)
600 - 750ml of coconut milk
4 tbsp fish sauce
1 tbsp brown sugar
2 tbsp finely chopped kaffir lime leaves
1 tbsp red chilli paste (optional)
1 sliced red capsicum
2 sliced zucchini
500 g diced pumpkin (cooked)
500 g broccoli

Method

1. Heat oil and stir fry curry paste over low heat until fragrant.
2. Add diced chicken and stir fry over high heat with the paste until chicken is cooked.
3. Gradually add coconut milk, fish sauce and sugar and bring to boil for a few minutes.
4. Add zucchini, broccoli, capsicum and cooked pumpkin and simmer until vegetables are cooked.
5. Add kaffir lime leaves and red chilli paste (optional) before removing from heat.
6. Serve immediately with jasmine rice.

Getting involved

Volunteer opportunities

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

The opportunities and places are many...

- Indonesia**
 - Teaching English in schools
 - Lecturer of Mathematics (Nommensen University)
 - 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
- Thailand**
 - Practical service and teaching English at Home of Grace for unwed mothers and Home of Praise for children in the slums of Bangkok
 - Teachers of English at Laksi Lutheran Church
- 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

How about encouraging your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group to become personally involved in a mission partnership?

- Indonesia**
 - Partnership with Lutheran schools
 - Regional partnership
 - Partnership with an orphanage
- Malaysia**
 - Youth partnership
 - Congregation to congregation
 - Supporting a scholarship recipient
- Sabah**
 - Youth group participation in youth camp ministry
 - Supporting students studying for pastoral and lay ministry
 - Supporting lecturers at the seminary (Sabah Theological Seminary)
- Singapore**
 - Partnership with Lutheran Church Singapore working in teams in Cambodia
 - Supporting a scholarship recipient
- Thailand**
 - Congregations willing to pray for, support and partner with Pastor Simon Mackenzie and his wife Oiy as they serve in the Nan province
- Papua New Guinea**
 - Congregations willing to pray, support and partner with Pastor Greg Schiller as he serves at Martin Luther Seminary in Lae
 - Congregation to congregation partnership
 - Youth group and youth music/ministry teams
 - Maintenance teams in various locations
 - Teachers for youth ministry leaders' and pastors' courses
 - Partnership with schools
 - Habitat for Humanity teams building in Lutheran villages

If you would like to know how you can volunteer in mission overseas or 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.



New Focus for 'born-again' LBTA

LBTA Chairman Tim Fischer

After 28 years of service, the Lutheran Bible Translators Australia (LBTA) is reevaluating its mission. What is next for the LBTA, after it participated in the translation and publication of the Bukawa New Testament, in Papua New Guinea (dedicated in 2001), and the Kriol Bible, the first complete Bible translated into an Australian indigenous language (dedicated in 2007)?

To move forward, we must return to the LBTA's original guidelines:

"The primary purpose of LBTA shall be to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ and/or strengthen their faith specifically through linguistic, literacy and Bible translation work and related tasks."

Viewed in this light, achieving Biblical translations is only the start, not the end. As it has since 1984, the LBTA continues to employ Margaret Mickan as a translator/literacy worker amongst the estimated 30,000 Kriol language speakers across Australia's north.

Having supported Bill and Di Eckermann since they started working with Papua New Guinea's Bukawa speakers in 1987, the LBTA remains committed to them. At present, Bill is a translation consultant in PNG and Vanuatu languages, as well as with Sudanese Ma'di speakers in Australia.

The LBTA also has an exciting new focus in Hanna Schulz who, after completing her Australian Lutheran College studies, hopes to be involved in a translation project in the Solomon Islands.

Our fired-up and "born-again" LBTA committee has a prospective new field worker and, through God's grace, a lot of past achievements to build upon. Please continue to pray for us, our work and our workers. 🙏



Pray for...

- The new Director of Mission / Secretary of the Church, Rev Neville Otto
- Pastor Greg Schiller, our missionary lecturing at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae, PNG
- Pastor Simon, Oiy and Nopakorn Mackenzie, our missionary family serving in the Nan Province, Thailand
- Nick Schwarz, serving as a volunteer research assistant with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG for two years
- Hannah Thompson preparing to serve as a volunteer at Home of Grace in Thailand for two months
- Stan Dudgeon and his wife Gwen preparing to serve on Karkar Island, PNG for two years to manage the reconstruction and restoration of Gaubin hospital
- Mostyn and Maxine Roocke serving as volunteers for 2 months cataloguing books in the library of Martin Luther Seminary, Lae PNG
- LCA Scholarship recipients
 - Jess Vun, Sabah (Australian Lutheran College, Adelaide)
 - Rev Sikpan Sihombing, Indonesia (Australian Lutheran College, Adelaide)
 - Rev Albert Purba, Indonesia
 - Rev Jan Hotner, Saragih, Indonesia
 - Linda Hutagalung (training in education for blind students), Indonesia
 - Kristiani Sipahutar, (training in education for blind students), Indonesia
 - Various students from Mentawi Islands, Indonesia
 - Javentus Pasaribu, Indonesia
 - Julfri Simorangkir, Indonesia
 - Bishop Philip Lok, Malaysia (Distance Education through ALC, Adelaide)
 - Pastors and evangelists at Lutheran Seminary of Thailand (LST), Thailand
- Congregations developing mission partnerships with overseas partner churches
- Mission team from St Paul's Lutheran church Hahndorf helping to restore classrooms at Heldsbach Evangelist Training Centre, PNG
- 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"



Mission Response form



You're 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 Projects

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bethany Home for disabled young people in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yapentra, school for blind students in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homes for neglected and abused children in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore International Seafarers' Mission | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore Thai Good News Centre | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore Giraffe course | \$ _____ |
| <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 | \$ _____ |

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** at www.lca.org.au/bfm (using your credit card)
- **Electronic Funds Transfer** (please contact BfM on 08 8267 7334 for more details)
- **Credit card or cheque** (please fill out the form below)

Your Payment

☐ Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____ (cheques payable to Board for Mission)

Please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card no. _____

Expiry ____/____ Amount \$ _____ ☐ Please send me a receipt

Your details

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____

☐ Please send me a receipt

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

Take Note

Considering a partnership in mission?

It is the belief of the Board for Mission of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) that in most cases we can best serve in God's mission overseas by supporting our partner churches through the work that they are doing in their countries and with their nearby neighbours. We have a particular emphasis on supporting the Lutheran Churches in our near neighbours in Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Malaysia, Sabah, Thailand and Indonesia.

A significant portion of our funding to these Churches goes in providing scholarships for the training of pastors. However there are many other areas which we fund as well. It is our real desire to see a strengthening of the relationships we have with these Churches especially in more personal contact and interaction with the members of the LCA and the partner churches.

The Board for Mission is keen to help facilitate connections and the development of relationships between Lutheran communities here in Australia with LCA's partner churches. In order to do this we have developed a 'checklist' of issues that will help congregations and groups to systematically work through the establishment of a partnership.

The Board believes it is important to maintain sustainable partnerships when working in mission here and overseas. Therefore we would encourage congregations and individuals (where possible) to work together with the overseas partner churches with whom the LCA partnerships have already been established and where much of the groundwork in developing relationships has already been done.

You're encouraged to contact the BfM office to discuss ways which you and your congregation can become personally involved in a mission partnership.

Phone 08 8267 7334 or Email bfm@lca.org.au

Myanmar Mission Trip

Approximately 12-20 January 2010

Myanmar (Burma) is a tortured and amazing country of wonderful people. You may wish to consider joining the team that will visit Myanmar in 2010. An important activity will be running a seminar on "Teaching the Faith to a Young Church". Other activities may be run by lay people. We will get to know staff and children of Immanuel Children's Home. Of course, there's sightseeing and free time and personal travel. It promises to be an unforgettable experience. You may just want to come along privately or offer whatever talents you have and share your faith in practical ways. The exact costs for the trip are not fully known but it shouldn't be much over \$2,000.

Organiser Pastor August Fricke,
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augustfricke@hotmail.com