

BORDER CROSSINGS



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**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**

global partners · local church

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POWER OF THE GOSPEL



'For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16).

We live in a world where a lack of hope and peace, and fear negatively impact people's lives in so many and varied ways. People look for hope in the darkness of their tormented and broken world.

As followers of Jesus, we know the answer to these difficult and troubling issues.

The message we carry in us as the people of God – people who have been rescued from darkness and despair by Jesus Christ – is the *only* message for our world.

We may not be called to be missionaries overseas. But we are called to join Jesus in his mission to the world wherever he places us. We can do this as we Pray, Give, Connect and Go, and as we share the hope we have in Jesus with one person at a time.

'But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect' (1 Peter 3:15).

Glenice Hartwich

Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission
Lutheran Church of Australia

New life IN NORTHERN THAILAND

Walk with us as we meander through the village of Baan Den, perched on a steep ridge in the mountainous region of Nan province, in northern Thailand.

Watch the chickens scratching in the dry red earth; see children peering from the darkened windows of their wooden and bamboo houses; and hear the scrawny dogs growling as you move closer to where they lie in the late afternoon sun.

Then hear the threatening words of a man confronting an elderly couple who are returning to the village from work in their dry rice field. Feel your hair stand on end as he brushes past you, muttering unintelligibly. You soon learn from Thai Lutheran pastor Ajan Amnuay that this spirit doctor with dark and foreboding eyes has gestured to you, adding that 'he knows who you are and where you come from'.

▶▶ The power of Jesus has set them free from fear, bringing peace and light to their formerly dark, fearful lives.

For years this spirit doctor and others have reigned over the marginalised and impoverished Lua people with threats and fear, demanding sacrifices and rituals to appease the spirits.

On Sunday morning join the growing congregation of people, young and old, as they come together to praise their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

On another day, on another mountain ridge in the village of Na Pong, you sit cross-legged on a concrete floor. You listen to the quiet voices of a circle of men and women, speaking in their local tongue. They've come together with their Lutheran Lua female evangelist Pim to share stories with you. They speak of the amazing power of the word. The power of



Jesus has set them free from fear, bringing peace and light to their formerly dark, fearful lives.

Look into the eyes of former spirit doctors Nyman and Tui and see the peace and absence of fear that lights their faces. They are now your newly baptised Lutheran brothers. Hear their invitation to pray for them and their families, so that all of their children and grandchildren will come to know Jesus. Hear their thanks for your support for former LCA missionary Pastor Simon Mackenzie and his wife Oiy (who are now serving in LCA NSW District), as well as for evangelists who continue to bring the good news of Jesus to the Lua people.

PRAYERS AND PARTNERSHIP

You support the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Lua people of northern Thailand through your prayers and through the partnership between the LCA International Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thailand; and the ministry of five Lua evangelists and Rev Amnuay. The lives of the Lua people are changed from darkness to light, as the word of God sets them free. Today there are more than 1120 baptised Lutheran Christians living in Nan province.



LONG-TERM GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP

Pastor Greg Schiller has returned to Australia after more than a 30-year partnership in the gospel with our partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG).

Greg began his ministry in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 1984 as a vicar on Siassi Island and at Memorial Lutheran Church, Madang.

After completing his theological training at Luther Seminary (now Australian Lutheran College) in Adelaide in 1985, he returned to PNG the following year and served as the missionary of the Jiwaka district until 1990. In 1991 Greg joined the Lutheran Highlands Seminary, Ogelbeng. Over the next 10 years he served as lecturer, librarian, treasurer, dean of studies, vice-principal and acting principal.

In 2002 Greg returned to Australia as parish pastor at Nuriootpa in South Australia's Barossa Valley.

At the end of 2005 he returned to PNG and served as lecturer and dean of studies at Martin Luther Seminary (MLS) in Lae until 2010. From 2011 until mid-2013 Greg worked as a resource developer in the evangelism department and lectured part-time at MLS.

Before returning to Australia in April this year, Greg again served at Lutheran Highlands Seminary, as lecturer.

Tributes to Greg when he returned to Australia also highlight the long and dedicated partnership between the ELCPNG and the LCA.

'Rev Greg Schiller the seminary salutes you for a job well done, a life well lived and time well spent in the service of God's kingdom, like many of your comrades who lived and served in this wonderful nation of ours. Now the time has come for you to depart from the shores of PNG but you will be remembered by many whom the Lord had touched through your ministry and time in PNG.'

– UGLPENG's Wantok Nuis

LCA International Mission gives thanks to God for the faithful service of Rev Greg Schiller and Nick Schwarz (see story this page).

MILESTONES FOR PNG CHURCH

This year is a unique one of celebration and thanksgiving in the ELCPNG, with two significant anniversaries. On 12 July it was 130 years since the arrival in PNG of Lutheran missionary Pastor Johann Flierl, while 2 July marked 40 years since the 'Declaration of Autonomy' of the ELCPNG. The power of the good news of Jesus has been at work in the lives of many people over the past 130 years. The LCA has been privileged to join in this partnership in the gospel. More than 800 Australians have supported the mission and ministry in Papua New Guinea through their service.

NEW CALL FOR MISSION VOLUNTEER

LCA International Mission volunteer Nick Schwarz has returned to Australia after seven years of service in PNG. Called to the LCA role of Assistant to the Bishop – Public Theology, Nick now is based in Adelaide with wife Meagan and daughter Victoria. From 2009 until this year, Nick worked as a research assistant at the Melanesian Institute, in Goroka PNG, making great contributions to the churches and government of PNG. He has written articles and co-authored a book on sorcery and its effects on PNG society with now ELCPNG bishop Rev Jack Urame. Nick's full-time volunteer service has involved research, writing, editing, leading orientation courses for church, government and non-government staff, and time as acting director of the Melanesian Institute.

CONNECTING through learning

Concordia College's St John's Campus at Highgate, South Australia, recently hosted two primary school teachers from Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Siassi Islands.

Through these visits our students gain a deeper understanding of the PNG culture and the value of being in partnership.

The St John's campus partnership with approximately 40 kindergartens, elementary and primary schools on Siassi Islands began in 2011. Since that time three teams of St John's staff have travelled to PNG, while Siassi teachers have made three visits to SA.

The two visiting teachers were hosted by school families who truly embraced the experience of opening their homes to people from a different culture.

Teachers Mrs Lydia Nalong and Ms Shiela Gima 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 immerse themselves in the school context. They also participated in St John's annual Siassi Walkathon, through which the school community raises funds to support the partnership.

Through these visits our 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.

- Nancy Wells, Visual Arts Teacher Concordia College St John's Campus, Highgate SA



CONNECT

Lutheran schools have the possibility to support deeper student learning through the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) International Mission's school service-learning partnership program. The LCA's long-established overseas ministry and mission partnerships enable you and the students at your school to join in God's mission as you connect to people and cultures outside the borders of our country.

To find out more about the school service-learning possibilities for you and your school, go the www.lcamission.org.au/join-gods-mission/service-learning/ or call us and talk to Erin, Nevin or Glenice on 08 8267 7300.

Love in action

Kate Wilson spent a month volunteering at Bethany Home in Malaysia this year. This is her story.

I first heard about overseas mission trips when I was in high school and God put it in my heart to pursue this ... one day ... when I was ready.

After four years of studying at university, five years working as an occupational therapist, and many years of attending church and Bible study groups, I built up the courage and confidence to believe I really had something to offer people in another country. A phone call to Glenice Hartwich at LCA International Mission set me on my path to volunteer at Bethany Home (Rumah Bethany) in April-May this year.

▶▶ The way the staff showed love, compassion and kindness to the students and each other, regardless of their religious beliefs, really stood out.

And what an experience! Ultimately my Christian upbringing and many childhood lessons on building and fixing things were my most important attributes in assisting staff and students at Bethany Home. As an occupational therapist, I was paired with the physiotherapist to help students increase their mobility and hand function, so they could participate in school activities. I also did minor repairs to wheelchairs and made a loom for the work skills class, so students could make floor mats out of rags to use at the school or to sell to the community.

There was always something going on. I was fortunate to be involved in the sports day, which promoted the abilities of people with disabilities, and the annual Bethany Carnival fundraising event. The staff worked together and supported each other to make the day a huge success and the children had so much fun.

I was amazed by many things during my stay but the way the staff showed love, compassion and kindness to the students and each other, regardless of their religious beliefs, really stood out. God's presence is strong at Bethany Home and he is praised each day through the daily staff devotion, weekend devotions and Bible studies.

Bethany Home is a special place to visit and share God's word and love – and offers a truly unforgettable experience.



▶▶ GO

LCA International Mission's Volunteers in Mission program is a great way for you to serve in an overseas, cross-cultural context. Go to the website www.lcamission.org.au/volunteer or see page 8 of this issue of *Border Crossings* to check out volunteering opportunities. Download the application forms and email completed forms to lcaim@lca.org.au or post them to LCA International Mission, 197 Archer St, North Adelaide SA 5006. You never know what God might have in store for you!

JOIN IN GOD'S MISSION

Through LCA International Mission, Lutherans in Australia and New Zealand are following our Lord Jesus Christ in his mission to make disciples of all nations.

Many of our partner churches are working in new territory for the kingdom of God and spiritual attack is their everyday reality. As a member of a congregation, school or family, or as a couple or individual, please commit to praying for our partners in mission.



- Pastors Daniel, Mose and Vibol and their families, ministry support staff members Chak Mun Kong, Sohpal, Sophuern, Dara, Sreyliak, Raksmeay and Saron, and young people training for ministry to serve in Cambodia with Lutheran World Mission (LWM) and Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC)
- Newly baptised young people and those preparing for baptism in the Lutheran Church in Cambodia (LCC)
- Planning for the next stages of the land development for Lutheran pre-school and ministry training rooms in Phnom Penh
- LCA International Mission scholarship recipients pastors Daniel Orn and Mose Seanlat (Lutheran Church in Cambodia) and President Rev Joseph Soren (Nepal Evangelical Lutheran Church), as they study at Australian Lutheran College until October
- Pastor Amnuay and the five evangelists of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT), who share the good news with the Lua people in Nan Province, Northern Thailand
- Indonesian partner churches (GKLI, GKPA and HKBP), as they meet as synods and vote for new leaders of their respective churches
- Mr Ridwin Purba (National Education Secretary for LWF National Committee, Indonesia) and Dr Neville Highett (LCA International Mission), as they provide training and support for the leaders and teachers of Lutheran schools in Indonesia
- Bishop Rev Jack Urame, Rev Lukas Kedabing (Assistant Bishop) and Rev Kinim Siloi (Director Inter Church Relations and Ecumenism), as they serve as leaders of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)
- LCA International Mission staff member Mick Hauser, as he serves as a lecturer at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae (ELCPNG)
- The staff and faculty of all three seminaries in PNG: Ogelbeng, Martin Luther Seminary and Logaweng
- Hanna Schulz of Lutheran Bible Translators (LBTA), as she continues to translate the Bible for the Kobe people in PNG's Gulf province.
- Margaret Mickan, translator with LBTA in Northern Territory
- Nathan and Stacey as they serve in West Asia
- For God to open our eyes to see the 'fields that are ripe for the harvest' (John 4:35)
- 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 he is doing in people's lives

For regular prayer pointer updates, see the LCA International Mission website www.lca.org.au/international-mission/act-now/pray/ They can also be accessed via the fortnightly LCA eNews – to sign up, go to www.lca.org.au/enews

'Lord, renew your church, begin with me!'

We take great care of your financial gifts. You can be confident they will assist our partner Lutheran churches to bring the good news of Jesus to their communities.



... LCA International Mission's work with our partner churches

(Please indicate the people and projects you would like to support and write the amount of your gift/s in the spaces provided.)

- School and ministry training rooms, Phnom Penh, Lutheran Church in **Cambodia** \$ _____
- LCA lecturers to teach at the Women's Ministry conference in **Myanmar** \$ _____
- Ministry in the Mekong region (through **Mekong Mission Forum**) \$ _____
- Mission work in Nan province, **Thailand** \$ _____
- Teaching ministry by Mick Hauser in **Papua New Guinea (PNG)** \$ _____
- Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for **PNG** \$ _____
- Scholarships (for overseas partner churches) \$ _____
- Teaching in **Reconciliation Ministry** in overseas partner churches \$ _____
- Publication of Lutheran literature in **Indonesia** \$ _____
- Prison ministry in **Indonesia** \$ _____
- LCA lecturers to teach courses in **Lutheran overseas partner churches** \$ _____
- Bethany Home for disabled young people in **Malaysia** \$ _____
- Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in **Malaysia** \$ _____
- Youth ministry program in Sabah, **Malaysia** \$ _____
- Bible translation (**LBTA**), Hanna Schulz \$ _____
- Bible translation (**LBTA**), Margaret Mickan \$ _____
- Books for the seminary libraries (for overseas partner churches) \$ _____
- LCA International Mission – sharing the stories of God's mission \$ _____
- I would like to **become a partner with LCA International Mission** (please send me information)
 - Prayer Give Connect Go
- I would like to **leave a bequest for LCA International Mission** in my will (please send me information)

You can support one or more of the above mission projects in any of the following ways:

- online at www.lca.org.au/international-mission/act-now/donate/ (credit card)
- OR fill out the form below (credit card or cheque)
- OR Electronic Funds Transfer; please contact LCA IM on 08 8267 7330 for more details
- Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____ (cheques payable to LCA International Mission)

Please debit my Visa Mastercard

Card no

Expiry / CCV

Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

_____ P/C _____

Please send me a receipt

Please send this completed form to **LCA International Mission** 197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006

Want more? You can experience firsthand how God's love is coming to life through the word-and-action gospel work of our partner churches. Please talk to us about volunteering opportunities – and be prepared to be changed forever.



I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION BY volunteering

INDONESIA

- Teach English in the schools and seminaries
- Give practical help and teach English in orphanages

CAMBODIA

- Teach English at the Rainbow Student Hostel (Phnom Penh) or English and computing at the Life Centre (Phum Krus) and at Kampong Cham
- Be part of the annual medical mission team (November)

THAILAND

- Serve at Home of Praise – day-care centre for infants and after-school programs for children and young people
- Help at Home of Grace – for unmarried mothers and their babies

MALAYSIA

- At Bethany Home (school/homes for people with disabilities) adults and young adults are needed for practical service; as are teachers with 'special' education qualifications; and pastors or people who are able to provide spiritual care and encouragement for the staff and children
- Help at Rumah Luther Ria – school for people with disabilities
- Assist at Rumah Chrestus – home for abused children
- Serve at Rumah Hope – home for orphans, abused and neglected children
- Teach English in Sabah in the schools for 'undocumented children' or in youth ministry programs

MYANMAR

- Teach English

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Help with maintenance and construction of houses

SINGAPORE

- Teach English at the Thai Good News Center

If you would like to know more about volunteering in mission overseas, or how your congregation, school, youth or fellowship group can partner in mission, check out our website www.lca.org.au/international-mission or contact LCA International Mission at lcaim@lca.org.au or on 08 8267 7300.



We invite you, your congregation, school, small group or family to become personally involved with an overseas program or community. Your partnership is a great encouragement to people who have been working hard and long in emerging mission fields, and also to the many who are just beginning their life journey with Jesus.

... PARTNER IN GOD'S MISSION IN

- Annual youth and children's ministry camps in Cambodia
- Annual medical mission team to Cambodia
- Annual mission team to Cambodia
- Partnership with a Lutheran school in Indonesia or Papua New Guinea (PNG)
- Service-learning partnership in PNG, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and Indonesia
- Partnership with an orphanage in Malaysia or Indonesia
- Many possibilities for practical service and mission teams



MAKES 18

FISH CAKES with lime sauce

Ingredients

- 750 g firm white fish fillets (such as snapper or ling), coarsely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, quartered
- ½ cup fresh coriander leaves
- 3 kaffir lime leaves, centre veins removed and finely shredded
- 3 teaspoons red curry paste
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce
- 8 green beans, finely sliced
- Pinch salt
- Vegetable oil for shallow frying

Sauce

- ½ cup fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce
- ½ Lebanese cucumber, deseeded and finely chopped
- 1 small fresh red birdseye chilli, deseeded and thinly sliced
- Extra coriander leaves for garnish

Method

1. Place fish and garlic in food processor and process until finely chopped. Add coriander, lime leaves, curry paste, fish sauce and salt, and process until just combined. Transfer fish mixture to a bowl. Add beans and stir. Divide fish mixture into 18 equal portions. With wet hands, shape portions into 6 cm patties.
2. In a large frying pan, heat oil and cook patties in batches for two minutes each side or until golden brown and cooked through. Rest on paper towel. Cook remaining patties.
3. Combine sugar, lime juice and fish sauce in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, for five minutes or until sugar dissolves. Remove from heat. Add cucumber and chilli and stir to combine.
4. Arrange fish cakes on a serving platter and garnish with coriander. Serve immediately with lime and cucumber dipping sauce.