

BORDER CROSSINGS



global partners · local church



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**

global partners · local church

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CHRIST IN ME



'I have died, but Christ lives in me. And now I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me' Galatians 2:20 (CEV).

This is the life of a follower of Jesus. A life of love and service, shining with the light of Jesus Christ. A life not counting the cost.

In this edition of *Border Crossings* you'll read the stories of some of these followers of Jesus – people young and older, who have partnered with LCA International Mission. They share this extravagant love of Jesus with others, both here in our own country and across the borders of the lands in which we live.

Prayer is vital as we engage in the mission of God. In this Lenten season we invite you to join together with others in using *40 Days a Lenten prayer guide* to pray for the work of the LCA International Mission. Also please pray for our overseas partners as they live with Christ in them, sharing his love with those around them in situations and circumstances so very different from our own.

Glenice Hartwich

Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission
Lutheran Church of Australia

The LCA has two different arms reaching out across the borders of our country 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 Australia. Through LCA International Mission you are enabling Jesus' love to come to life in the lives of many people across the borders of our country and particularly in our near-neighbour countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

Lenten prayer guide



40 Days a Lenten prayer guide

has been prepared to help you as you partner with LCA International Mission in God's mission. An electronic copy of the booklet is available for you to download from the LCA International Mission website. Or if you would like hardcopies of *40 Days a Lenten prayer guide*, for yourself and to share with others, please contact Erin or Nevin at the LCA International Mission office on lcaim@lca.org.au or phone 08 8267 7300.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ON THE GOSPEL

'You've come back! You care about us! The church in Australia does care about us!'

This was our greeting the second year we returned to Papua New Guinea (PNG) as volunteers with Lutheran Church of Australia International Mission.

Each year the smiles were bigger and the trust grew. They shared their stories about the things that were happening in PNG, both the good and the not so good things that were affecting the church and its people. We were privileged to be able to listen, to share, to pray, to rejoice and to cry with them.

We spent time with church officials, pastors, teachers, students and nurses, including some who had studied at Australian Lutheran College or had been to conferences in Australia.

We attended church services in villages where the children were first to arrive, then sat down and started to sing 'Jesus songs' for up to 30 minutes before the service. In the towns, we attended worship with up to 600 people at a time. The singing was so powerful and moving, even if at times it was in a language we didn't know.

For Lutheran Women of Australia we visited remote health clinics to see how solar panels are a wonderful help for the health workers, especially at night when emergencies come in. Visits to Wok Meri Trening Skuls, where young women are trained to be Christian leaders in their communities, were also a highlight.

Visiting LCA workers in PNG was also part of our role. Having meals out together, sharing their highs and lows and praying with them was special. Initially there were five Australian workers but now there are only two – Mick Hauser, who is a lecturer at Martin Luther Seminary, and Hanna Schulz, Bible Translation Advisor with Wycliffe.

So how do we describe our role? Building relationships on the gospel. We are one in Christ. We can do nothing without our Lord and Saviour.

These people gave us so much – their trust, their love, their hospitality and gifts, including sharing their faith journeys. It is inspiring and humbling to be with them. Praise and thanks be to God for our neighbours in PNG.

Ruth and Colin Hayter have served as volunteer program assistants with LCA International Mission.



Colin and Ruth Hayter previously served as teachers in PNG with the Lutheran church. In recent years, they have served as volunteer program assistants for LCA International Mission, giving their time, love and deep commitment to the mission of God carried out by the LCA across the borders of our country. They would often say that they 'got much more out of it than they put in'. As volunteers, they have travelled around Australia visiting congregations and Lutheran Women of Australia groups to share the stories of the ministry and mission of LCA International Mission. We thank God for the faithful service of Colin and Ruth.

If you would like to learn more about how you could serve as a volunteer program assistant for LCA International Mission, have a chat to us – Glenice, Nevin or Erin on 08 8267 7300.



Our God is a global God

Why is international mission important to God? That was the first question I asked before leaving for Cambodia with GROW Leadership.

Sharing the gospel is a worthy thing to do but why would God call me from my local community and church to travel to a developing country with a haunting past – a place I never really wanted to go?

In the village of Phum Krus, at the Life Centre owned by the Lutheran Church in Cambodia, we made mushroom packs, which would provide income to the centre and surrounding villagers. This involved packing soaked hay in plastic bags, then steaming the packs for four hours. This was a practical way we could encourage the staff as they helped the local community.

We had the privilege of attending a church service conducted in both Khmer and English at City Church in the capital Phnom Penh. I will always remember *10,000 Reasons* being sung in both languages.

At a Bible study we discussed ways we came to faith, our churches and home countries. A university student explained the change in how her home rural farming community perceived her after she moved to the city to study. I could relate to what she was saying, as I had a similar experience.

That's when I realised God is God of the whole world, for all of time. God doesn't just work in my community or church, or at Phum Krus producing mushroom packs. He is a global God.

So international mission is important to God because sharing the love of Christ is important no matter where it is. In Cambodia, God taught us things we couldn't learn at home. He called us to serve, help build relationships and grow in our own faith journeys.

Katrina Rohrlach

MINISTRY BEARS AMAZING FRUIT

One of my favourite experiences from our Cambodia trip occurred at Phum Krus. We were asked to plan activities to do with children. We were expecting around 100 children but 200 came, as each child who usually came brought a friend.

The children really know how to pray. One person plucked from the crowd at random just prayed – without hesitation. This was amazing to me because I hate to pray out loud. And she prayed in front of so many people. This experience inspired me to pray. Hopefully, my youth at home might see that praying in front of 200 people isn't as scary as it seems with just a little trust in the Lord.

Then there was the singing. The Cambodian children sang with so much passion. I was so glad Sophouen – one of the Cambodian members of the GROW Leadership team – taught us a song so we could sing along. It was amazing, like somehow we were united through singing.

Many of the children who came that day were not Christian. Many were Buddhist. But they still knew all the words and actions to the Christian songs. This has given me so much hope – hope that this ministry might lead to one Buddhist child becoming a Christian. Hope that this Christian child might then help their family to become Christians. That this family might talk to their neighbours and help them to convert to Christianity. That maybe one day the whole village of Phum Krus might be Christian, despite the Buddhist temples at the town gates.

I can see amazing things happening in this village, thanks to the ministry of the Lutheran church there. I will never forget those experiences.

Renee Hein

Katrina and Renee were two of the participants in the 2017 GROW Leadership program, which included a 'Stretch and Grow' experience in Cambodia.



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GROW Leadership

In 2015 LCA International Mission sought a significant way to recognise the 50th birthday of the LCA and the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The general brief was to focus on intercultural youth leadership development, with the involvement of young adults from the LCA and our overseas partner churches. Partnering with Grow Ministries, LCA International Mission provided an opportunity for four young adults from our overseas partner churches to join GROW Leadership and sponsored all participants to join the 'Stretch and Grow' service event in Cambodia. For more information, go to www.growministries.org.au/who-we-are/grow-leadership



A MISSION FULL OF JOY

In 2007, I had what some may call the good fortune to be able to retire early from my chosen career as an accountant. At first it was fun – a gentleman of leisure no longer accountable for how he spent his time. But after about 18 months the gloss started to wear off; there was no real reason to get up and I had seemingly exhausted my bucket list.

At this point, one morning I was lying in bed relaxing when suddenly some words came into my head: 'Get up Stephen, I've got work for you to do'. In my heart I knew where these words came from, but what was I to do? Well, I waited. In due course and, through a series of happy 'coincidences', I was moved to put in a last-minute application for the advertised position of Finance Secretary for the Board for Missions of the LCA.

My application was successful and what a joy serving in this role has been for the past decade! Now that I am retiring, I can truthfully say that, while I have had a mostly happy working life, there is no doubt God saved the best job for last.

The duties of the position have been exceptionally varied, from commercial work with Finke River Mission store and tourist operations in Hermannsburg, to frontline mission and ministry with Aboriginal people in Central Australia, and the work of the church in Papua New Guinea and Asia.

In all this, I saw my primary role not as a scorekeeper but rather as an enabler who cleared the path, removed the administrative obstacles, and provided the resources for our frontline missionaries to get on with their work.

In all this I have been surrounded by, worked with and met a wonderful group of motivated, faithful people dedicated to furthering God's kingdom. I thank and praise the Lord for this privilege and opportunity.

Stephen Hoffmann is retiring from the role of LCA's Finance Secretary for Missions.



Sharing and learning as partners

The Lutheran Church of Australia and many of its congregations have had a long history of working with our brothers and sisters in the Lutheran churches of Indonesia.

Individual congregations have worked with specific churches there in supporting the work of Indonesian Lutherans with gifts, donations of money and equipment. The LCA has also had a tradition of supporting Indonesian pastors with further training at Australian Lutheran College (ALC), supporting the ministries of deacons, and in supporting Indonesian education systems, as can be seen by the pictured plaque.

However, the capacity of the people in Indonesia to maintain equipment or repair buildings has meant that many gifts have a limited life. Hence, since 2012 support from LCA International Mission has focused on Indonesian Lutheran schools and the development of the capacity of their school leaders.

The programs have targeted developing the skills of principals and their staff to work collaboratively with their communities on school improvement planning. In most cases, the operation of schools is very hierarchical, with little staff or student engagement in decision-making. The concept that the students and staff know what needs improving in their school is not readily understood by the principals. Indeed, one teacher admitted during a planning exercise that it was the first time in her 15 years at the school that she had been asked her opinion on anything.

One of the first exercises in any workshop is to rearrange the furniture and to demonstrate how a group can work collaboratively to produce the required outcomes. It is noticeable during workshops that conversations and laughter increases as the participants become comfortable sharing with each other.

Evaluations of the workshops always bring positive comments from the participants about their experiences of group work.

A second focus has been on establishing sister-school partnerships with our schools in Australia. Leaders from Indonesia have attended Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) conferences in Brisbane and Adelaide.



In March of 2017, 12 leaders from six Lutheran schools in Australia visited schools in Indonesia with a view of setting up sister-school relationships. The process has been guided by the experience gained by Navigator College, Port Lincoln, South Australia, through its successful sister-school partnership with Gereja Kritisen Protestan Simalungan (GKPS) School in Pematang Raya, in North Sumatra.

Since Navigator formed its sister-school partnership in 2012, six schools have begun partnerships and are planning for visits in 2018. There are now eight Lutheran schools from Australia collaborating with schools in Indonesia. Our goal is to have every school that teaches Indonesian as part of its academic program to be involved with a sister-school relationship.

Dr Neville Highett is Consultant in Lutheran education for LCA International Mission.

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.

1 PRAY

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.



I'M JOINING IN
GOD'S MISSION BY
praying for

- Young women and men who completed the GROW Leadership course, as they now use the experiences and learning they have received in their own contexts
- Bishops, leaders and members of our overseas Lutheran partner churches in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea, as they share the love of Jesus Christ with people in their regions
- The Provisional Orang Asli (indigenous people) District, a newly established district of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia
- National Education Secretary for the Lutheran churches in Indonesia Mr Ridwin Purba, and LCA International Mission education consultant Dr Neville Highett, as they help to support the education reform in the schools of the Lutheran churches in Indonesia
- Michael (Mick) Hauser, as he serves as a lecturer at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae, Papua New Guinea
- Hanna Schulz, as she continues in the ministry of Bible translation for the Kope people in the Gulf Province of Papua New Guinea
- Nathan and Stacey, as they serve in West Asia
- Pastor Amnuay and the evangelists sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the Lua people in Thailand's Nan Province
- The ministry team and people of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia, as they continue to share the gospel with their families and the people of their schools, universities, villages, rural areas and the city of Phnom Penh
- Chak Mun, a field coordinator from the Lutheran Church in Singapore, supporting projects and programs of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia
- LCA International Mission Volunteer Program Assistants Warren and Marianne Schirmer, and David Pietsch (Cambodia)
- Those from Australia and our partner churches who have been called into ministry and are studying at various seminaries
- Colin and Ruth Hayter, LCA International Mission Volunteer Program Assistants, who have now retired from this role
- Those people who have committed to serve as congregational reps for LCA International Mission
- People willing to serve as volunteers in and with our overseas partner churches
- For the love, justice and compassion of Jesus Christ to grow in each one of us
- For the willingness for us to join our heavenly Father wherever he opens our eyes, to see the work that he is already doing in the lives of others through the Holy Spirit

For regular prayer point updates, check out the LCA International Mission website www.lca.org.au/international-mission/join-gods-mission/pray/ They can also be accessed via the monthly LCA eNews – to sign up, go to www.lca.org.au/enews

If you would like to receive a copy of **40 Days a Lenten Prayer guide** please contact Erin or Nevin at lcaim@lca.org.au or phone **08 8267 7300**

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



2 GIVE

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.



I'M JOINING IN
GOD'S MISSION BY
giving to...

... 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.)

- ☐ Teaching ministry by Mick Hauser in **Papua New Guinea (PNG)** \$ _____
- ☐ Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for **PNG** \$ _____
- ☐ LCA lecturers to teach courses in **Lutheran overseas partner churches** \$ _____
- ☐ Scholarships for pastors and teachers of **Lutheran overseas partner churches** \$ _____
- ☐ School and ministry training rooms, Phnom Penh, Lutheran Church in **Cambodia** \$ _____
- ☐ Bethany Home for young people with disabilities in **Malaysia** \$ _____
- ☐ Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in **Malaysia** \$ _____
- ☐ Youth ministry program in Sabah, **Malaysia** \$ _____
- ☐ Mission work carried out with the Lua people in Nan Province, **Thailand** \$ _____
- ☐ Prison ministry in **Indonesia** \$ _____
- ☐ Books for the seminary libraries (for **overseas partner churches**) \$ _____
- ☐ Publication of Lutheran literature in **Indonesia** \$ _____
- ☐ Ministry in the Mekong region South-East Asia (through **Mekong Mission Forum**) \$ _____
- ☐ Women's Ministry Conference in **Myanmar** \$ _____
- ☐ **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)

☐ Pray ☐ 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 International Mission on **08 8267 7300** 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 _____

Email _____

Phone _____

☐ 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*

CAMBODIA

- Teach English at the Rainbow Student Hostel (Phnom Penh)
- Teach English and computing at the Life Centre (Phum Krus)
- Teach English at Tang Krang

INDONESIA

- Teach English to students at STT HKBP Seminary, Pematangsiantar
- Teach conversational English at the Bible Frau School, which trains young women to preach and teach
- Teach English and help in the library at the Deaconess School, a well-run school in the heart of North Sumatra
- Teach English to lecturers/students in an audio room at Abdi Sabda Seminary, Medan
- Teach handcrafts, English and vocational 'ed' for street people at the HKBP Caritas centre in Pematangsiantar

THAILAND

- Teach English or use music, art, sport, special education or IT skills at Home of Praise, in the after-school care program for children living in the slums of Bangkok
- Teach English or use handcraft or café skills at Home of Grace, a home where young unmarried women and their infants can be cared for
- Teach English in local schools in Nan Province

MALAYSIA

- Work with people with special needs, including speech/physical therapy, craft skills, music, sport, nursing, special education or pastoral care at Bethany Home
- Teach conversational English at one of four schools in rural Sabah, working with students and teaching staff to improve their English skills; or volunteer to share any skills if you have a love for people
- Teaching theological courses at the Lutheran Study Centre, Sabah

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Teach theology or English at Martin Luther Seminary – please note, this role is also suitable for secondary teachers with a Diploma in Theology
- Partner with a men's ministry group in PNG to share their love for Jesus while also doing some maintenance work at Lae Guest House and at other locations

SINGAPORE

- Teach English at the Thai Good News Center

MYANMAR

- Teach at the women's ministry conference held in Yangon to improve the Christian leadership and life skills of women in the churches
- Assist with planting crops in local villages
- Lecture or teach in mission, agriculture and farming at the Lutheran Bible Training Institute, Mawbi
- Teach English, IT or business management for the Lutheran Bethlehem Church, Myanmar Lutheran Church or the Lutheran Church of Myanmar

WHAT TO DO NEXT ...

If you would like to know more about volunteering in mission overseas, check out our website www.lca.org.au/international-mission or contact LCA International Mission Program Officer Nevin Nitschke at nevin.nitschke@lca.org.au or lcaim@lca.org.au or phone 08 8267 7300



SERVES 4

THAI MANGO CHICKEN

It's delicious!

Ingredients

- 2 chicken breast fillets (cut into strips)
- 1 capsicum (sliced into strips)
- 6 spring onions (sliced)
- Oil for frying
- ½ cup plain flour, mixed with salt and pepper
- ½ cup fresh coriander (chopped)

Mango sauce

- 1 fresh ripe mango (flesh scooped)
- 1 red chilli (deseeded and diced)
- 1 tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 ½ tbsp fish sauce
- Zest of 1 lime
- Juice of ½ lime
- 1 cm fresh ginger (roughly chopped)
- 2 cloves garlic
- ½ tsp turmeric
- 1 fresh ripe mango (diced – to add later with chicken)

Method

Place all mango sauce ingredients in food processor. Blend until smooth

Coat chicken with flour mixture

Heat wok or pan, add oil and fry chicken pieces until golden brown (3-5 minutes per side)

Remove chicken from pan; wipe pan clean and gently sauté capsicum and spring onions

Add mango sauce mixture and bring to gentle boil. If sauce becomes too thick, add 3–4 tbsp water (or coconut milk)

Add fried chicken pieces and diced mango, stirring to cover them with sauce

Stir in half of the chopped coriander

Transfer to serving plate.

Sprinkle with remaining coriander