



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION**
global partners · local church

FACT SHEET *Singapore*



YOUR PARTNERS IN MISSION

The Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) was constituted in 1997 following the separation from the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (LCMS). The Lutheran Church in Singapore shares its early history with the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (LCMS). In 1960, the American Lutheran mission in Malaya built a church at Duke's Road in Bukit Timah together with two other small Lutheran congregations from the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Huria Kristen Batak Protestant in Singapore. Worship services in English, Chinese, Tamil and Batak were held in the church. In 1963, a second congregation was established in Queenstown and the mission was able to obtain one of the six religious sites allocated in Queenstown through the help of a member of the Batak congregation. As one of the three constituent districts of the LCMS, the congregations in Singapore were grouped as the Singapore District. In 1997, the Lutheran Church in Singapore was constituted as a separate national body for Lutheran churches in Singapore with the Rev. John Tan Yok Han elected as the first Bishop of the church (1997-2009). The current Bishop of the LCS from 2009 to the present is Rev. Terry Kee Buck Hwa.

The LCS is a mission focused church with established mission areas in China, Mongolia, Thailand and Cambodia, together with a major mission through the International Seafarers Mission in the ports of Singapore.

The partnership (relationship) of the LCA together with the LCS is considered a graduated partnership, where both churches join together in mission and ministry. In the past the LCA has supported the LCS in various ways with particular support for its ministry through the Thai Good News Centre (based in Singapore), the International Seafarers' Mission, the mission / teaching in China and scholarships offered to various LCS pastors and special ministry pastor, and short-term visit of LCS pastors to Australian Lutheran College.

The LCA has supported the project of the LCS to illustrate and translate the LCA publication 'Growing as God's People' into Chinese.



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ERIN KERBER

your Singapore Program Officer

I'm here to help you and encourage you to join God's mission in Singapore.

The population of Singapore is diverse, the result of considerable past immigration. Chinese predominate, making up some three-fourths of the total. Malays are the next largest ethnic group, and Indians the third. None of those three major communities is homogeneous. Among the Chinese, more than two-fifths originate from Fujian province and speak the Amoy (Xiamen) dialect, about one-fourth are Teochew from the city of Shantou in Guangdong province, and a smaller number are from other parts of Guangdong. Linguistic differences are less pronounced among the Malays, but the group includes Indonesians speaking Javanese, Boyanese, and other dialects. The Indian group is most diverse, consisting of Tamils (more than half), Malayalis, and Sikhs; it also includes Pakistani and Sinhalese communities. I'm meeting people who are thanking God for the rapid growth of the Christian community in Singapore. I'd love to visit your congregation, school or group to discuss ways you can partner with our Lutheran friends in Singapore.

MISSION EXPERIENCES FOR YOU!

PRAY

Sign up to our e-newsletter to receive updates and prayer points. Simply go to www.lca.org.au/enews, add your email address and select LCA International Mission. Done!

CONNECT

Talk to me about a Singapore partnership. You can pray for your partners in mission, raise funds for projects, and receive updates about the exciting work God is doing among the people you support. (You'll gain more than you give, you know!)

GIVE

Visit our donate page and select the Singapore projects that God is nudging you to support. www.lca.org.au/international-mission/donate
If websites are out of your comfort zone, just call me; I'll help you to donate any way you want.



GO

Want the face-to-face experience? Sure! You can join a mission team or create one from your congregation, school or small group, and even your family. Or you can volunteer to teach English or computing for short stints, or use your skills and gifts to contribute to a community. Do you think God might be calling you to serve in Singapore? Call me (Erin) to talk about it.

ABOUT SINGAPORE

Singapore is a wealthy city state in south-east Asia. Once a British colonial trading post, today it is a thriving global financial hub and described as one of Asia's economic "tigers". It is also renowned for its conservatism and strict local laws and the country prides itself on its stability and security. Chinese account for more than 75% of Singapore's multi-racial population, with Malays and Indians making up much of the remainder. Densely-populated, most of its people live in public-housing tower blocks. Its trade-driven economy is heavily supported by foreign workers. In 2013, the government forecast that by 2030, immigrants will makeup more than 50% of the population. The People's Action Party has dominated politics since the country declared independence from Malaysia in 1965. Issues such as the rising cost of living, immigration and income inequality are major challenges facing the government.

	Singapore	Australia
Population	5,888,926	24,189,000
Religions (%)	Buddhist 33.9, Muslim 14.3, Taoist 11.3, Christian 11, Catholic 7.1, Hindu 5.2, other 0.7, none 16.4	Christian 55.4, None 22.3, Unspecified 9.3
UN World Ranking	5	2
Below poverty line*	N/A	N/A
Literacy	97%	96%
Infant mortality	24 per 1000 births	4.3 per 1000 births
Life expectancy	85.2 years	82.2 years
Clean water	100%	100%
Proper sanitation	100%	100%

* Definitions of poverty vary but often considered to be US\$2 or less a day.

MORE INFORMATION

You can view videos and read stories about God's mission in Singapore, on your LCA International Mission website www.lca.org.au/international-mission or call or email me (Erin) erin.kerber@lca.org.au | lcaim@lca.org.au | 08 8267 7300