



global partner's local church

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BORDER CROSSINGS

LCA Mission International



Designed by: Anna Schubert
annaisagraphicdesigner@gmail.com

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LCA Mission International
197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006
Phone: 08 8267 7334
Email: bfm@lca.org.au
Web: www.lcamission.com.au



USING WHAT YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN

Not every one of us can travel overseas to serve ... and not every follower of Jesus is expected to do this ... but each one of us 'has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in service of others. So use your gift well ... in a way that will bring honour to God because of Jesus Christ, who is powerful and glorious for ever' (1 Peter 4:10,11). 'Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope' (1 Peter 3:15).

The mission to which God calls us is all around us—in our homes, neighbourhoods, suburbs ... and overseas.

As a young person (a long time ago) I was drawn into the mission of God, as the Spirit used the stories shared by people returning to Australia, on furlough from their work in Papua New Guinea, and by family and friends who openly talked about what God had done and was doing in their lives. They were witnesses to the activity of God.

Let's recover the gift of storytelling, witnessing ... telling what God has done, and is doing, in and around us and through us ... here and overseas.

'... the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me' (Acts 1:8).

*'the Holy Spirit will
come upon you and
give you the power.
Then you will tell
everyone about me.'*



Glenice Hartwich
Program Officer
LCA Mission International



SHARING

A PASSIONATE RESPONSE



The work of the Spirit is to point people to the very best the Father has to give—his Son. The work of the Spirit is to point people to Jesus, who gives life and saves from death. That's Pentecost and Trinity and with it comes God's call to us to be led by the Spirit and bring others to Jesus too.

The Pentecost story is inspirational. It's a story of walking and working together led by the Spirit, inspired by the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's a story of building up people for faith and for life. It's the story of Jesus' disciples and church growing throughout the world. It's the story we hear each Sunday in Pentecost season. It's the story of many who have gone before—and it's today's story of Nick Schwarz volunteering in PNG, working with Jack Urame in Goroka. It's today's story of the SHWALLY youth group from the Adelaide Hills walking and growing with young Lutherans in Malaysia.

It's the story of Navigator College partnering with Lutheran schools in Indonesia. It's the many stories of young and old—individuals, groups, congregations, schools—all following where the Spirit of God is leading them, with Jesus, to bring his good news!

"When the Counsellor comes whom I send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify..."
15: 26, 27a

Read about some of them in this edition of *Border Crossings* and then go to www.lcamission.org.au to be inspired by more stories! Pray for these people and these partnerships and expect the Spirit to inspire you too.

The story of the Spirit of God bringing people to the cross and to the resurrection of Jesus ... it's your story too, isn't it? Are you ready for a new chapter in the story?

'When the Counsellor comes whom I send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify...' (John 15:26,27a).

Pastor Neville Otto
Mission Director
Lutheran Church of Australia



Research sheds light on **DARK PRACTICES**

This year there have been some shocking reports from Papua New Guinea (PNG) of 'witch killings'. The victims were accused of using dark powers to kill someone in their community, then 'arrested and executed' by their neighbours.

Papua New Guineans get upset when people who are important to them die—just as we do. But when there is some reason to view a death as suspicious, they try to find out who was responsible, sometimes using questionable methods like divination and necromancy.

Belief in spirits and dark powers is still strong in PNG. Killing 'witches' is widely seen as right and prudent. But nowadays beliefs often aren't exactly 'traditional'. The horror films now frequently shown in rural villages—downloaded from the internet by relatives in town—have introduced all sorts of mixed-up ideas about vampires and so on.

PNG is struggling to find ways to put an end to witch-killing. In May PNG's parliament abolished the Sorcery Act, a law that governed the handling of cases involving black magic. Many people welcomed the move, saying that in recent times the law has protected torturers and murderers who cynically appeal to custom if they are caught.

In June this year, Lutheran Church of Australia Mission International volunteer Nick Schwarz and his boss Pastor Jack Urame from the Melanesian Institute of Pastoral and Socio-Cultural Service in Goroka in PNG's Eastern Highlands, participated in a conference at Australian National University to discuss ways to deal with the problem of sorcery-related killings in PNG.

PNG-based participants from that conference plan a follow-up workshop in PNG in November to bring together influential people working in health, education, law enforcement, community development, churches and human rights organisations.



Prayer

Please pray for God's blessing on that workshop, and all other ongoing efforts in PNG to bring these killings to an end.



MANY TASKS ... ONE GOAL

Hanna Schulz arrived in Papua New Guinea (PNG) just before Easter 2012 to serve as a linguist and translator. Since her arrival, she's helped various language groups around the country to translate and use Scripture.

This has meant getting stuck into the wide range of tasks which contribute to Bible translation and to discipleship. The first step of language translation is the 'translation awareness workshop', which Hanna was involved in for two of the local languages.

Elsewhere she was able to assist the Hinsaal people to enter their final edits into a computer, for the whole of the New Testament, ready for typesetting and printing.

Recording and transcribing stories with the Ghayavi people became the foundation of a grammar paper which will help consultants ensure that their team produces a clear, accurate and natural translation.

With the Anuki people, Hanna worked as a translation advisor, asking careful questions to ensure the translation was on track. Formatting hymnbooks and leading a workshop on translating Sunday school materials were two ways in which she was able to help local church communities to teach and use God's word.

When not in the regions assisting language teams, Hanna helps with administration of PNG-wide projects, from an office at the administrative centre in Ukarumpa in the Highlands.

In the future Hanna hopes to partner with another translator and be assigned to one language group long-term. This will mean learning the language and working with a local team to translate the Bible and disciple the Christians in the area.

Hanna is a member of Lutheran Bible Translators Australia (LBTA).

LBTA was formed in 1981 and operates under LCA Mission International. Our Bible translators are completely reliant on the generosity of others. You can join in the exciting work that God is doing through your prayerful support and by donating to LBTA.

Building A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Wayne Beven is one of four Australians currently working in Papua New Guinea (PNG) through the partnership of LCA Mission International. Many of his life and work experiences—from birth to boilermaker and manager in Broken Hill (NSW), to owning his own businesses in various locations in South Australia—have shaped and made Wayne Beven the right person for the work he's now doing in PNG.

His in-between jobs have included restoring houses and volunteering on mission teams with St John's Lutheran Church (Unley SA) and with Habitat for Humanity in Fiji, Sri Lanka and India. Each of these experiences has prepared him amply for his current position in Lae, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG), where he has worked since October 2011 as the building and construction advisor.



In recent times, Wayne and his crew (Leo, Arabi, Charlie, Elijah and Hetrick) have been involved in the construction of a resource centre at Ampo, the major upgrade of the overseas partner church (OPAC) house and the two-stage extension of the finance office.

New projects—including the recommencement of construction of the pastor's transit house at Ampo, the construction of two new houses for Lutheran Health Service at Ampo, a doctor's house at Etep and a maternity aid post at Asaroka—will continue to make life full and interesting for Wayne and the team in the year ahead.

The situation in PNG has changed greatly over the years; the need for due care and increased levels of security are called for in much greater ways.

As anyone who's worked in a culture other than their own will testify, life is not always easy as you cope with the isolation from family and friends.

However, the opportunity of passing on new skills to his team of men, and seeing them grow in their knowledge of the building and construction trade is a real joy for Wayne. In return he is sharing in and learning from experiences that shape and challenge him in new ways. All this in a country that is so close, but in some ways far removed from life in Australia, and in a church where our partnership, past and present, is greatly valued.



LEARNING THROUGH PRACTICAL PARTNERSHIPS



Partnership is one of the most important ingredients when working in mission. The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) has established relationships with overseas partner churches, and it is within these relationships that schools can strike up rewarding partnerships of their own, through Lutheran Education Australia and LCA Mission International.

One such rewarding partnership exists between Navigator College, Port Lincoln, South Australia, and the SMA Gereja Kristen Protestan Simalungun (GKPS) high school in North Sumatra, Indonesia.

'Within our Christian Studies curriculum there is a service component, and the whole school has considered ways in which they could serve others', Navigator College principal, Mrs Kaye Mathwin-Cox, said.

Most students at Navigator College have been involved in fundraising for both their partner school and nearby Margarita orphanage in North Sumatra.

In October 2012, a service-learning trip to North Sumatra was organised for Year 11 students at Navigator College. For almost two weeks the students were involved in teaching English and sharing their lives and faith with the GKPS students. In return they learnt much about the Simalungun culture in North Sumatra and were amazed at the depth of cultural knowledge that seemed to be innate for their student counterparts.

'As a direct result of our school partnership, a new language laboratory and science laboratory were opened at the school, funded by the Indonesian Government', Mrs. Mathwin-Cox said.

Since returning from their trip, many of the students experienced shock at the way we live in Australia. They said that people in North Sumatra were very poor, but they didn't see anyone upset; they were relaxed, kind and cheerful.

But their most profound lesson was to witness 'family' as priority number one for the Simalunguns. This had a big effect on the teenagers.

This school partnership continues to blossom—with a visit in 2013 from the GKPS principal to study Navigator's teaching methods (sponsored by Navigator College) and another Year 11 trip to GKPS booked for October.

What a blessed partnership! —swathed in God's love, and in which everybody learns and keeps on learning.





ROSEMARY'S GIFT



On 25 June, Rosemary Winderlich returned to Deborah Orphanage in Indonesia for her tenth time as an LCA Mission International volunteer. Since 2005 Rosemary has travelled to this remote area in the middle of North Sumatra to teach the children life skills, including English. As she does this, Rosemary shares the love of Jesus, in very practical ways, with the children who call Debora Orphanage home.

Her gifts of service are many and varied. In the English classes Rosemary concentrates on getting the children to talk and practise speaking through songs, games and debates. The learning continues while cooking, sewing, walking together, first aid and other practical lessons and many deep discussions.

'Over the years, I have needed to listen, learn and respect their ways, even if I can't understand them', says Rosemary.

Asked why she has continued to go there each year, she says, 'I am convinced that I'm doing God's will. In all these visits I have lived a total of over two years with the children. We have lived through a lot together. I love the children of Debora and other friends; I love being there. I keep in contact with past graduates. I believe I am useful!'

'When will I stop? Soon! I am a bit forgetful ... I worry my children! And friends in Indonesia worry more about me as I get older. I don't want to be a burden', she says.

'I keep praying for another volunteer to take an interest in Debora—a small, isolated home in Indonesia. Our interest helps in many ways. I am rich and loved and blessed. I thank God for sending me there.'

If you would like to know more about volunteering through the LCA Mission International, check out the website www.lcamission.org.au or phone

08 8267 7334.

I'M JOINING *God's mission* BY GIVING TO

I'm praying for

- Pastor Greg Schiller, at Ogelbeng Seminary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG)
- Pastor Simon, Oiy and Nopakorn (Aussie) Mackenzie, in Nan Province, Thailand
- Simon King, LCA Mission International (MI) Program Assistant for Thailand (volunteer)
- Sally Lim, Lutheran Church of Singapore (LCS) – Coordinator for Mission of LCS and coordinator of Lutheran World Mission, Cambodia
- Pastors Daniel, Mose and Vibol and their families serving in Cambodia
- Warren Schirmer, LCA MI Program Assistant for Cambodia (volunteer)
- Nick Schwarz, Research Assistant with the Melanesian Institute in Goroka, PNG
- Wayne Beven, Building and Construction Advisor for the ELCPNG
- Hanna Schulz, Translator with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBTA) in Papua New Guinea
- Margaret Mickan, Translator with LBTA in Northern Territory
- Colin and Ruth Hayter, LCA MI Program Assistants for PNG (volunteers)
- Pastors, leaders and people of the Chinese and Asian Lutheran churches in Australia and LCA pastor, Rev Brian Shek, as he coordinates and supports the Asian ministry of the LCA
- Pastors and leaders of the emerging African congregations in the LCA
- Congregations and schools developing mission partnerships with overseas partner churches through the LCA MI
- 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 that he is already doing in the lives of others

"Lord, renew your church, begin with me"

For regular prayer point updates, check out the LCA Mission International website
www.lcamission.org.au

I'M JOINING

God's mission

BY GIVING TO

You're invited to join in God's mission in the world ... by supporting the LCA's Mission International work through 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.)

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Lutheran Hostel Ministry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Ministry programs of Lutheran World Mission, Cambodia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Bethany Home for disabled young people in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Singapore Thai Good News Centre | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Mission work carried out by Simon and Oiy Mackenzie in Thailand | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Mission work carried out by Greg Schiller in Papua New Guinea (PNG) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Publication of tracts and other Christian literature for PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Scholarships (for partner churches) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Youth ministry program in Sabah | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Orphanages in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> LCA/LLL projects in Indonesia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Bible translation (LBTA) Hanna Schulz | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Bible translation (LBTA) Margaret Micken | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Ministry to and with indigenous people (Orang Asli) in Malaysia | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Scholarships for children of pastors in PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Seminaries in Sabah, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia And PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Medical mission work in PNG | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Books for the seminary libraries of our overseas partner churches | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Ministry in the Mekong region (through Mekong Mission Forum) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> LCA lecturers to teach courses overseas with partner churches | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Translation of Christian literature into local language in Indonesia and Malaysia | \$ _____ |

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 (credit card)
- ◆ OR fill out the form below (credit card or cheque)
- ◆ OR Electronic Funds Transfer
– please contact LCA MI **08 8276 7334** for details

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

Please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card no _____

Expiry ____/____ Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

_____ P/C _____

☐ Please send me a receipt

Please send this completed form to

LCA Mission International

197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006

FISH AND VEGETABLE KORMA

quick and tasty curry

SERVES 4



INGREDIENTS

3 heaped tbsp Patak's korma paste

700g firm white fish (eg flake, ling, butterfish), scaled, pin-boned and cut into even chunks

Olive oil

Bunch spring onions, trimmed and finely sliced

1 capsicum (seeded), cut into chunks

1 zucchini, diced into chunks

1 carrot, thinly sliced

1 tin 400ml low-fat coconut milk

6 coriander stalks, finely chopped

½-1 fresh red chilli, finely sliced

1 lime, juiced

METHOD

- Place fish pieces in bowl with 2 tbsp of korma paste and mix well. Allow to stand while preparing remaining ingredients.
- Heat large frying pan on medium heat.
- Add olive oil to the hot pan.
- Add fish and cook for 10 minutes, turning after five minutes.
- Add chopped vegetables and stirfry on one side of the frying pan.
- Add the white half of sliced spring onions.
- Stir in the remaining korma paste, coconut milk, coriander stalks and the fresh chilli.
- Simmer for a couple of minutes until the fish is starting to flake apart.
- Add lime juice to taste.
- Serve with rice and naan bread.
- Garnish with chopped spring onions and coriander leaves.

VOLUNTEER

opportunities

Join in God's mission as a volunteer.

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

The opportunities and places are many, and the experience ... life-changing! A few of the current volunteering possibilities are in ...

Malaysia

- Bethany Home (school / homes for people with disabilities)— 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
- Rumah Luther Ria (school for people with disabilities)
- Rumah Chrestus (home for abused children)
- Rumah Hope (home for orphans, abused and neglected children)
- Rumah Love and Care (home for aged people)

Thailand

- Home of Praise (in the slums of Bangkok)
- Home of Grace (for unwed mothers and their babies)

Indonesia

- Teaching English in the schools and seminaries
- Teaching English and practical help in various orphanages

Consider encouraging your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group to become personally involved in a mission partnership.

- Partnership with Lutheran schools
- Partnership with an orphanage

If you would like to know more about volunteering in mission overseas or if you would like to begin to understand how your congregation, school, youth group or fellowship group can partner in mission, check out the website: www.lcamission.org.au or contact LCA MI: email bfm@lca.org.au or phone **08 8267 7334**.

