



THE GARUNA FOUNDATION PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Garuna's Vision

By God's Garuna/Grace and blessing we will see healthy and vibrant indigenous Christian (Lutheran) Church bodies and congregations in several Southeast Asian nations. Each country's Church body and congregations will be actively planting new congregations and will be involved in mission, theological training, education, and outreach. We will see a strong and effective training ministry through the Luther Institute Southeast Asia (LISA) in each country with a goal of training pastors, deaconesses, teachers, and lay leaders to serve and lead this growing and lively Church. We will see a network of Christian (Lutheran) schools providing excellent educational opportunities to hundreds of local children (Garuna Kids) with a strong base of qualified teachers, operating with close connections to the local congregations and helping to plant new congregations. We will see these ministries taking place utilizing principles of self-sustainability so that what has begun may be continued and expanded by God's Garuna/Grace through the strong local, national, indigenous Churches.

Garuna's Mission

The mission of The Garuna Foundation is to support and encourage the proclamation of the grace, mercy, and compassion (Garuna) of Jesus Christ to the people(s) of Thailand, Cambodia, and surrounding countries.

Garuna's Three Key Impact Points

I. Luther Institute – Southeast Asia (LISA): Indigenous Bible and Leadership Training Ministry

- ✓ The purpose of LISA is to help provide the Bible and leadership training requested by the indigenous national church (Lutheran) for its pastors, deaconesses, teachers, and lay leaders.
- ✓ This 20+ course Biblically and practically based training curriculum helps prepare indigenous leaders who will develop their own national Church, train their own leaders, and plant additional congregations and schools in their respective countries.
- ✓ LISA course teaching responsibility and country leadership will be gradually turned over to indigenous and qualified LISA trained pastors and leaders.
- ✓ LISA provides excellent Bible, teaching, and leadership training materials in the local languages.
- ✓ LISA will be a resource for the local pastors and teachers for materials and courses that can be utilized in their local congregations and ministries in their own languages.
- ✓ LISA will provide mentorship training for LISA leaders so that they can grow in their roles of service in their own local Church bodies.

II. Indigenous National Lutheran Churches:

- ✓ Garuna will partner with the national Lutheran Churches through LISA, Garuna Christian Schools, and various types of outreach and training projects that can be requested through the national Lutheran Church's Board of Directors.
- ✓ The national Lutheran Churches exercise their own leadership and autonomy in all areas of the development of the indigenous Lutheran Church in their respective country.
- ✓ The national Lutheran Churches will be active in their church planting, evangelism, training, and missionary activity—Garuna will entertain project requests from their respective Board of Directors for projects or training that support these activities.
- ✓ At the proper time and solely by their initiative, the various national Lutheran Churches may request membership in the International Lutheran Council.

III. Garuna Christian Schools & Garuna Kids: Ministry for Children and Families

- ✓ The primary purpose of the Garuna Christian Schools is to be an avenue for the sharing of the Good News of Jesus with the children who attend a GCS and with their families.
- ✓ Garuna Christian Schools provide a half-day tutorial educational opportunity for children (Bible, math, Khmer, English), currently in Cambodia but not limited to Cambodia, to supplement what education they receive in a public school.
- ✓ The GCS is designed to either be a place of outreach ministry for an established local Lutheran congregation or it is to be used to help plant a new Lutheran congregation in a new location for the national Lutheran Church.
- ✓ Garuna Kids is a child-scholarship ministry that enables children from impoverished families to attend a Garuna Christian School at no cost to the family.
- ✓ Garuna School facilities may be used for worship services, vocational and health training events, and for community development activities that are deemed appropriate by the local school and church authorities in consultation with Garuna leadership.
- ✓ It is hoped that Garuna will be able to open Garuna Christian Schools in other nearby countries in time.

Garuna's Values

WE BELIEVE THAT:

- The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. (Psalm 145:8,9; see also Ex. 34:6, Numbers 14:18, Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 86:15; Jeremiah 32: 18; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; and Nahum 1:3.)
- Human sin has separated us from this good and gracious God, necessitating the rescue mission of God to save us sinners and draw us back into relationship with him (Isaiah 59:2).
- Jesus Christ embodied God's grace in personal form (John 1:16,17), responding with compassion (Matthew 9:36; 14:14) to the cries of people for his mercy (Matt. 9:27; 15:22; 20:30) and went the way of the cross to provide forgiveness for all people (Titus 2:11-14).
- Due to our sin, no one deserves the grace of God but receives it solely as a gift flowing from God's generosity (Ephesians 2: 1-10).

- Those who receive God’s grace by faith are now called to share that gift with others in word and deed, seeking to imitate the compassion of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:32 – 5:2; Colossians 3:12-14).
- All that we have is actually owned by God, which we are privileged to manage for him, understanding this stewardship as a means of demonstrating Christ’s compassion to others (Psalm 24:1).

AS AN EXTENSION OF THESE CORE VALUES, WE AFFIRM THAT:

- The primary purpose of the Garuna Foundation is the support of indigenous Lutheran mission, pastoral and leadership training, church planting, Christian (Lutheran) schools, and the development of the indigenous church in Southeast Asia.
- The highest ethical standards of fund development and fiscal stewardship are to be practiced.
- Volunteers should be involved and play a major role in fund development.
- The continuing education of volunteers should be pursued to improve the overall program.
- The Garuna Foundation has the obligation to review all gifts to ensure that they are in the best interests of the donor, the receiving organization, and Garuna.
- Donors have the right to designate gifts, and we are committed to carry out their intent.
- Raising funds should be done in a cost- effective manner and all financial information should be presented in a clear and timely manner.
- The assets of the Garuna Foundation must be managed to earn competitive returns and safeguard the funds for the long term.

+ To God be the Glory +

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