



Department for Mission
Lutheran Church - South Australia / Northern Territory

LCA SA/NT District
Department for Mission

Director
Dr Steen Olsen



African Ministry Gathering

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
388 Montague Road
Para Vista SA 5093**

**Saturday 23rd February 2013
11.00am – 5.00pm**

*Please bring food to share for lunch
Coffee and Tea will be provided for lunch and for an afternoon break
We are endeavouring to organise activities for the children*

This gathering is for African people who are part of the ministry and mission of the Lutheran Church and for others who work with them or are interested in this ministry

After lunch we gather for **worship**. There will then be the opportunity **to listen to one another and discuss** issues relating to African ministry and mission in the Lutheran Church.

Our last gathering focused on ***Youth ministry and the participation of African Youth in camps and the youth, worship and other activities of our congregations, including the role of mentoring and other support.*** Steps have been taken to assist African young people to attend the Novo youth camp for year 7-12s at Cornerstone College, 68 Adelaide Road, Mt Barker on 19-22 April 2013 (see over the page).

This gathering will focus on housing and schooling

We hope to have representatives from Lutheran Community Housing and Lutheran Community Care to assist us in understanding the housing situation.

We hope to have a representative from the Lutheran Schools Association to provide information on our schools and scholarships that are available to help with costs.

Preliminary meetings have identified a number of other issues that are of concern to our African members and may also become the primary focus area of future gatherings. We will discuss them as time allows at this gathering. They include

- ***Mission back into Africa.*** Are we able to support particular projects and other initiatives among the people in areas of Africa that our members have come from? The LCA Board for Mission and Australian Lutheran World Service will be able to help us with this discussion.
- ***The involvement and integration of African members into our congregations.*** Including all areas of congregational life but perhaps with an initial focus on worship. How can the vibrancy of African worship add to the flavour of our regular worship services? What can our African sisters and brothers contribute to our music and other parts of our services? The LCA SA/NT Department for Mission will help with this discussion.

- **Practical support and knowing where to obtain help when needed remains a significant area.** Most of our African members have now been in Australia for longer than five years and so the various government programs for new refugees are no longer available to them. Yet significant needs remain that still involve settling into a new land with different customs, laws and approaches. Relationship issues including parenting and assistance when dealing with government departments and the Police are important. Lutheran Community Care will help us to understand what is available and how to access support.

Novo 2013, a camp for Year 7-12 students, run by the Lutheran Church Department for Child, Youth and Family's Blueprint Ministries at Cornerstone Lutheran College, Mt Barker, 19-22 April 2013.

We have been able to arrange for up to 20 African Youth to attend at the following rates:

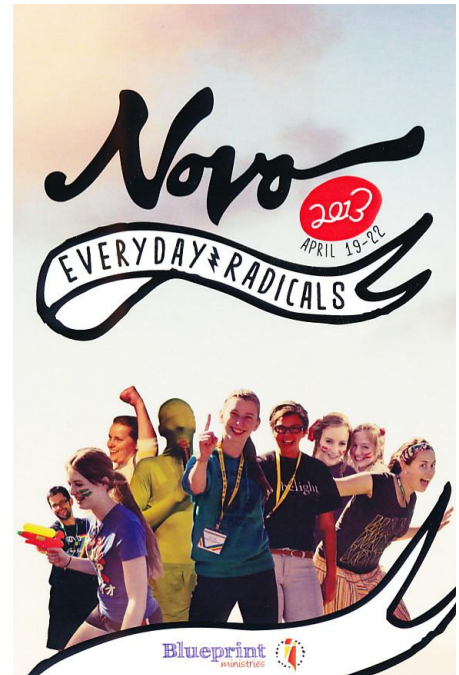
1 st Child in a family	\$30
2 nd Child in a family	\$10
3 rd + Child in a family	Free

The normal early-bird rate is \$150/140 for registrations received by March 15th. This is also the closing date for this offer.

This is a one-off offer – we won't be able to repeat this at future camps. Local congregations are asked to assist by covering part of the cost if they are able. The balance of the cost will come from LCA SA/NT District Department for Mission funds.

The purpose of this offer is to enable African young people to build relationships with other youth and become part of the Church's youth ministry.

Please note that there will be other costs associated with the camp including transport to and from the venue, purchase of a t-shirt etc. The normal registration forms need to be filled out online at <http://novo2013.eventzilla.net>. You don't need to make a payment on-line. Just note that you are taking up the African Youth offer and email the details to mission@sa.lca.org.au and we will contact you in regard to the payment (the Medical & Consent form will also need to be completed). Contact Adam on novo@blueprintministries.org.au or 0405 456 650 for more information, or visit <http://www.blueprintministries.org.au/events/novo>



A final word...

This gathering is open to all who wish to participate. We want to empower our African sisters and brothers so for the rest of us the emphasis is on listening and learning rather than telling. Our cultural diversity brings a richness to the fabric of our Church and is part of God's blessing to us in the 21st Century. We have much to learn from the faith in Jesus Christ many of our African sisters and brothers live today. A faith that has often been tested by hardship and tragedy that the rest of us may struggle to comprehend. A faith that is naturally shared with others and celebrated with vigour and enthusiasm. Like all relationships this is two-way. We all have much to contribute and much to receive.

Steen Olsen
12 February 2013