**I believe in Father Christmas**

I believe in Father Christmas. He’s the Father of Christmas, the Father of Christ. He’s both the giver and the gift. His gift is life itself and the accessories are all that enhances life and gives it meaning. His coming inspires hope and anticipation. People lighten up with kindness and generosity.

He comes unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When you look for him you might not see him, but he always comes. Sometimes we recognize him, other times we don’t. His image is a man, but he’s much more than that. He doesn’t have an actual name, and whenever you see pictures of him, he always looks slightly different. He’s covered from head to toe, including most of his face - almost like a disguise. That’s because he can’t be defined by a name or an image.

He’ll always find a way in. If you don’t have a chimney and you lock your doors, he’ll manage to infiltrate your defenses and bless you anyway.

Some say he won’t come if you’ve been bad, but that’s never happened. He comes whether you’re good or bad or a classic blend of both and his gifts are extravagant. You can tell him what you want, but even if you haven’t communicated with him, he always seems to know exactly what’s right for you. His gifts are perfect, as though he knows you intimately, travels with you through your highs and lows and anticipates every need. Because of his personal knowledge of you, he can lead you into exciting experiences with gifts you’d never have asked for.

How does he get to all people on earth in a single night? Well, he comes to earth, but he’s not from here. The truth is, he comes and he stays. The spirit of Christmas among people may come and go, but the Father of Christmas lives with us, through his son Jesus, every day of the year.

Heather Waring
Executive Assistant
Cornerstone College students head to Cambodia as part of the ALWS Student Christian Service and Learning Tour

Yesterday, Wednesday 5th December, Rhiannon Dick, Victoria Brumpton and Georgia Reynolds three Yr 11 students from Cornerstone College together with Miss Kayla Chumbley flew out of Adelaide to join 16 other students and staff from four other Lutheran schools in Queensland to spend two weeks in Cambodia on the ALWS Student Christian Service and Learning Tour to Cambodia.

During the two weeks in Cambodia the students will get to see firsthand the variety of work ALWS does to improve the lives of people in Cambodia as well as experience Cambodia’s history and culture. At the start of the tour participants will spend time in Phnom Penh visiting the Killing Fields, S21 and the Royal Palace. They will also spend time at the LWD (Life with Dignity) Headquarters learning about the work that they do in partnership with ALWS.

The group will then spend a week in the Aoral District of Cambodia spending quality time in the rural villages, some that have started development programs and others that have graduated from development programs. It is here that they will learn about the joys and challenges of rural life in Cambodia and the need for justice action. It is during this week that the teachers and students will work with the village people on projects that are underway in the village, learn about food security issues and meet the development participants as well as the people who work for LWD.

The trip will conclude with a couple of days at Siem Reap visiting the various temples including Ankor Wat. When asked about what she was looking forward to as being part of the trip Rhiannon Dick said ‘I applied for the trip simply because I feel a great deal of passion and empathy towards the issue of poverty and would love to be able to see how ALWS is changing the lives of Cambodians through their work over there. It will also be a great opportunity to experience and be immersed in another culture as I have not travelled overseas before. After the trip I hope to be able to bring back some inspiring stories from the people over there to encourage everyone back at school and in the community to support ALWS and get a strong idea of the selfless deeds that ALWS are doing to improve the lives of others.’

We wish Rhiannon, Victoria, Georgie and Kayla a safe trip and look forward to hearing about their experiences when they get back.

Schoolkids Bonus
This payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies starts from January 2013. Some of your families may be eligible for this. More information is at: australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus

You can subscribe to the Schoolkids Bonus mailing list via http://eepurl.com/ssXzb if you would like more detailed information that you can insert into your newsletters and other correspondence.

“A Christmas Note 2012”
All proceeds from this Christmas CD will be used to support disadvantaged families that visit LCC for help each year. A full list of the schools and tracks on the CD, and how to order, is on the LSA website.

Vacancies in Lutheran Schools
For details of positions vacant in Lutheran schools, follow the link below http://www.teachers.on.net/leavacancies

Wishing our school communities a safe and blessed Christmas.

From the staff at the LSA office