

intouch

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE LEPROSY MISSION NEW ZEALAND ISSUE 428 MARCH 2011

On a Mission in Nepal

Introducing our Youth Advocates

Kiwis in Action

David Friend in Zambia

Moneybox Rocks!

Competition Winner Announced

World Leprosy Day 2011

Stigma Photography Exhibition



Leprosy
MISSION NZ

100 years of families helping families

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From the Director

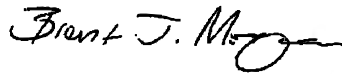
Despite the recent government funding cuts to overseas aid, I am feeling very positive about the year ahead. Thanks to committed supporters like you, our Really Good Gifts 4 Families Christmas Campaign and World Leprosy Day Appeal have been very fruitful, benefiting thousands of leprosy-affected families around the world. I would also like to thank all of you who have been remembering us in your prayers during this difficult time. We feel truly blessed to have such loyal supporters. But although we are cautiously optimistic about the future of our projects we are not out of the woods yet, and you may notice that we are implementing some cost cutting measures – even small things like printing this magazine on lighter paper can help reduce our expenses.

In this jam-packed issue I'd like to introduce you to our five passionate Youth Advocates who recently travelled to Nepal to witness our life-changing work first-hand. We believe it is really important to involve young people in our work, as it will be up to them to see our mission through and ensure the next generation is free from leprosy and its devastating consequences. I had the pleasure of accompanying the advocates on their trip, and was uplifted by their enthusiasm and genuine desire to help others in need. You can look forward to hearing more about our visit in our September issue of *inTouch*.

We are also delighted to announce the winner of our Moneybox Rocks competition and reveal the new design for our special commemorative 100th birthday Moneyboxes. It is with great excitement that we are approaching our centenary in 2012 and we look forward to unveiling our plans for a very special celebration.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

With blessings,



Brent J Morgan
Executive Director



intouch
ISSUE 428 MARCH 2011



On the Cover:
The Youth Advocate team in Kathmandu pictured here with Bina and Bhola Thapa and their two boys. Read more about their expectations and aspirations on page 3.

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Leprosy Mission New Zealand, relying on the grace of God and motivated by Jesus Christ, exists to join in mutual partnership with individuals, families, communities and organisations to share resources, experiences and learning in order to eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy, and actively supports the right to a life of dignity for all people. *inTouch* is published twice a year by the Leprosy Mission New Zealand.

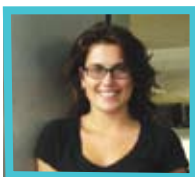


MAIN IMAGE: The five Youth Advocates Yeri, Vicky, Stacey, Eve and Abigail.

Mission to Nepal: Introducing our Youth Advocates

Last month, our five passionate and enthusiastic Youth Advocates set off on the trip of a lifetime to see the Leprosy Mission in action in Nepal. The group spent eight days in Kathmandu visiting Leprosy Mission projects, learning about the medical and social implications of leprosy at the Mission's Anandaban Hospital and trekking through the beautiful countryside that surrounds Nepal's largest city.

Stacey Cleland



"This trip is going to change my life. I can't wait to come back and share my experiences with the youth of New Zealand."

Stacey spent 2010 in Auckland working at Windsor Park Baptist Church. This year she is a first year business studies student at Massey University in Palmerston North.

"I hope to come back from this trip feeling even more passionate than I do now about helping people living in poverty. I am really looking forward to what God is going to do in my life and how I am going to be challenged. I am also looking forward to meeting the Nepali people and to coming home with incredible stories to inspire others. This year I hope to get my church on board with awareness-raising and fundraising for the Leprosy Mission and I am going to organise speaking arrangements at churches in Palmerston North."

Yeri Ahn

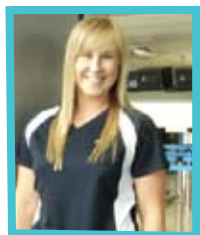


"This is a fantastic opportunity and I feel really privileged to be an advocate for the Leprosy Mission. I look forward to coming back and sharing our experiences."

Yeri has just completed her fifth year in medicine at the University of Auckland and has a passion for medical mission. She has been heavily involved in Christian student life since moving to Auckland.

"I am really looking forward to seeing first-hand the work of the Leprosy Mission in Nepal and am really excited about having the opportunity to meet the Nepali people. I hope that I can build strong relationships with the other advocates so we can encourage each other to go on medical missions in the future. When we get back I want to be a good advocate for the Mission's work, encourage others to pray for the Mission and the people they support, and apply what I have learnt as an intern working in medicine."

Vicky Gray



"I am so excited to start this new journey with the Leprosy Mission. I am ready to be filled with a passion for those in need and then to come back and share that passion with others."

Vicky is a second year student at Auckland University of Technology studying towards a Bachelor of Communications. She is a member of Whangaparaoa Baptist Church.

"I am really excited that I have the opportunity to see first-hand the difference the Leprosy Mission's projects are making in the lives of leprosy-affected families. I am really looking forward to getting out of my comfort zone and getting involved with the Mission's work. I am also really looking forward to the scenery which is going to be amazing. When I get home I want to be an active youth advocate who instils a passion in others to support the Leprosy Mission's work."

Eve Decker

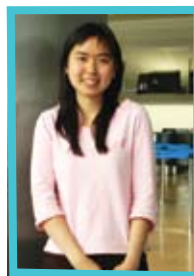


"I am really looking forward to making new friends with like-minded people and to taking time on the trip to reflect on our experiences and what we have witnessed."

Eve is a first year student studying towards a Bachelor of Nursing and Arts. A member of Mt Roskill Baptist Church, Eve is also involved with the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship at Auckland University.

"I think I am going to experience some culture shock when I witness how families affected by leprosy live, but I am also expecting to feel compelled to help change their circumstances for the better. I am really looking forward to spending time with the Nepali people – especially the children and babies – and hearing their stories. I am also excited about making new friendships. When we come back to New Zealand I want to use my experiences to inspire others to help eradicate leprosy and fight for those who cannot always fight for themselves."

Abigail Yong



"I hope that through this trip I will be able to make a difference in the lives of leprosy-affected people. I really want to get to know God's heart for the poor, defenceless and discriminated against."

Abigail is studying towards a Bachelor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Science (Psychology) at the University of Auckland. She is a member of Pakuranga Baptist Church and served as the prayer coordinator of the Auckland Overseas Christian Fellowship.

"I hope that during this trip I can get to know God's heart for leprosy-affected individuals and families, and get to know the people of Nepal and their way of life. I really hope I can be a blessing to them. I am also really looking forward to the trek and seeing the beautiful views. After the trip I want to raise awareness about leprosy and speak out for those who cannot speak out for themselves."

During the trip the advocates participated in daily devotions and spent time reflecting on what they had seen and learnt. For the remainder of 2011 they will be spreading the word about the Mission's work in Nepal and building a network of young supporters who are keen to make a difference in the lives of people affected by leprosy. If you live in Auckland, Palmerston North, Wellington or Christchurch and would like one of the advocates to speak at your church, community group, school or university please contact Donor Development Manager Gillian Whitley on 09 631 1806 or email her at gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz.

To read more about their trip visit www.leprosymission.org.nz or join us on Facebook (simply search for Leprosy Mission New Zealand and become a fan).

If you are aged between 17 and 23 and are interested in our Youth Advocate Scholarship Programme please contact Gillian Whitley on 09 631 1806 or email her at gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz. It's a rewarding and meaningful way to make a real difference in the lives of leprosy-affected individuals and their families.



TOP IMAGE: © Michael Bradley 2010: Residents of Rosa House tend to their garden. TOP RIGHT: © Michael Bradley 2010: A leg-support made by Manbir who can be seen in the background. BOTTOM RIGHT: © Michael Bradley 2010: Protective shoes.

Anandaban Hospital: More Than Meets the Eye

Every year, hundreds of leprosy-affected people receive medical care at the Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Kathmandu. But when I visited last year, I was amazed to discover that there is more to Anandaban than first meets the eye.

Down the hill from the hospital, tucked away in a small dark room, I found Manbir, the man responsible for making leg supports and protective shoes for people whose feet have been damaged by leprosy. When I arrived, he was busily melting sections of black water pipe over a single flame from a candle. I watched in awe as these sections of pipe were then moulded into a simple but effective support for the lower leg. These supports, which cost just 75 rupees (\$1.40 NZD) to make, are supplied to a number of hospitals in Nepal as well as put to good use at Anandaban by leprosy-affected people with drop-foot and other leprosy-related disabilities.

Not just a whiz with plastic, Manbir is also very skilled at making protective shoes and sandals. Cheap to produce at just 1200 rupees (\$20 NZD) a pair, the shoes are made from a special kind of leather that is extremely durable. With the help of casts made from plaster of paris, the shoes are moulded to fit the exact shape of the foot, and their special design increases the weight bearing area of the foot making it easier for leprosy-affected people to walk. They also help reduce the incidence of painful ulcers which are common in leprosy-affected people with nerve damage and loss of sensation in their feet.

A little bit further down from Manbir's workshop I discovered the science labs, where a team of research staff were busy seeking answers to some fundamental questions – why is it that 95% of people are immune to the leprosy bacterium? Are the remaining 5%

genetically predisposed to contracting the disease? And how is leprosy transmitted from one person to another? If successful, this research will have major implications for how the Mission works – and major benefits for people at risk of contracting the disease. I also learnt that they are currently trying to develop a mobile device that could diagnose leprosy on the spot, a dream come true for Leprosy Mission staff working in remote areas.

Further down still, nestled on the hillside and enjoying breath-taking views, I came to Rosa House. Leprosy-affected people who have received treatment at the hospital can stay here for two weeks to learn how to care for themselves before returning home. Many of them have leprosy-related disabilities including loss of feeling in their hands and painful recurring ulcers. Rosa House is set up like a traditional Nepali house and its residents learn how to cook, grow vegetables, tend to animals and care for their ulcers. They are taught how to make special cooking utensils out of wood which are heat proof to avoid injury, and learn how to safely light and tend to a fire.

I came away with a sense that Anandaban Hospital is a place where leprosy-affected people can come to have all of their needs met – and a place where they can expect to get love and care from a team of amazingly talented and compassionate staff.

By Liz Phillips, Communications Coordinator
at Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Moneybox Rocks: We Have a Winner!

Our Moneybox Rocks competition was a huge success and we received hundreds of colourful and inspiring entries from young people all around the country. We would like to thank everyone who participated for their time, effort and creativity. It has been such a pleasure to review all the wonderful entries!

There can only be one lucky winner and we are very excited to announce that it is 11 year old Daniel Holding from Katikati. Congratulations Daniel! Your drawing is featured on our very special 100th birthday Moneybox pictured here. >>

Daniel and his family live in Katikati on a five acre lifestyle block along with six chickens, five cows, three guinea pigs, two cats, two horses and a dog. He enjoys inventing and making things, swimming in the pool and going for walks in the Kaimai hills with his dad. He also loves Jesus and reading his Bible. Daniel is home-schooled and attends Katikati Christian Centre. Daniel was really excited to hear he had won, and received a goodie-bag and a certificate as a reward for his amazing effort.

MONEYBOX



TOP IMAGE: Daniel Holding, winner of the Moneybox Rocks competition.



LEFT IMAGE: Daniel Holding's winning design.

BOTTOM IMAGE: Our very special 100th birthday Moneybox.



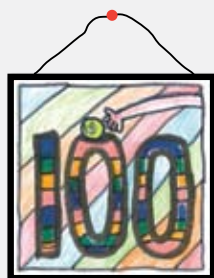
Below we have printed the other 4 entries from our top 5 as well as an honourable mention for originality. Visit www.leprosymission.org.nz to view our top 10 picks.



Andrew Black
Age 8
Hillview
Christian School,
Christchurch



Charity Rick
Age 9
Home-Schooled,
Christchurch



Paul Arundhati
Age 9
Arahoe Primary
School,
Auckland



Neve Thornicroft
Age 7
Warkworth
Primary School,
Warkworth



Honourable mention
for originality:
Paige van Beurten
Age 10
Waimairi School,
Christchurch

Moneybox 4 Kids

You can help us celebrate our 100th birthday (coming up in 2012!) by using our new commemorative Moneyboxes to create big change from your small change! The spare change you collect from your friends and family could help people like Riaz, a young boy from Bangladesh.

12 year old Riaz lives with his family in a one room house in the slums of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. Riaz was diagnosed with leprosy last November. He was playing on the street with his friends when a Leprosy Mission staff member working in his neighbourhood noticed that he had white patches on his arms – a symptom of leprosy. They knew straight away that Riaz had leprosy. His family were shocked as they know very little about the disease, but they love Riaz very much and will do everything they can to take care of him. The Leprosy Mission will support Riaz and his family and make sure they have everything they need. Riaz will receive a 6 month course of multi-drug therapy, and because he was diagnosed early, he should make a full recovery and be cured of leprosy. Riaz will receive counselling from the Leprosy Mission because being sick is very hard, especially for young people. The family will also learn about leprosy so that they understand what causes it.

There are many more young people like Riaz living in Bangladesh that need your help. It doesn't take much to make a real difference:

If you collect just \$19 you can provide crutches for a child. One of the symptoms of leprosy is 'dropped foot'. It is caused by damage to nerve roots and makes walking very difficult. Following surgery, even sturdy crutches can be too expensive for a poor family. A pair of crutches will help a child disabled by leprosy get back on their feet and join in all the things a child loves to do.

If you collect \$46 you can provide a Back to School Kit. Many parents who are very poor do not have enough money to send their children to school. A Back to School Kit provides all the practical equipment a child needs to go to school for a year – from a uniform, to books, to pens and pencils.



And if you can collect \$92 you can provide a poor family with a Porky Piglet! Porky piglets are a great addition to a poor family in a country like Bangladesh. Pigs are easy to take care of, cheap to feed and don't require much space. The piglets can be sold to provide food and valuable income for a whole family.

You may remember reading the story of 'Pete the Pig' in the September 2010 *inTouch* magazine. At the turn of the 20th century, 10 year old Wilbur Chapman bought a piglet called Pete to grow and sell. He sold Pete for a whopping \$25 and gave the money to people affected by leprosy. Wilbur collected his coins in a pig-shaped container and the Leprosy Mission Moneyboxes came into being shortly after!

If you would like us to send you a Moneybox so that you can start collecting your spare change like Wilbur did, please email us at moneybox@leprosymission.org.nz

Coming Soon: Moneybox 4 Schools

We are pleased to announce that later this year we will be launching a Moneybox 4 Schools programme in the Manawatu region in conjunction with the Christian Religious Education (CRE) programme. If you would like a Moneybox 4 Schools pack for your primary school or Sunday School please contact us at moneybox@leprosymission.org.nz



IMAGE: ©Michael Bradley 2010: Chunni with Farzana and her eldest daughter.

The Forgotten Families of Bangladesh

Deep in the slums of Dhaka, some of the poorest families in the world are struggling to cope with the devastating double burden of poverty and leprosy.

Farzana is 11 years old. She lives with her parents and four siblings in a tiny, windowless room that is barely big enough for a double bed and a handful of cooking utensils. Their makeshift front door opens onto a concrete maze of narrow alleyways that are home to over 25,000 people. Her neighbourhood, known as the Geneva Camp, is one of the most densely populated Pakistani refugee camps in Bangladesh. Its inhabitants are crammed into just over one acre of land in the centre of Dhaka, the country's capital city.

Like all the other people living in the camp, Farzana is Bihari, a descendant of Muslim refugees who fled from India to West Bengal (which soon afterwards became East Pakistan) in 1947 to escape religious violence. During East Pakistan's war for independence from West Pakistan in 1971, the Biharis were considered to be sympathisers with the West, and when East Pakistan

became Bangladesh in December of that year, many Biharis found themselves stranded and stateless. To this day, around 160,000 Biharis live in extreme poverty in camp settlements around Bangladesh.

The living conditions in the Geneva Camp can only be described as inhumane. Farzana has to navigate her way through piles of rubbish and human waste to get to the closest toilet. When she finally gets there it is very likely she will have to stand in a long queue – there is only one latrine for every 90 families. And, because it is not safe for young girls to walk around the camp after dark, Farzana's family are forced to keep a bucket under their bed which she and her sisters can use as a makeshift toilet during the night. There is also an acute shortage of safe drinking water, and waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid are endemic.

The 25,000 people living in the camp are among the poorest of the poor and many are forced to beg to survive – others resort to crime. Opportunities to work in Dhaka are few and far between although some manage to find work as daily labourers or rickshaw pullers. But working outside the camp is not easy. Tensions from past hostilities mean that Biharis are often openly harassed and discriminated against.

For Farzana and her family, this debilitating poverty is compounded by the daily realities of living with leprosy. Chunni, Farzana's mother, was diagnosed with the disease two years ago. Although she is now cured following a course of multi-drug therapy, she has been left with leprosy-related disabilities in her hands and feet that will affect her, and her family, for the rest of their lives. The family of seven were already struggling to make ends meet and relied on Chunni to bring in an income – something that is much harder for her to do now that her disabilities prevent her from working.

A loan from the Leprosy Mission has enabled her husband, Faku, to buy a rickshaw, and the small amount of money he earns is just enough for them to survive. But living on one income is not easy when there are seven mouths to feed, and they have no choice but to continue living in the camp. For Farzana though, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. A scholarship from the Leprosy Mission has enabled her to attend school and in a few years time, with a good education, she will hopefully be able to get a relatively well paying job as a garment worker or running her own tailoring business.

Globally, the annual detection of new leprosy cases continues to decline, but this is not the case in Dhaka, where high levels of urban migration and the resulting

overcrowding have created a perfect breeding ground for the disease. In 2008 alone, there were 2003 cases of leprosy detected in Bangladesh – 1582 of these were found in the city's slums – and these figures do not account for the potentially hundreds of cases of leprosy that go undetected and unreported each year. This is partly because many people are still not aware of the early signs and symptoms of the disease, and partly because of the stigma surrounding leprosy which prevents people coming forward for treatment.

But although the living conditions in the Geneva Camp are dire, and the needs of the people living there are so great, the resilience of the human spirit should not be underestimated. Swarms of giggling children surrounded us everywhere we went, and as we were leaving, we even caught a glimpse of the Superhero of the Dhaka Slums – a little boy dressed in a makeshift Batman costume diligently protecting his fellow slum-dwellers from harm.

Thanks to the commitment of countless New Zealanders who have raised vital funds through the Moneybox Programme, the Leprosy Mission New Zealand is able to support a number of projects in Bangladesh and helps make a real difference in the lives of leprosy-affected families. Sadly, these projects have been affected by the government funding cuts and the funds we raise are no longer matched 4 to 1, so your support is more vital than ever before. If you would like to make a difference in Bangladesh then why not consider becoming a Moneybox Holder or Collector? It is a fun and easy way to bring about big change with your small change!

For more information and to receive your very own Moneybox Pack email moneybox@leprosymission.org.nz

By Liz Phillips, Communications Coordinator at Leprosy Mission New Zealand



IMAGE LEFT: ©Michael Bradley 2010: Leprosy Mission New Zealand staff member Liz Phillips with Farzana (left) and Chunni (right).



IMAGE RIGHT: ©Michael Bradley 2010: Batman!



Name: Dr. David Friend

Location: Mukinge Hospital and Kikonkomene Leprosy Village in Zambia

Position: Medical Missionary with SIM (Serving in Mission)

Need: The hospital serves thousands of patients every year, ministering to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Services include maternity care, paediatrics (malnutrition in children is very common), eye surgery and treatment of tuberculosis. Kikonkomene Leprosy Village is next door to the hospital and is home to around 20 leprosy-affected families who need ongoing medical care. Food shortage is a major problem and the annual rains in November have caused serious damage to the resident's homes and cooking shelters.

TOP IMAGE: David Friend in Kikonkomene Leprosy Village in Zambia
RIGHT IMAGE: David Friend at Mukinge Hospital.

Dr. David Friend

David was just 12 years old when he heard God's calling. He was mesmerised by a photo of a doctor working in an African Hospital. From that day on he knew that he would dedicate his life to being a medical missionary.

In David's words...

“I continue to visit the Leprosy Village every two weeks to attend to medical problems and deliver sugar, salt, soap, cooking oil and Vaseline. The residents' cheerful welcome in spite of severe disability and tenuous social support remains inspirational to us all. Last year the student nurses collected their cast off clothing and old shoes. A pre-Christmas visit to the village was organised and there was a fun few hours as everything was distributed amidst lots of singing and prayer. I added several items. Every departing expat visitor to Mukinge gets relieved of almost anything they are not wearing, by me!

The main project in recent months has been replacing thirty rotten wooden shutters, five doors and thirteen broken windows. Of concern now is the damage caused by storm water which has undercut foundations, left cracks in walls and caused door frames to shift. It looks to have been an ongoing problem for years, but it is now reaching a crisis point where some of the houses will fall down in the next year or so. We hope we can raise funds to repair all twenty houses.

Sadly, the village leader and good friend of mine, Nelson Shituta, passed away recently. Nelson had been a welder in the past, before leprosy caught up with him.

He could only crawl, having lost both his feet. Most of his fingers were stumps and one eye was blind. The loss of his fingers was likely due to repeated burns sustained whilst taking cooking pots off the fire with his bare hands, which were completely insensitive to pain. Despite these disabilities, his good humour and strong Christian faith in the face of adversity was quite inspirational.

During the rainy season earlier in the year, he began to struggle as his heart became weaker. On receiving a call one weekend that he was in trouble, I hiked down to the village. It was raining hard and the track was a stream. Nelson was crouched by a small flickering fire and was thoroughly miserable and breathing hard. Returning to borrow transport, I transferred him to the hospital together with his good friend and fellow leprosy sufferer, Mr Miyanda, who would take care of him. He passed away not long after. He had told me one time that I would have to buy his coffin. A solid hardwood one was purchased, together with a sack of maize, green vegetables and cooking oil for the funeral gathering. I was unable to attend, but heard that he had a good send-off. We shall miss him.

I want other doctors to be inspired to do this kind of work. It's so rewarding and it's a great place to raise a family, kids love it. I feel safe here. ”





IMAGE: Geraldine with a leprosy-affected woman.



“The nicest part of the trip was that the whole three weeks was bathed in prayer – as is the Leprosy Mission itself.”

Supporter Tours: Geraldine Slyfield in India

Geraldine was a participant in the 2010 Leprosy Mission New Zealand Supporter Tour to India in conjunction with Leprosy Mission Australia.

“My three week visit to India in September was the highlight of my year. The other eight members of the group were Leprosy Mission supporters from Australia and we met in Singapore to do the touristy thing before flying on to Delhi where we were welcomed by Dr Sunil Anand, the head of the Leprosy Mission in India. We then visited the Leprosy Mission’s Shahdara Hospital where we met leprosy-affected people and heard their amazing stories.

In Kolkata we visited the Premananda Memorial Leprosy Hospital and Peter, our tour leader, presented seven nurses with their 30 year certificates! We met leprosy-affected people who had travelled miles to reach the hospital and were then happy to sit patiently hour after hour waiting to be seen. Dr Jerry talked to us about the epidemiology of leprosy and its symptoms and consequences, and then we watched him perform tendon surgery on a patient with drop foot. He stitched up the wound rather than using staples as they would only use a few out of the packet and the rest would be thrown away. It made me think of our disposable health system here in New Zealand. We also met a scientist who studies genes and he told us that 97% of people are immune to leprosy and that there is no known animal carrier aside from the nine-banded armadillo! How often do you meet one of those? We also learnt that taking multi-drug therapy renders leprosy non-infectious within 48 hours.

Following our hospital visit we met families who live and work at the rubbish recycling centre on the outskirts of Kalkutta. Many of the children have dropped out of school to help their parents earn a very meagre income sorting the recyclable materials. To help these children return to school and catch up on their education the Leprosy Mission is running a Catch Them Young Scheme. We also learnt about the

Mahatma Ghandi competition where young boys dress up like Ghandi and deliver a five minute speech about leprosy. Four million scouts take part as well as schools across the country.

In Bankura, in West Bengal, we visited the Bill Edgar Memorial Vocational Training Centre where leprosy-affected people learn skills such as sewing and mechanics. All of the students seemed so willing to learn and were clearly making the most of their opportunities. We were overwhelmed by the amazing welcome ceremony put on by the staff and students. We were adorned with garlands of flowers and treated to a wonderful performance of music and dance. Finally, in Purulia (also in West Bengal), we visited the oldest Leprosy Mission hospital in India where we were wowed by the shoe and artificial limb department. We met a number of leprosy-affected people who had recently had reconstructive surgery and were having physiotherapy. Purulia would have to be my favourite place, and on the night of the Festival of Puja there were fireworks going off all night!

Everywhere we went we met fabulous people who are so talented and have dedicated their whole lives to working with leprosy-affected people. I could tell you much more but I am running out of space! The nicest part of the trip was that the whole three weeks was bathed in prayer – as is the Leprosy Mission itself.”

If you are interested in our 2011 Supporter Tours please visit our website or contact Gillian Whitley on 09 631 1806 or email her at gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

IMAGE: ©Michael Bradley 2010:
Leprosy Mission Hospital in Delhi



IMAGE: ©Michael Bradley 2010: Just one goat can provide milk, food and a source of income for many years. This year, we sold 117 goats!

Really Good Gifts Help Thousands of Families!

Our Really Good Gifts 4 Families are as popular as ever and, thanks to you, over the Christmas period we sold a grand total of 5,245 gifts, allowing us to open up a world of love and hope for thousands of leprosy affected families around the world. Thank you!

- Once again our top seller was a pair of sandals for feet damaged by leprosy and painful ulcers, with 828 pairs sold.
- A total of 617 leprosy-affected people will benefit from protective glasses which will protect their eyes from dust and dirt, preventing infection and even blindness.
- 519 families in Ethiopia will receive the ingredients and utensils they need to bake injera bread, as well as advice on how to sell it for the best price. Injera is a type of bread eaten at every meal.
- Thanks to you, 287 leprosy-affected people will be able to have a day in hospital and receive treatment and care for their leprosy related injuries and illnesses.
- We are also very excited to announce that we sold a whopping 43 water pumps! At \$539 each these pumps are the ultimate gift, protecting several families from waterborne diseases.

Really Good Gifts 4 Lent

There are still thousands of leprosy-affected families around the world who desperately need our support. In the spirit of Lent, why not give up something you love and buy a Really Good Gift 4 Families instead?

To buy your gifts visit www.reallygoodgifts.org.nz or call us on 0800 862 873. Also available on our website are Lent Bible Study Notes.



Injera Bread Baking Kit \$10

This gift provides a family in Ethiopia with the ingredients and utensils they need to bake injera bread (a popular bread eaten with every meal), and advice to help them sell it for the best price.



Poultry Business Start-up Kit \$55

Keeping livestock helps ensure a poor family has a long-term source of income and nutrition. This gift will help a family set up a small poultry business, and enable them to grow it long into the future.



Cure One Person Affected by Leprosy \$432 – an exceptional Really Good Gift 4 Lent!

This gift provides all the treatment a person affected by leprosy needs to be cured, including medication and surgery for disabled hands, feet and eyes.

The person will be able to pursue a full, more active life within their community, and help break down the stigma which can affect them and their family.

Families affected by leprosy could benefit from your tax rebate!

The end of the financial year is just around the corner. Don't miss this great opportunity to make your donations go even further for leprosy-affected families. If you are a New Zealand tax payer, every donation you make over \$5 qualifies for a tax rebate. For every \$5 you give, you are entitled to claim \$1.65 back. If you gave \$50 you could receive a tax rebate of \$16.50. It may not sound like much, but it could provide a Day in Hospital for a person affected by leprosy. Simply:

1. Download Form IR526 from www.ird.govt.nz
2. Complete boxes at bottom of form:
'Name of person receiving the tax credit'
Box 7 (IRD number)
Box 8 (Amount to transfer)
3. Sign and return your form to Inland Revenue
4. Notify TLMNZ of your transfer of tax credit

For more information contact indira.bhana@leprosymission.org.nz or call us on 0800 862 873.

Notes:

1. Individual donations totalling less than \$5 do not qualify for a tax rebate.
2. The rebate is 33 1/3 % of qualifying donations paid by individuals to approved charitable organisations.



World Leprosy Day 2011

On January 30th World Leprosy Day was celebrated around the globe. Here in New Zealand we asked our supporters to remember our vital work with a gift, a pledge and a prayer.

To date we have raised over \$120,000 which will go a long way towards keeping our projects up and running in these financially difficult times. Thank you so very much! Every dollar counts and what may seem like a small amount to you can make a big difference in the lives of leprosy-affected families like Preeti's. Your generous donations will enable us to provide families with medical care, food, information about how to care for leprosy-related disabilities, and spiritual support to help rebuild hope and faith for the future. We are also very grateful to all of you who have so thoughtfully remembered us in your prayers.

We had numerous requests for our Leprosy Awareness Month pack and have heard about a few wonderful events held around the country. If you did something special to raise awareness or funds for our work during Leprosy Awareness Month please let us know, and we will print it in the September edition of *inTouch*.

Mr and Mrs Van Duivenboden from Auckland are long time supporters of the Mission and held a very special morning tea at their house during Leprosy Awareness Month. They invited members of their Lady Star of the Sea Parish Group over to their house for a cup of tea and a prayer session – and they raised \$30 from gold coin donations! Thank you Mr and Mrs Van Duivenboden!



Stigma Photography Exhibition

Auckland based photographer Michael Bradley has photographed leprosy-affected people living in some of the world's poorest communities and recently exhibited a collection of his breathtaking images at Northart Gallery in Northcote, Auckland. The exhibition was timed to coincide with World Leprosy Day and ran for two weeks. The preview, which was held on January 16th, was very well attended including special guests Mr. Ataur Rahman (Hon Consul for Bangladesh), and Dr. Rajen Prasad (Labour List MP), who were both very moved by Michael's images.

Aptly called 'Stigma', the exhibition documented the work of the Leprosy Mission New Zealand in India, Nepal and Bangladesh and captured the day-to-day realities for children and families living with the disease and its often devastating consequences. He hopes that his images have helped raise awareness of the disease and the Leprosy Mission's vital work to combat it.

"I was very impressed with the Leprosy Mission's work in all three countries and felt compelled to share what I had experienced with the New Zealand public," says Michael. "As a father of two young boys I was particularly moved by the plight of children living in the slums, and one of my favourite images in the exhibition is of a young boy dressed as Batman who I encountered in a refugee camp in Dhaka." (You can see this image on page 9).

Michael's images from the Stigma Exhibition can be viewed on our website.



TOP IMAGE: © Michael Bradley 2010: Abu Maim in the slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh: Abu was diagnosed with leprosy three years ago. He is now cured but is suffering some ongoing skin reactions to the multi-drug therapy. Abu joined a Leprosy Mission supported self-help group and took a loan to set up a small business selling fresh fish.

LEFT: © Michael Bradley 2010: A leprosy-affected woman at Anandaban Leprosy Mission Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal.

FAR LEFT: © Michael Bradley 2010: Children playing in a Leprosy Village in Delhi, India.



IMAGE: ©Michael Bradley 2010: Bina and Bhola Thapa with their two sons.

Healing a Heart in Nepal

In November last year, Leprosy Mission New Zealand staff member Liz Phillips travelled to Nepal to document the lives of families living with leprosy. While she was there she met Bhola and Bina Thapa and their two children, and was moved by their heart-breaking story.

Bhola contracted leprosy 37 years ago, and although he is now cured, he has severe leprosy-related deformities in his hands and feet which prevent him from working. He received a loan from the Leprosy Mission which he used to set up a vegetable garden. The money he earns from selling the vegetables is the family's only source of income and they are struggling to survive.

Last year Bina started getting severe pains in her chest. She visited her local hospital where she was told that she needed urgent surgery to replace two of her heart valves. Without the surgery she was likely to die. Sadly, even with a 50,000 rupee grant from the District Development Office, they could not afford the surgery which cost 200,000 rupees.

Liz came home and decided to make it her mission to raise the 150,000 rupees (\$2,800 NZD) Bina needed for the surgery. A regular swimmer, she decided to ask family and friends to sponsor her to swim 2800 metres and within six weeks managed to raise over \$3,000 NZD. Bina was able to have her surgery on February 9th and is recovering well at home. Bina and Bhola are pictured here with their two children.

Liz would like to sincerely thank everyone who so generously donated to Bina and her family.

Ethnic Communities Ambassador Appointed

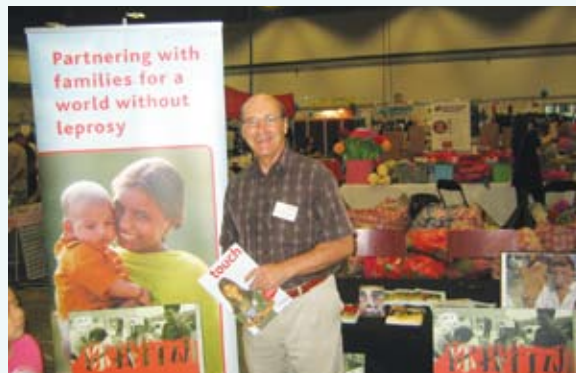


IMAGE: Michael Sheppard at the Chinese New Year Festival

Michael Sheppard recently joined the team at the Leprosy Mission New Zealand as the Ethnic Communities Ambassador. Michael, who is generously volunteering his time, is building relationships with individuals and groups from a variety of ethnic communities who are interested in supporting the Mission's work.

Michael has already recruited a team of dedicated volunteers from the Chinese community who exhibited at the Chinese New Year festival, and has met with Lydia Wang from Chinese Television who is very interested in supporting the Mission's work. He was officially invited to the Bangladesh festival last month in recognition of the Mission's work there and recently arranged for the Hon Consul for Bangladesh, Mr. Ataur Rahman, to visit the Leprosy Mission New Zealand office and meet Executive Director Brent Morgan.

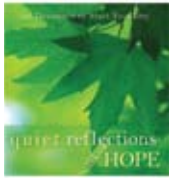
The Leprosy Mission New Zealand has projects in India, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Ethiopia and Papua New Guinea. If you have a special connection with any of these countries and would like to support the Mission's work, you can contact Michael on 09 631 1807 or email him at mike.sheppard@leprosymission.org.nz. There are many different ways you can get involved from awareness-raising or fundraising through to helping out in the Auckland office.



IMAGE: Michael, Brent, Lydia and Samson (a volunteer from the Chinese christian community).

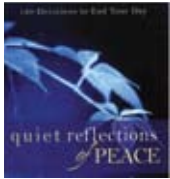
Time to Reflect – New Books

Here are just a few of the new books we have available for purchase. To see our full selection visit www.leprosymission.org.nz/online-book-shop.aspx



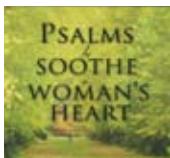
Quiet Reflections of Hope: 120 Devotions to Start Your Day \$22

Each new day requires of us only one thing – to put our hands in God's and head out into the world with Him as our guide and friend. Each reading includes Scripture, a short devotion and a prayer of encouragement for the day ahead.



Quiet Reflections of Peace: 120 Devotions to End Your Day \$22

These readings are perfect for reminding ourselves of God's strength, provision and protection. Each reading includes Scripture, a short devotion, and a prayer of assurance as you go to sleep.



Psalms to Soothe a Woman's Heart \$23

This book suggests we take a quiet moment to unwind with Psalms and reflect on the goodness and faithfulness only God can provide.

All of our books are available online and from our Auckland Office. Call us on 0800 862 873, or email us at enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz to order your books now.

Excerpt from Quiet Reflections of Hope: 120 Devotions to Start Your Day

'His compassion is never limited. It is new every morning. His faithfulness is great.' Lamentations 3:22-23

Compassion is a profound, active emotion. It has inspired people through the ages to fund hospitals, mission trips, communities damaged from weather and programmes for needy children. Compassion for the lost inspires missionaries to forsake their own desires and live among those with whom they hope to share the gospel. Compassion shows love and care even in the dark times.

This verse in Lamentations appears at the centre of a book filled with tears. Jeremiah lamented the destruction of Jerusalem by foreign invaders, an event that occurred because Israel had turned away from God and destruction came just as God had warned. Yet even through this dark time, Jeremiah knew that God's compassion was not limited by the people's sin and disobedience. They could turn back to God and He would return to them. His faithfulness is great.

Every morning you receive a fresh, unlimited supply of His compassion. The world will be better today because of God's compassion given to the world through you.

Prayer & Praise

We would love for you to join us in regular prayer support. Our Prayer & Praise diary is available by post or email. If you are interested please email ngaira.lynch@leprosymission.org.nz

Bequests

As always, we are very grateful to the following life-long supporters who so generously and thoughtfully remembered us in their Will.

Mr Harry Leonard Wakelin – Auckland

Mrs Elizabeth Hope Ingram – Auckland

Gwendoline Mavis Hogan – Auckland

Mr David Samuel Broad – Oamaru

Ellen Coverdale Anderson – Timaru

Mrs Ivy Kathleen Berridge – Christchurch

Miss Gwyneth Molineux Brown – Masterton

Mr Ray Goodfellow – Taihape

Mrs Josephine Bertha Howard – Oamaru

Mrs Christobel Ann Thomas – Christchurch

Miss Doris Hope Thompson – Palmerston North

Mrs Doris Eileen Allen – Auckland

Miss Dorothy Harris – Waikane

Mr Bernard Sydney Le Heron – Takapuna

Mr Bernard John Russell – Wellington

Miss Rona Wells – Nelson

Mr Kenneth Percival Rogers – Whangarei

Mrs Rita Mary Blackshaw – Rotorua

A Lasting Gift for a World Without Leprosy

If you are interested in leaving a bequest to the Mission please contact our Donor Development Manager Gillian Whitley for a friendly and confidential chat on 09 631 1806. Or you can email her at gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

Donations Received in Memory of

Margaret Divitt – New Plymouth

Walter Harris – Christchurch

Bishop Maurice Goodal – Christchurch

Ruth Sinclair – Auckland



Leprosy MISSION NZ

100 years of families helping families

Leprosy Mission New Zealand

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Registered Charity Number CC37638



© Michael Bradley 2010. Ghanash Yam and his granddaughter in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Ghanash contracted leprosy 37 years ago. He and his family received a loan from
the Leprosy Mission to build a low cost house.