

intouch

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE LEPROSY MISSION NEW ZEALAND ISSUE 430 MARCH 2012



Centenary Year

Celebrating 100 years
in New Zealand

Leprosy in the Pacific

PNG's forgotten
disease

Youth on a Mission

Our Youth Advocates'
mission to Nepal

Annual Review

Our achievements for
2010/2011

Kiwis in Action

Dr Julie Lincoln

Leprosy
MISSION NZ

100 years of families helping families

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intouch
ISSUE 430 MAR 2012



On the Cover:

Our six 2012 Youth Advocates on their scholarship trip to Nepal to see Leprosy Mission in action. Read more about their experience on pages 4 & 5.

From the Director

2012 is a special year in the life of the Leprosy Mission – this year we celebrate 100 years in New Zealand.

So much has been achieved during the past century, but our journey continues towards our ultimate goal of a world without leprosy. Five million leprosy-affected families around the world still desperately need our support, and we cannot truly celebrate until leprosy is completely eliminated from the face of the earth. We know this is possible, and we know we can achieve it within our lifetime, or our children's lifetime.

Our Annual Review is included as a centre pull-out, highlighting how your support is bringing lasting change for leprosy-affected families around the globe. The Annual Review summarises our achievements over the past 18 months from 1st July 2010 – 31st December 2011. We have now aligned our financial year with that of the Leprosy Mission International so in future we will revert to a standard twelve month Annual Review period. Thanks to loyal and committed supporters like you, our work has continued despite these tough economic times and significantly reduced government funding. I am extremely grateful for your help.

As I reflect on this special milestone in the life of the Leprosy Mission, I am very thankful for God's provision through the years. I would also like to thank and honour all those who have given sacrificially of their time, talent and money and those who have faithfully lifted our ministry in prayer.

I trust that you enjoy this copy of *InTouch*. Thank you once again for your tremendous generosity and support.

With God's blessing,

Brent Morgan
Executive Director



Brent Morgan's family: Back: Courtney, Curtis, Hayley Front: Tracy, Brent

CONTACT US

For all enquiries, please contact:
Leprosy Mission New Zealand
PO Box 10227, Dominion Road,
Auckland 1446

Freephone: 0800 862 873

Email: enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz

Website: www.leprosymission.org.nz

Editor: Tracey Adamson

Designers: HUSK Creative

Executive Director: Brent Morgan

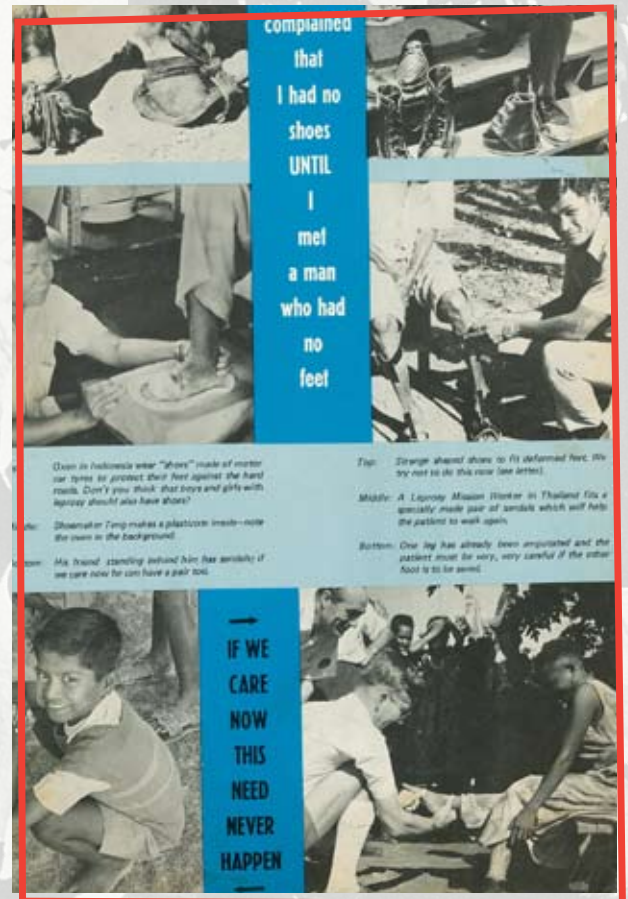
Board Chair: Ross Dillon

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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.

Leprosy Mission New Zealand Celebrates 100 years

**"Find the poor. Love them. Put your love for them in living action. For in loving them, you are loving God Himself."
Mother Teresa 1910 – 1997**



A poster from the early 1950's expressing the need for leprosy awareness.

Turning 100 is a huge milestone! From its small beginnings in 1912 founded on much prayer, Leprosy Mission New Zealand is proud to look back this year on its 100 years of impact.

The success of our mission in New Zealand is aptly explained in our purpose statement: "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".

We could not have reached 100 without God's guidance and grace, nor without the generous support of our loyal and dedicated supporters. Brent Morgan, Executive Director says "I would like to ask our readers to join with me and continue praying for people living with leprosy, and for our mission to eliminate leprosy from the face of the earth. Wellesley Bailey, the Founder of The Leprosy Mission International in 1874, said "Indeed, you may be sure of our prayers; the Mission was cradled in prayer, and it has been carried along in its arms ever since".

For 100 years Leprosy Mission New Zealand has been at the forefront of the fight against leprosy, in partnership with 50 other Leprosy Mission offices around the world, working together towards the same global goal. "Our mission is to eliminate leprosy from the face of the earth. With your help, it is entirely possible to achieve this within our lifetime or our children's lifetime" says Brent Morgan.

'All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.'
Galatians 2:10

There is still much work to be done to eliminate leprosy, and many countries still need our help. However, we are getting closer to completing our mission. In the last 25 years more than 15 million leprosy-affected individuals and their families have received medical care and been empowered to advocate for their rights. Today, 5 million families still urgently need our support.

Many readers of *InTouch* magazine received our letter, timeline and other information for World Leprosy Day, which was celebrated on Sunday 29th January. The timeline outlines the major milestones of our mission here in New Zealand over the past 100 years from 1912 to 2012. If you would like to view our centenary year timeline please visit our website www.leprosymission.org.nz, email enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz or Freephone 0800 862 873.

We invite our readers to join with us throughout 2012 and celebrate our centenary year by continuing to support and pray for our mission overseas. Thank you again to all our generous donors for helping to provide hope and dignity for people and families affected by leprosy.



© Carinnya Feaunati: LMNZ's six Youth Advocates having the time of their lives. Back row: Sam, Nathanael, Miriam, Carinnya, Stefan. Front: Jo.

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



Jo Burnett

Jo is from Auckland and is currently in her third year studying towards a Bachelor of Nursing in Auckland. Jo is a member of Riverhead Family Church and has taught Sunday school for the past four years.



Sam Iling

Sam is from rural Hamilton. He is a third year medical student at The University of Auckland. He is a member of the Reformed Church of Hukinui and attends Avondale Church when he is in Auckland.



Nathanael Lucas

Nathanael is from Wellington. He is currently in his third year of medical studies at The University of Auckland. He is a member of Life Church, LOUD and runs Life groups each Wednesday when living in Auckland. While in Wellington, Nathanael attends Tawa Baptist Church.



Carinnya Feaunati

Carinnya is from New Plymouth. She is a third year Bachelor of Architectural Studies student at Victoria University, in Wellington. When Carinnya is in New Plymouth she attends the New Plymouth Samoan Methodist Church.



Miriam Whitton

Miriam is from Hawkes Bay and is in her fourth year studying towards a Bachelor of Health Science (Physiotherapy) at AUT in Auckland. Miriam's home church is the Village Baptist Church in Havelock North and she attends the Hillsborough Baptist Church when in Auckland.



Stefan van Woerden

Stefan is from Hamilton. He is a second year Engineering student at Massey University in Auckland. Stefan is a member of the Reformed Church of Hukinui, where he has been a member his entire life, and attends their Albany church when in Auckland.

The six Youth Advocate Scholarship recipients for 2012 recently returned from a nine day trip to Kathmandu, Nepal where they witnessed the Leprosy Mission's work in action accompanied by Brent Morgan (Executive Director) and Gillian Whitley (Donor Development Manager). Their overriding impression was of the holistic approach to both caring for and curing people affected by leprosy (as highlighted in the flow diagram to the right). For Jo there was the prevailing sense of "God's power to change a life".

The first four days of their trip they stayed on the Anandaban Hospital campus located about 16 kilometres from Kathmandu city. Anandaban means 'forest of joy', which is exactly what they experienced while there. "The peacefulness and tranquillity of the place, without knowing that it is a Christian environment you know the presence of God is there" says Carinnya.

Miriam was very impressed with the total patient care at Anandaban Hospital. "I was very impressed by the calibre of staff relationships with both disabled and leprosy-affected patients. Leprosy Mission approaches every stage of leprosy from awareness raising, diagnosis and detection and self-sustainability through self-help groups – they have excellent follow through" she says. A clear observation from their trip was the strong connection Anandaban Hospital staff has with people affected by leprosy throughout their entire journey with leprosy. Whether patients are in the hospital recovering from reconstructive surgery, undergoing intensive physiotherapy or living in Rosa House (rehabilitation unit), all staff provide a safe and caring relationship with the patients, every step of the way.

The Youth Advocates are very appreciative of the facilities provided through Anandaban Hospital: they fear if the hospital did not exist, the health of leprosy-affected people would be severely compromised. "There would be no support and no essential surgeries



given to leprosy-affected patients. They may be treated by the local Government hospitals, but then there would be no disability support and no prevention of disability leading to further complications in the future" says Nathanael. Stefan adds "Anandaban Hospital provides the ability to mend people affected by leprosy in all ways – physically, psychologically and spiritually."

Sam understands saving lives can be expensive yet "Anandaban Leprosy Mission Hospital is so efficient, they stretch their small budgets to cover all the work that needs to be done, and also change and save lives every day, it's very inspirational".

The Youth Advocates have undertaken to raise funds towards an essential four wheel drive vehicle. This will enable Leprosy Mission Nepal staff to continue the vital community support through self-help groups. If you would like to donate towards this vehicle please contact Gillian, her details are below.



Left to right: Nathanael, Sulochana, Maya, Stefan, Miriam, Jo, Carinnya, Sam. Sulochana, Community Based Rehabilitation Coordinator introduced the six Youth Advocates to Maya who shared her story with them.

To read more about their trip visit www.leprosymission.org.nz or join our Facebook page (simply search for Leprosy Mission New Zealand and Like our page) and check out our upcoming September InTouch edition for an update on their life changing trip.

If you are interested in our Youth Advocate Scholarship programme please contact Gillian Whitley on 09 631 1806 or email her Gillian.Whitley@leprosymission.org.nz. If you are aged between 17 and 24 and are studying full time in 2013 you are eligible to apply for the Youth Advocate Scholarship. Travelling to Anandaban Hospital in Kathmandu is a life changing opportunity. It will equip you with a better understanding of overseas mission, the developing world and the work of the Leprosy Mission.



© 2011 Gillian Whitley. Joan, dedicated LMNZ supporter, at her market stall in Mangawhai.

A Heart for the Marginalised with Over 80 Years of Committed Service

Joan started supporting leprosy-affected communities at the age of seven, after hearing an inspiring story about leprosy at her Sunday School. She then began fundraising by collecting stamps from her neighbours and hasn't looked back since. Joan's support was interrupted during WWII when her time was committed to the NZ Land Services as a 'land girl'.

Joan married her husband Bill in 1946 and was a founding member of Iona Church in Blockhouse Bay, Auckland. She also became a Leprosy Mission Moneybox Collector and continued in this role for 60 years in several different churches.

Joan moved to Wellsford and was pleased to find that there was a strong community connection with Leprosy Mission NZ, with a fair held every year to raise funds for the Mission. Joan was the coordinator and treasurer for 16 years of the committee, which consisted of two members from each of eight local supporting churches.

Joan also started a stall for the Leprosy Mission at a market in Kawakawa, north of Wellsford, in 2001. The

market moved to Mangawhai a few years later and Joan moved her Leprosy Mission stall with it. There is great support for the stall from the local community; goods are donated, aprons and oven gloves are made and knitters provide baby clothes and the very popular slippers.

Joan's passion is inspiring. "The need is so great and there is only so much each of us can do" says Joan, "That's why it's so important we join together for this great cause." She also prays regularly for the work of the Leprosy Mission and enjoys reading *InTouch*.

In 2012, as Leprosy Mission NZ turns 100, Joan will have served people affected by leprosy for 80 years.

Would you like to get involved in fundraising and awareness raising activities to help celebrate our centenary year? Contact our Supporter Services team today on FreePhone: 0800 862 873.

How supporters are bringing Leprosy Mission into their lives in 2012

Look out for more in the September 2012 issue of *InTouch* on the following supporters who have found interesting activities to celebrate their own significant milestones in tandem with Leprosy Mission NZ's centenary:

- Heather Heron-Speirs participated in the Leprosy Mission Australia's India and Nepal tour in January and February, fulfilling a birthday wish to witness the work of the Leprosy Mission.
- Elizabeth Peters will be fundraising for Leprosy Mission NZ with a shave-a-thon birthday party, having grown out her hair over two years for the occasion.



© 2011 Morris Ikui: Morris' four children – Esther, Piri, Huraga and Maila.

PNG's Forgotten Disease

“The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged” Deuteronomy 31:8

Since 2006, the Leprosy Mission New Zealand has been supporting the development of a successful community health programme in Bougainville. The Leprosy Mission New Zealand works alongside the Department of Health and other rehabilitation agencies in Papua New Guinea.

Leprosy Mission NZ's Programme Manager Andrew Harding met Morris Ikui briefly during his August visit last year, while at Port Moresby Hospital where Morris was being treated for leprosy.

Morris' story in his own words:

“I returned home one night from a Youth Minister meeting with a swollen leg. This was unusual since I hadn't injured it or suffered from any illnesses beforehand. During the following few months I became bedridden and was unable to work. Over time, numbness and white patches started to occur on my swollen leg which caused greater concern for my wife and me. I am the father of four children and the main bread winner and having no income for three months caused a financial strain on my family. My neighbour noticed the white patches on my skin and told me to seek immediate medical treatment.

When I went to the local hospital in Port Moresby the doctor diagnosed me with leprosy; however there was a four month waiting list for the MDT leprosy drugs. When I returned home from the hospital I told my wife I had leprosy and she wept. Having leprosy not only affected me but also my family, church congregation and local community. I began to pray for a miracle and the following week a church member gave me 200 kina (\$111 NZD approx.) so I could go and see a private doctor and get treated. I went to visit the private hospital the following day and received multi-drug therapy treatment the same day – my prayer was answered.”

Once Morris started taking MDT drugs he noticed an improvement in the first month. The white patches on Morris' skin started to subside and over time they disappeared. Five months after starting treatment, Morris' symptoms have all gone except for the numbness in his leg; this will get better over the next several months of MDT drugs.

Andrew is hoping to put Morris in touch with Tweedy Malagian, the CEO of Leprosy Mission PNG. Establishing this relationship between Morris and Tweedy bridges a gap in leprosy awareness in Central province where leprosy is still endemic and brings us one step closer to defeating this disease for good. Morris is a Youth Ministry Coordinator with the United Church in PNG where he has a village health outreach team. The Leprosy Mission PNG team can educate Morris's 10 health care workers, who could travel to remote villages in Papua New Guinea, so they can raise awareness about leprosy, the curable but often forgotten disease.

If it wasn't for his neighbour, who knew the signs because he too had been diagnosed previously with leprosy, Morris might not have received treatment. “Leprosy is an illness nobody wants, it brings their hopes down and shatters their future” says Morris. Leprosy awareness is needed within PNG and the surrounding Pacific Islands so more people can be diagnosed, treated and cured of leprosy.

For more information on Papua New Guinea please visit:
www.leprosymission.org.nz/papua-new-guinea.aspx



© 2011 Morris Ikui: Morris (back centre) is pictured here with some of his local church congregation in his home village.

Giving People in Ethiopia the Bread of Life

© 2011 Brent Morgan: Dr Bill Wright holding the hands of a local woman in Addis Ababa. Bill was overwhelmed to see the effects of untreated leprosy.

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."
John 6:35 NIV

A New Zealand funded Grain Mill has changed the life of an entire community. People in a leprosy-affected community who were once marginalised from society, now have hope for a brighter future.

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand works in partnership with a local grassroots leprosy organisation called ENAPAL in Ethiopia, based in the capital Addis Ababa. Brent Morgan, Executive Director, along with one of our supporters, Dr Bill Wright from Hamilton, travelled to Addis Ababa in October last year to visit the grain mill project 'Bread of Life'.

We asked Bill to share his experience with fellow donors, and here's what he had to say.

“I had the privilege in October of accompanying Brent for a few days when he visited a Leprosy Mission New Zealand project in Addis Ababa, and was hugely impressed with the practicality of what has been accomplished thus far. From the distance of New Zealand it is very difficult to grasp the reality of a project's impact on a local community, and when the opportunity came up of adding three days in Addis onto my scheduled medical conference in Berlin, I was delighted to do so.

We visited firstly the established project of ENAPAL in Addis Ababa itself, and I was frankly surprised to see first-hand that it was a good deal more than grain mills. In a small and modest site surrounded by crowded alleyways and dwellings, and with numerous locals begging for survival, this group, with some assistance from New Zealand do seem to have a series of activities now providing work and a living for 45 people, enough income to give a modest "pension" to 30 older



leprosy sufferers who would otherwise be begging, and provide for some 100 children to have schooling.

The activities ranged from selling animal feed sent off to customers on donkeys, a small business grinding seeds to make cooking oil, a busy cafe for locals, kitchen cooking for the local cafe and also baking the injera staple, and of course the grain mills both for flour for the injera and retailing the flour. At the craft centre we watched women with both leprosy and some with HIV spinning raw cotton and sewing and weaving. The warmth of the locals and their welcome to us was emotional for Brent and me, with many embraces.

During our visit we went to the site of the next project two hours out of Addis Ababa, with plans initially for grain mills, and hopefully expansion to a range of small businesses. All pretty much a drop in a very large bucket, but for the folk involved a very real lift from bare survival to a more hopeful future. We saw what a difference the modest assistance the previous provision of some simple latrines and running water to a small community had made.

All in all, I loved the few days there, and am grateful to Brent for allowing me to "tag along" with him, and learn a small amount of the work of LMNZ in Ethiopia, and the potential for significant impact on the lives of these marginalised folk. ”



Name: Dr Julie Lincoln

Position: Community Based Organisations Advisor, SIM

Location: Pokhara, Nepal



ABOVE: © 2011 Julie Lincoln: Dr Julie assessing a local Nepalese woman's clawed hand.
RIGHT: Four residents of a leprosy village in Nepal.

Called to Provide Medical Care and Hope

All around the world, selfless Kiwis have willingly dedicated their lives to serving individuals, families and communities affected by leprosy. Dr Julie Lincoln has committed her life to serving others and God; she provides hope to the marginalised.

Pokhara is a remarkable place filled with natural beauty. Pokhara is 827m from sea level and 200km west of Kathmandu valley. Doctor Julie Lincoln recently moved to Pokhara following many years working in the remote rural Ghorahi region. She is currently serving as a Community Based Organisations Advisor with SIM (Serving In Mission), addressing the health and educational needs of local communities.

Dr Lincoln gave Leprosy Mission NZ the following update in September 2011:

“ I moved to Pokhara in July and absolutely love living here. I am living in the middle of a three story house with my landlord and his wife living above and another family below. When there are no clouds we have spectacular views of the mountains from my bedroom and lounge windows. My flat is much cleaner than any in Ghorahi (where I worked previously) and the windows & doors actually shut. No rats or snakes so far, thankfully. Our landlord and his wife are Hindu but very friendly and helpful.

My main office is about 15 minutes' walk away and so are buses to the main shopping centre and Lakeside. I'm enjoying being part of a mission team. There are about 15 missionaries living up my end of town and some of us meet each week for study/prayer/fellowship – something I really missed in Ghorahi.

A lot of Nepalis here are from different ethnic groups and much friendlier than in Ghorahi (not being severely affected by the 10 year conflict probably has something to do with this as well).

My work is going well and I am enjoying working with smaller organisations where all of the staff are believers and committed to serving others. I have been on three field trips since moving here in July including a weeklong trip back to Ghorahi to help with a church based organisation there.

I am so grateful to God for this move (both location and role) and looking forward to seeing how He uses me and those I am working with for His glory here in Nepal. ”

For more information on our work in Nepal please visit: www.leprosymission.org.nz/nepal.aspx

Hey Kids!

How's your year going? I bet it's cool to be back at school, learning heaps of new things and making new friends.

Here are some fun activities for you to complete and it will help you learn more about people living with leprosy.

God Bless, Brent.

NEWSPAPER

SCRAPBOOK

There are lots of countries where there's war or lots of fighting. Get some newspapers or magazines and cut out articles about what's happening in our world. Then take a colourful pen and write positive words all over the stories or pictures. Make your words a prayer to God to ask for change and peace.

You have the right to work, to be free to choose your work, to get a salary which allows you to support your family



A MATCH-UP GAME

Muzaffarpur that make you think "hmmm that's not good!" The Leprosy Mission is working to make those things better but there's a lot to do and sometimes it gets confusing what to do next! Can you give a hand and help us find the right steps? Match up what's wrong with the things that make you go "yeah that's great!"

Kids have to work all day

The water is unsafe to drink

There are no toilets and people have to go wherever!

People are scared of Leprosy and hide it

People feel sad and hopeless

There's no doctor or medicine for poor people

One landlord owns all the land

People are hungry

The houses leak and fall apart during the monsoon

Dads have to go away and find work

Clean, safe water, yum!

There's enough food for everyone

Kids go to school

Everyone has some land to live off

The houses are built properly with strong materials

People know leprosy can be cured and aren't scared to get it checked out

Ways for Dads to support their families at home

Clean toilets away from food and water

People feel good and look forward to the future

A place for people to get help when they are sick



Centenary MONEYBOX

Readers of March *InTouch* can help us celebrate our 100th year of mission by distributing our centenary year moneyboxes. Our 100th year Moneybox was launched last year when Daniel Holding, an 11 year old supporter from Katikati, won our colouring competition with his centenary year design.

Collecting spare change in a Leprosy Mission Moneybox will help support leprosy-affected families like Nazma's & Kabir's family in Bangladesh.

Dhaka Community Rehabilitation Project

Nazma Begum lives in the slums of Dhaka with her husband Kabir and her two children – one son and one daughter. Nazma joined a Leprosy Mission self-help group because she was very poor and needed financial support for herself and her family. The group collectively saved their money and over the next few years they accumulated over 7,000 taka (about \$100 NZD).

When Nazma was diagnosed with leprosy she took multi-drug therapy for six months. Since she was diagnosed early, Nazma was left with no leprosy disabilities; others left with untreated leprosy are not so lucky. During this time her self-help group and her family were very supportive. Once she had finished her treatment she took a loan from the self-help group and set up her own sewing and tailoring business with her husband. They have two sewing machines and earn enough money to save 100 taka a month.

Recently they took a second loan from the self-help group to buy the material they needed to make and sell clothes for an annual ceremony that takes place once a year, on November 17th. Taking the loan was an effective initiative to extend their business as they have paid off the loan already.

Nazma is very ambitious and wants to buy two more sewing machines and set up a second shop. To do this she will need more support from the Leprosy Mission.

Nazma's extended family is relatively well educated and understands that leprosy is a curable disease. Because of this, Nazma and her husband have not been rejected or faced any stigma and discrimination. Other families in their community have not been so fortunate although the Leprosy Mission is currently running campaigns in the area to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of the disease.

We are seeking enthusiastic people, young (and not-so-young) to spread the word about the Leprosy Mission Moneybox Programme in their schools and churches. Moneyboxes are a fun and easy way to help leprosy-affected children and their families living in Bangladesh. A few coins from your pocket money (and your friend's pocket money!) can go a long way! If you would like a moneybox then please let us know by emailing moneybox@leprosymission.org.nz



Daniel Holding's winning colour competition design.



© 2010 Michael Bradley: Nazma is with her husband Kabir and their two children.



© 2010 Michael Bradley: Nazma and her employee generate an income through sewing. She wants to open another shop.

**CREATING BIG
CHANGE FROM YOUR
SMALL CHANGE**



LEFT: The children of Room 17 at Selwyn Ridge Primary, Tauranga handing over their moneybox to Heidi. RIGHT TOP: The children of Room 17 at Selwyn Ridge Primary, Tauranga. RIGHT BOTTOM: © 2010 Heidi Darcy: Heidi with a leprosy patient at the Ben San Leprosy Hospital in Vietnam.

Kiwi Kids Making a Difference

In 2010, Heidi Darcy travelled to Ben San Leprosy Hospital in Vietnam as a Registered Nurse to provide clinical advice for a range of wound dressings. Heidi explains that "wound management at the hospital is an enormous challenge because of the basic conditions, the poor health of the patients and the disabilities arising from leprosy".

At the end of last year, Heidi was asked by one of the teachers at her oldest child's school, Selwyn Ridge Primary, to come and speak to the classroom about her trip to Vietnam and the leprosy hospital. Heidi was thrilled to talk about her experience, presenting photos from her trip to the seven and eight year olds and sharing some stories about the leprosy-affected patients she got to meet. The students were so inspired by Heidi's presentation that they wanted to raise money for people affected by leprosy. "You've taught me to care and share because as Kiwis we can make a difference," said Trey.

Room 17 at Selwyn Ridge Primary decided to hold a bake stall in support of the work of Leprosy Mission New Zealand. The children put their baking aprons on and with assistance from parents made cupcakes, biscuits, slices and other popular home-made goodies to sell at their bake stall. Leprosy Mission NZ provided the classroom with posters, information sheets about

leprosy and moneyboxes for the children to put their fundraising in. The children's efforts raised over \$200 and they were thrilled to see their moneyboxes filling up, with the proceeds going to leprosy-affected families overseas. Reid sums up the feelings of the class with "We want to help people who have leprosy and to make them have a smile."

We would like to thank Heidi, the teacher, students and parents of Room 17 at Selwyn Ridge Primary for putting on their thinking caps and their baking aprons to fundraise for people affected by leprosy. Our mission is to rid the world of leprosy in our children's lifetime, and having today's children part of the solution will help fast- track our mission.

You can find out more about Heidi's experience in Vietnam on our website or refer back to our *InTouch* September 2010 article.

Would you like to hold a fundraising event at your local Sunday school, school or local market? Contact Tracey Adamson who will arrange some promotional material for you tracey.adamson@leprosymission.org.nz or phone 0800 862 873 today.

Chinese New Year a Success

Lucy Xia, Ethnic Community Volunteer, reflects on the Chinese New Year event:

"This year was the second time the Leprosy Mission NZ Ethnic Communities outreach team exhibited at the Chinese New Year Event at ASB Showgrounds, Auckland. Although the New Year Festivities is a time of abundance and celebration, I think our presence there was significant; it was a reminder of the less privileged who are in need of assistance, and to feel grateful that our prosperity has granted us the capacity to share and to give.



© 2012 Mike Sheppard: Lucy, Raynie and Lillian at the Leprosy Mission's stand at ASB Centre, Auckland on Saturday 21st January.

We distributed brochures and newspaper articles about the Mission's work in the home countries of many of the people who attended the event- such as China, India and Bangladesh. Raynie, our volunteer who worked for HANDA (a grassroots leprosy organisation in China) as an intern as part of her degree, was able to talk in detail about our partnership with HANDA to help the leprosy-affected people in South China.

Lillian, who had designed the Chinese version of the moneybox, was enthused to tell people about the possibility of making these donation boxes available in Chinese shops if we could raise sufficient funds to make these moneyboxes a reality. Our Ethnic Communities Ambassador Michael liaised with other organisations that had set up stalls at the event, to lay the foundations for potential future partnerships.

Many young people I talked to were interested to participate in the work of LMNZ as volunteers; some of them have not heard of leprosy but were willing to learn more about the situation of the disease world-wide. There were a few doctors and medical personnel we encountered who showed their support; there was also a woman from Guangzhou Province who was keen to learn more about the disease as it is very prevalent in her home province.

The event was not only a chance for us to inform ethnic communities about how they can contribute to fighting leprosy, but also a chance for us to learn about their perceptions and the ways in which they are able to assist us."

If you would like to help fund our Chinese Moneyboxes so we can print, distribute and display them in Chinese shops around New Zealand, please contact Mike Sheppard on: mike.sheppard@leprosymission.org.nz or 0800 862 873.

Parachute Music Festival Raises Awareness of Leprosy



Parachute is one of the largest music festivals in the Southern Hemisphere, with around 20,000 people attending the four day Christian music event near Hamilton each year. Leprosy Mission NZ attended the event this year with the aim of raising awareness of leprosy during its centenary year in 2012.

The festival coincided with World Leprosy Day which was celebrated

this year on Sunday 29th January. World Leprosy Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of January each year in over 45 countries worldwide, to raise awareness of leprosy and educate people about this curable disease.

We also had four Leprosy Mission Youth Advocates on site, two from the 2011 trip and two from this year's trip. Having both past and current Youth Advocates on site was a great asset, as visitors to our site got to learn first-hand of the Youth Advocates' experiences and get inspired to apply for the scholarship. The pictures displayed around our site were a great conversation starter as they showed the disabilities resulting from leprosy if left untreated.

Copies of *InTouch* magazine were handed out, over 40 Really Good Gifts were purchased to help leprosy-affected individuals and their families and numerous donations were made throughout the weekend. Around 200 people signed up to receive further information about various aspects of the work of the Leprosy Mission.

"It was inspiring to engage with people of all ages at Parachute Festival", says Brent Morgan, Executive Director. "It was a great opportunity and we were very glad to be a part of it. We had a pleasing response to our Really Good Gifts, Running 4 Rights and Youth Advocate Scholarship programmes. We look forward to attending again in future years."

Newstalk ZB 'Cure 50' Campaign

During December last year, Leprosy Mission NZ and Newstalk ZB joined together to launch a 'Cure 50' campaign. The aim was to raise \$22,000 in two weeks, which could cure 50 people of leprosy plus help them with rehabilitation and skills training.

Heartfelt thanks go to radio announcer Pat Brittenden for once again showing his support for the Leprosy Mission's work by encouraging his listeners to reach out and cure people affected by leprosy. Newstalk ZB listeners stepped up to the challenge and donated enough funds to cure 66 people. One generous supporter from Hillcrest Chapel in Hamilton gave an amazing \$8,600, sufficient to cure and rehabilitate 20 people!

"People have been very receptive to the radio promotion, and listeners were very generous. We cannot thank the donors, Pat Brittenden and Newstalk ZB enough" says Brent Morgan, Executive Director.

As part of the broadcast, Pat interviewed Brent and Dr Steve Withington (Board Member and previous Bangladesh Country Director) to help listeners understand the reality of leprosy and the way it severely marginalises people.

Looking for an Adventure?

How about an adventure with a purpose? The Leprosy Mission Australia has some amazing tours on offer this year, including a trek through Nepal, an India Awareness tour and Ride for Rehab in Thailand. Get involved and see our mission in action:

Trek for Treatment:

Mountain walks above the Kathmandu Valley reveal outstanding Himalayan panoramas and sunrises not to be missed. The trek will provide an interesting blend of culture, incredible mountain scenery and relaxation. This tour offers a compact insight into the midlands of Nepal and its people.

India Awareness Tour:

India is home to great food, fascinating culture, alluring sights and friendly and inviting people. On this trip you will not only see the wonderful way in which the lives of people affected by leprosy are being transformed, but you will also discover some of the charms and mystery that make up this incredible country including the Taj Mahal and the impressive Agra Fort.

'Ride for Rehab':

Experience and see Thailand in a truly remarkable way – by bicycle. Meet fascinating people, experience a rich and diverse culture, visit a leprosy village, a traditional crafts village and enjoy wondrous scenery and culinary delights – you're sure to have an awe inspiring experience.

If you would like more information about these tours please contact Gillian Whitley, Donor Development Manager on 0800 862 873 or Gillian.Whitley@leprosymission.org.nz



RUNNING 4RIGHTS

Running 4 Rights in 2011 was a great success. We raised over \$14,000 to help leprosy-affected people and their families in the six countries in which we have projects.

We cannot thank our participants enough; we had runners and walkers taking part in events ranging from 5km to full marathons in length in events all over the country including Dunedin, New Plymouth, Rotorua and Auckland.

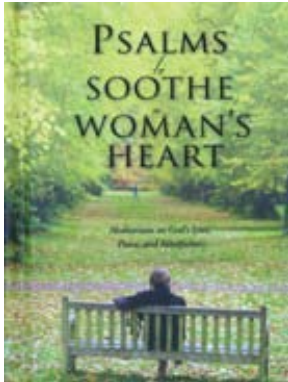
We would also like to say a big thank you to our valued supporters who donated towards our 'Running 4 Rights' team. Thanks to you, we beat our target of \$10,000.

We will be taking part in events throughout this year, so contact Gillian Whitley for more information on 0800 862 873 or Gillian.Whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

Books: Take Time to Reflect

Our wide range of books make great gifts and with Easter coming up the books can be used for studying His word.

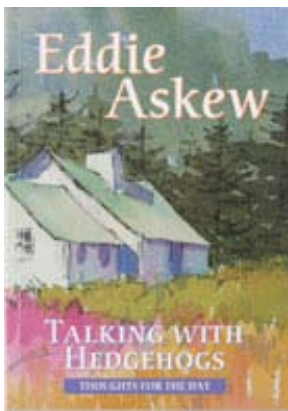
Here are just a few of the books we have available for purchase. To see our full selection visit www.leprosymission.org.nz/online-book-shop



Psalms to Soothe a Woman's Heart

God offers one a haven from the pressures of daily life. We need to slow down and ask him to give us refreshment and restoration. This book suggests we take a quiet moment and unwind with Psalms and reflect on the goodness and faithfulness only God provides.

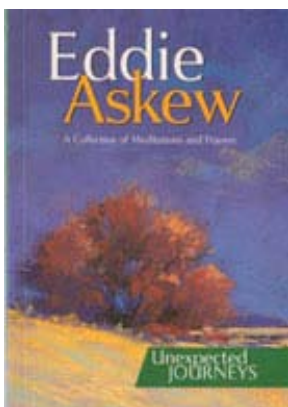
Price: \$23 + postage and handling



Talking with Hedgehogs

Author Eddie Askew encourages us to stop and take time to think about the world we live in and how we can, and do, influence our own lives and those of the people around us.

Price: \$10 + postage and handling



Unexpected Journeys

Well-known writer Eddie Askew asks us to push the boundaries of our imagination as he recreates five stories from the Bible with vivid imagery. These are not just stories of the past but stories that mirror our own life's journey.

Price: \$10 + postage and handling

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

Prayer & Praise

We would love for you to join us in regular prayer support. Our Prayer and Praise diary is available by post or email. If you are interested please email ngaira.lynnch@leprosymission.org.nz or call FreePhone 0800 862 873.

Bequests

We are extremely grateful to the following supporters who so thoughtfully remembered us in their Will.

Miss Allison Joan Hassett – Timaru

Miss Ethel Watson Malcolm – Ashburton

Mrs Alice Munro – Waitakere

Mrs Elsie Sowerby – Waiuku

Mr William Warren Jenson – Upper Hutt

Audrey Isabel Gibson – Greytown

Mr Louis George Phillips – Christchurch

Mr Trevor Dunne – Kerikeri

Mrs Ellen Gertrude Baldock – Auckland

Ms Marion Evelyn Malcolm – Raumati

Mrs Betty Joyce Smith – Hamilton

Vivienne Sands Sinclair – Christchurch

Mrs B L Orr – Auckland

Mr William O'Hara – Waiuku

Mrs Ruby May Hill – Levin

Myra Ethel Smith – Ashburton

A Lasting Gift for a World Without Leprosy

If you are thinking of leaving a bequest in your Will to the Mission please contact our Donor Development Manager Gillian Whitley for a friendly and confidential chat on 0800 862 873 or you can email her at gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

Donations Received in Memory of (Aug11 – Feb12)

Edward Turner – Waiheke Island

Helen Dangerfield – Paraparaumu

Cynthia Guyan – Christchurch

Elspeth Lewis – Auckland

Ian Brown – Wellington

Marjorie Richardson – Wellington

Edward Collings – Kawerau

**"All they asked was that
we should continue to
remember the poor, the
very thing I had been
eager to do all along."
Galatians 2:10**



© Michael Bradley – A child from a leprosy-affected family playing in the streets of Delhi, India.

Leprosy MISSION NZ

100 years of families helping families

Leprosy Mission New Zealand

PO Box 10227, Dominion Road,
Auckland 1446, New Zealand.
591 Dominion Road, Balmoral,
Auckland 1041, New Zealand.

P +64 9 630 2818

FP 0800 862 873

F +64 9 623 1865

E enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz

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