

# inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 436 / Autumn 2015

Change in Chittagong

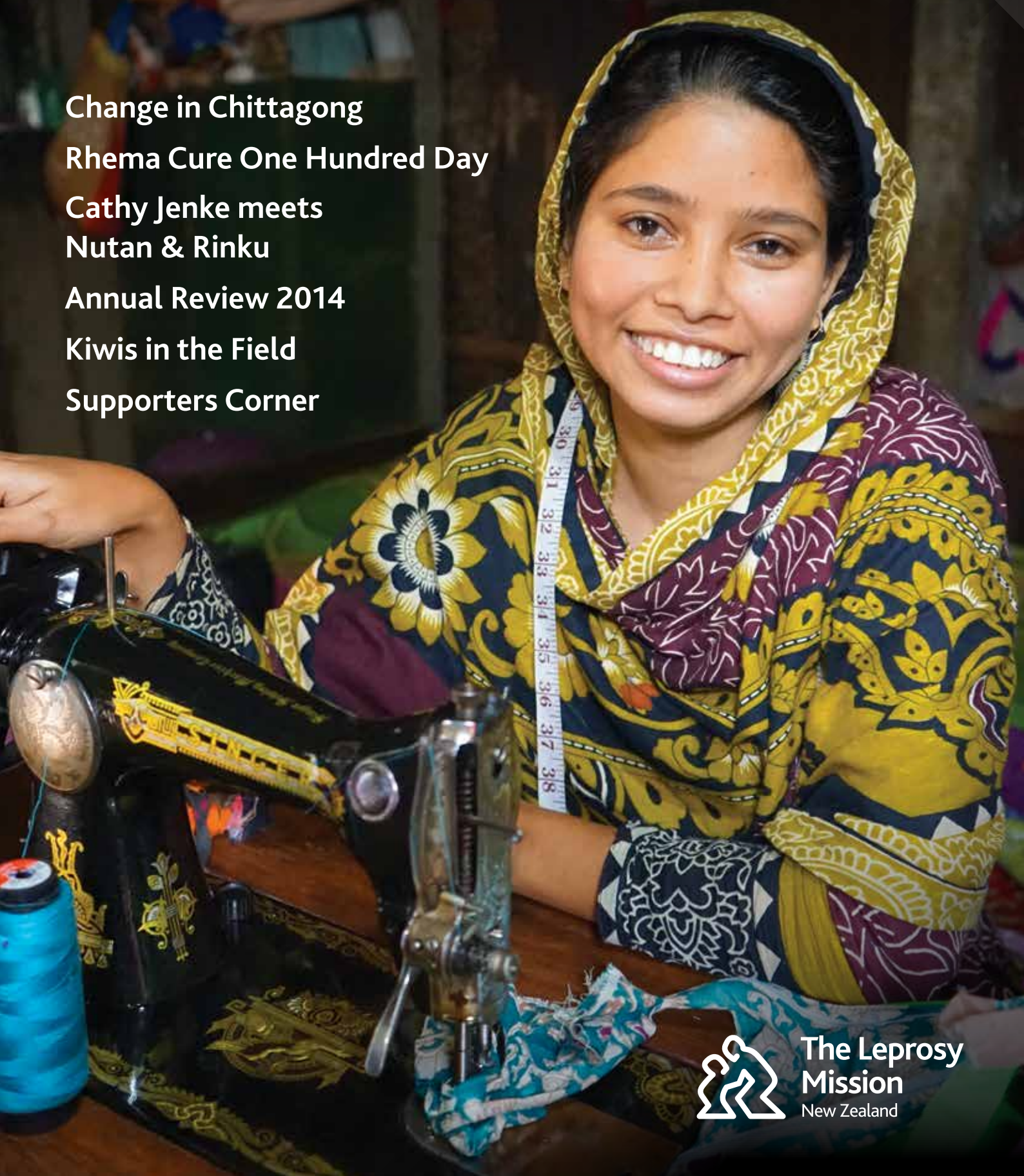
Rhema Cure One Hundred Day

Cathy Jenke meets  
Nutan & Rinku

Annual Review 2014

Kiwis in the Field

Supporters Corner



The Leprosy  
Mission  
New Zealand

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# Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn edition of *inTouch*!

Recently I had the opportunity to visit Nutan, a young girl from India who has been our Cure One Ambassador.

When I first met Nutan in 2013, she was in a dark place – leprosy had clawed her hand, badly deformed her foot so that she had to move about on crutches, and completely robbed her of confidence. She had dropped out of school.

Eighteen months on and Nutan is a new person. Her hand is better, she moves about freely without crutches and has blossomed into a beautiful young woman. She is back in school and has regained her self-confidence.

The buffalo and calf Nutan received as part of the Cure One programme are doing well. It was a privilege to visit the family near Muzaffarpur and see the difference the Cure One programme has made in Nutan's life and that of her family.

Our work through Cure One is by no means over. Cure One supporters are continuing to help more young people like Rinku (see page 3).

Thank you for supporting people affected by leprosy. It is inspiring to see the difference that your prayers and generosity can make in a person's life.

I trust that you enjoy your copy of *inTouch*.

With blessings,



Brent Morgan  
Executive Director



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



Cover photo courtesy of Eloise Johnstone.  
Eloise recently visited our income generation projects in Bangladesh.

*The Leprosy Mission New Zealand Incorporated is a Registered Charity Number CC37638*

*The Leprosy Mission New Zealand is a Christian development organisation that works to cure, care for and restore leprosy-affected people, families and communities. Our vision is a world where leprosy is ended and lives are transformed. inTouch is published twice a year by the Leprosy Mission New Zealand.*

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## Join Rinku on her Cure One journey

When Cathy Jenke from Rhema Media visited our work in India recently she met Nutan and Rinku. Last year Cure One supporters shared Nutan's journey of

**complete recovery from the effects of leprosy. Now it is Rinku's turn to be completely cured, cared for and restored.**

For Rinku, leprosy began as unsightly numb patches on her face. "I would not go out," she told us. "I spent one and a half years inside the house because of my patches."

She lost control of her fingers, thumb and wrist. "I am scared about how people will view me with my deformity and sickness. I am so depressed by this disease."

Now all that is changing. Rinku will receive surgery at a Hospital in Kolkata, India. "It is a complicated case," says her doctor, Alomani Kerketta. "All three nerves are involved. I can correct her fingers and thumb but the wrist needs more pre-operative physiotherapy."

Rinku's family cannot afford anywhere near this standard of treatment, but at last Rinku has the chance to be completely cured, cared for and restored through Cure One.

On average it costs just \$432 to completely cure, care for and restore someone with leprosy. That's \$36 a month for a year. You can also choose \$18 a month over two years.

Become a Cure One supporter and you too can completely cure, care for and restore someone like Rinku.

Visit [cureone.org.nz](http://cureone.org.nz), email [kiri.debeer@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:kiri.debeer@leprosymission.org.nz) or call 0800 862 873.

## Tune in for Rhema Cure One Hundred 2015!

From 6am to 7pm on 15 April 2015 Rhema is back to host another amazing day where listeners across New Zealand can support the Leprosy Mission.

The Leprosy Mission, in partnership with Rhema announcers will be encouraging listeners to cure, care for and restore **100** people like Rinku and Nutan.

"Rhema Media is right behind the work of the Leprosy Mission. On our last Cure One Hundred Day enough money was raised from our generous Rhema listeners to cure, care for and restore 250 people affected by leprosy."

Mike Brewer, CEO Rhema Media

This year, Brent Morgan will be back in the studio updating listeners with news about the Leprosy Mission's Cure One programme. He will also introduce Rinku who, like Nutan last year, now needs support.



Cathy Jenke meets Nutan (see article on page 5).

"It's all about one supporter being very involved in helping another human being. It is so personal," Brent enthuses. "Many Cure One supporters tell us how satisfied they feel knowing what they are doing to help change someone's life forever."

On April 15th, please pray for and listen in to this special day of compassion and generosity, as we seek to Cure One Hundred people like Rinku."

### R H E M A RADIO FREQUENCIES

Alexandra 92.7AM • Auckland 1251AM • Bay of Plenty 540AM • Christchurch 612AM • Cromwell 89.5FM • Dunedin 621AM • Eastland 684AM • Gore 99.2FM • Greymouth 92.3FM • Hamilton 855AM • Hawke's Bay 99.1FM • Invercargill 1404AM • Kaikohe/Bay of Islands 99.9FM • Kaitiaki 549AM • Manawatu 91.4FM • Masterton 97.5FM • Murchison 97.3 • Nelson 801AM • Queenstown 94.4FM • Raetihi 95FM • Rotorua 93.5FM • Tapanui 99.2FM • Taranaki 540AM • Taumarunui 97.5FM • Taupo 95.2FM • Te Anau 94.4FM • Timaru 594AM • Tokoroa 99.7FM • Twizel 91.8FM • Wanaka 89FM • Wanganui 594AM • Whangarei 621AM • Wellington 972AM • Westport 94.9FM





*Cure One Supporters Aimee and Danny Kettoola were impressed with Leprosy Mission hospitals and community development programmes in India's remote north.*

# 2014 Supporter trip

## *The life-changing impact of a small seed sown in New Zealand*

**A chance meeting with Leprosy Mission New Zealand CEO, Brent Morgan, at last year's Parachute Music Festival in the Waikato, led to a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Auckland newlyweds, Danny and Aimee Kettoola.**

As a doctor at Starship Hospital, Aimee said she naturally gravitated to the Leprosy Mission's stand to learn more about this almost mythical disease that is still rife amongst the poor in countries such as India and Nepal.

Some months later Aimee and Danny, who had become Cure One supporters, joined a Leprosy Mission supporter's tour to visit community development programmes, hospitals and vocational training centres off the beaten track in India's northern states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

At Muzaffarpur Hospital in Bihar state, Aimee could not get over the huge workload of doctors and other hospital staff, with one doctor easily consulting up to 160 patients a day.

Danny was impressed with the Faizabad city's Vocational Training Centres for young people in Uttar Pradesh. The Leprosy Mission's vocational centres generally boast a 100 per cent job placement

figure, and some students are offered employment even before they complete a course.

"These young people are awesome," Danny says. "I was inspired by their joy and drive to succeed despite the harrowing effects of leprosy on their lives."

The Kettoolas describe their Leprosy Mission visit to India as an unforgettable experience.

"It was fantastic to see people transformed into confident, upbeat and hopeful human beings," Aimee says. "It was a privilege to see the small seeds we sow in New Zealand having such a life-changing impact in India. But that's our God. Whenever you think catastrophe has struck, God can transform it into a success story."

***If you are interested in joining a supporters' tour please contact Gillian Whitley on 0800 862 873 or (09) 631 1806 or email: [gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz)***

## Thank-you for helping us stop the stigma of leprosy

The most hurtful symptom of leprosy is stigma. But thanks to your support on World Leprosy Day (25 January) the Leprosy Mission can continue to fight the stigma of leprosy in places like China and Bangladesh.

More people like Li – who doesn't even have leprosy – will no longer be exiled or discriminated against by a society that does not understand. Nor will they miss out on opportunities for education and success in life because of a disease their parents or grandparents had.

We thank you for your generosity in supporting anti-stigma projects that educate communities where leprosy is still destroying lives.



*Li is one of many children affected by the stigma of leprosy.*



*"My visit to India was awe-inspiring. I returned home blown away by the Leprosy Mission's work among people, who otherwise might end up ostracised, stigmatised, and without hope for any kind of future."*

*Cathy Jenke, Rhema Media*

# Cathy meets Nutan & Rinku

## Cathy Jenke witnesses transformation in India

Late last year, Cathy Jenke, breakfast host with Rhema Media jumped at the chance to join a group of New Zealand supporters to see the Leprosy Mission's work in India.

Her interest in the Leprosy Mission had been piqued when she was involved in Rhema's inaugural Cure One Hundred Day in 2013. Cathy shared her impressions with us.

"After some 17 hours in the air and several more hours of intrepid road travel to India's remote north, I was stunned by a kaleidoscopic blur of people, colour, noise and unexpected beauty amidst some unimaginable poverty and suffering – not to mention the chaotic traffic!" she says.

In far-flung villages in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, Cathy met two teenage girls – Nutan and Rinku – whose respective experiences of living with leprosy poignantly capture the journey from despair to hope.

Sixteen-year-old Nutan had extensive nerve damage to her right foot and left hand. She lost her big toe, struggled with chronic ulcers on her foot and could not use her severely clawed hand.

Thanks to the compassion and generosity of New Zealand Cure One supporters Nutan received multi-drug treatment to cure her leprosy, two complex reconstructive surgeries to her hand, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and a scholarship to help her return to school.

The changes have transformed her and her family's life. "Nutan has become a confident young woman and her mother and grandmother are now very optimistic about her future," Cathy says.

Cathy also caught up with 16-year-old Rinku – our young Cure One ambassador for this year - when she was awaiting a pre-surgery examination of her severely deformed hand.

"Rinku looked as if she carried the weight of the world on her shoulders, and her mother spoke emotionally about the 'curse' of leprosy on her desperately poor family," Cathy recalls. "Their pain touched me deeply."



Young women affected by leprosy receive computer training at the Faizabad vocational training centre, so they can find employment and become self-reliant.



Outpatients wait for a doctor's consultation at Muzaffarpur Hospital, Bihar.

Cathy feels privileged to have witnessed Nutan's remarkable transformation, as well as the start of Rinku's road to recovery.

"Witnessing the Leprosy Mission's life-altering work is an unforgettable experience. It opens your eyes and heart to a world completely different to anything most Kiwis know, and makes you appreciate New Zealand all the more."



Patients in Muzaffarpur Hospital's women's ward, who have undergone reconstructive surgery on clawed hands or drop feet.



# Youth Advocates 2015

## *Passionate to provide power to Anandaban Hospital*

In the shadow of the legendary Himalayas, the 2015 Leprosy Mission Youth Advocates were inspired by life-changing stories of leprosy-affected people they met at Anandaban Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, earlier this year.

The Youth Advocates, all tertiary students in the health, medical or education fields, are Anna Thompson (Whangarei), Rachael Wilson (Warkworth), Samantha Bradley (Rotorua), Jenny Yoon (Hamilton), Clemency Johnstone (Christchurch), Jess Kokshoorn (Greymouth), Bernie Kyne (Wellington), Harriet McKenzie (Wanganui), and Eve Whitley (Auckland).

Their first-hand observation of successful reconstructive surgeries has impressed upon the Youth Advocates the

transformative power a local anaesthetic operation of only an hour can have on someone who has been struggling with leprosy for many years.

One such person the Youth Advocates had met was 41-year-old Suryakala, a widow with two daughters. Diagnosed with leprosy at only six years of age, Suryakala has faced numerous challenges over the decades, but the Leprosy Mission has always been there for the family, to this day.

"My life has not been easy, but through God's strength and with the help of the Leprosy Mission, we are getting through," says Suryakala, whose elder daughter is now studying at university.

### *Help Youth Advocates raise funds for hospital generator*

As a brand new ward and other facilities are being constructed at Anandaban Hospital, the 2015 Youth Advocates are eager to make a contribution, by raising funds for a second generator to ensure an uninterrupted power supply to keep hospital services running smoothly.

Supporters are welcome to contribute to the Youth Advocates' project. Please contact Gillian Whitley at [gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz) or on 0800 862 873, or make a donation at [givealittle.co.nz/cause/youthadvocates2015](http://givealittle.co.nz/cause/youthadvocates2015)



Forty-one-year-old Suryakala, who was diagnosed with leprosy at only six years of age, with Brent Morgan, CEO of The Leprosy Mission NZ.



The Leprosy Mission Youth Advocates in Nepal. From left to right are Harriet, Jess, Bernie, Samantha, Clem, Rachael, Jenny, Anna, Eve.

If you would like to be a Youth Advocate contact [gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz)



# Annual Review 2014

1st January - 31st December 2014



**The Leprosy  
Mission**  
New Zealand

## Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our supporters, the Leprosy Mission remains committed to eliminating leprosy from the earth.

Our devoted supporters' loyalty continues to instill in us heartfelt gratitude for their generosity. The significant impact of their invaluable contributions in the past financial year is underpinned by the \$3,946,993 we could commit to our overseas ministry.

We cannot thank you enough for joining hands with us in our important mission, and making our life-changing work possible.

Throughout 2014, our projects brought essential services and support to leprosy-affected individuals, their families and their communities. We are extremely grateful to the staff worldwide for their devotion and determination.



### BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, New Zealand supporters fund two Leprosy Mission projects. The first project is in and around Chittagong city (the second most populous city and main seaport of Bangladesh), and the second project is located in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

#### With your support, in 2014:

- The leprosy prevalence rate in the Chittagong Hill Tracts dropped from 10 per 100,000 of the population in 2012 to 6.6 per 100,000 last year
- 14,598 people living in high-risk areas for leprosy transmission in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were screened for leprosy
- 636 days of special leprosy clinics were run in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to treat people with leprosy, as well as those experiencing a leprosy reaction (periods of inflammation that can affect the nerves)
- More than 76,000 people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were reached by leprosy awareness-raising activities, such as community group education and street plays
- 1,396 protective or other assistive devices were provided to people living with a leprosy-related disability
- 405 leaders of self-help groups (SHGs) received training in leadership, group management and basic book-keeping skills
- 573 SHG members received training and support in technical or business skills to help them start or improve their business or trade
- 310 small loans were approved for SHG members to run small businesses and help them generate a sustainable income
- 3,096 SHG members were informed of their human rights, especially as people affected by leprosy or a disability



### CHINA

In China, LMNZ works with HANDA, an association of people affected by leprosy, which provides support to people living with leprosy in southern China. LMNZ support HANDA's work in the three provinces of Yunnan, Guandong and Guangxi.

#### With your support, in 2014:

- HANDA reached at least 20,000 people through online leprosy awareness-raising messages
- 200 new volunteers were trained to work with people living with leprosy in 15 villages
- 770 volunteers paid 59 visits to villages to support people affected by leprosy
- 105 volunteers taught children in 10 villages about sanitation, and personal health and safety
- 20 water-free and sustainable bio-toilets and four septic tanks were built in four villages, with villagers being involved in construction work, and women appreciating the privacy and hygiene of the new bio-toilets
- 2,308 pairs of protective shoes were distributed in 82 villages to 1,319 people living with leprosy
- 161 people were supported with 175 new prostheses (14 people had both legs amputated), and 476 used prostheses were repaired
- Social workers paid 12 visits to eight households in Xinsha village to help reduce stigma around leprosy, and supporting five people affected by leprosy to return to their respective families – some of whom had not seen each other in decades
- Community workers paid follow-up visits to 60 leprosy-affected families in eight villages that have started income-generating activities, and supported them with further skills and management training



### ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, LMNZ funds the 'Building Self-Reliant Communities through Economic Development Project' with its partner, ENAPAL (Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy). ENAPAL has over 15,000 members who are directly affected by leprosy.

#### With your support, in 2014:

- A Grain Mill enterprise was built in Ambo, central Ethiopia, and five new milling machines were installed through a local savings and credit co-operative; the mill will generate much-needed income for the poorest of the poor, and break down barriers between people affected by leprosy and the wider community
- 56 self-care groups were established and members are responsible for running the groups
- 28 people affected by leprosy attended self-care training
- 28 people living with leprosy received leadership training
- Bi-weekly leprosy awareness-raising programmes were broadcast on a national radio station
- A weekly television series on leprosy and the Leprosy Mission's work was aired in November 2014
- 5,000 copies of ENAPAL's The Truth Magazine, as well as promotional leaflets, banners and hats with leprosy awareness messages, were distributed among ENAPAL members
- 28 board members (14 representing ENAPAL and 14 from its partner organisation ALVRA) received leadership training to help strengthen the respective associations' governance capacity
- 20 elderly people affected by leprosy were supported with blankets and sleepwear at a Leprosy Mission Christmas celebration



# Together, we can cure, care for, and restore people in poverty affected by leprosy.

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand (LMNZ) is a Christian development organisation that works to cure, care for, and restore people in poverty affected by leprosy. Founded in 1912, we are one of the most established charitable organisations in New Zealand. We are part of The Leprosy Mission International, a leading Christian development organisation that has a presence in over 28 leprosy-affected countries around the world.



## INDIA

In India, we continued to support Muzaffarpur Hospital and Faizabad Vocational Training Centre. In addition LMNZ funds another hospital two community projects with our partner, TML India. These projects focus on empowering communities in Andhra and rural Uttar Pradesh.

### With your support, in 2014:

- 452 people were admitted for care and treatment in Muzaffarpur Hospital
- 4,114 people came to Muzaffarpur Hospital for consultation and leprosy diagnosis
- 120 students completed training at Faizabad Vocational Training Centre
- 129 children with leprosy-related disabilities were enrolled in a physiotherapy centre
- 89 people participated in disability management training programmes, and parents of children with disabilities were trained in physiotherapy exercises to support their children
- 125 SHGs were assisted to access a range of government support, thanks to increasing collaboration between the Leprosy Mission and government authorities
- 451 people living with leprosy were supported with applications for support, such as pension, bus passes, and wheel chairs and hearing aids
- 584 women attended 22 programmes on women's rights, with women learning more about support schemes, the prevention of domestic violence, and initiatives to encourage girls' education instead of their entering into child marriage
- 538 leprosy-affected people participated in ten leprosy awareness-raising programmes



## NEPAL

In Nepal, LMNZ provides funding for Anandaban Hospital, which is a 110-bed facility with 80 dedicated beds for leprosy patients and 30 beds for general patients. The hospital also operates two clinics in Kathmandu city, as well as satellite clinics and health camps in rural areas.

### With your support, in 2014:

- 24,678 people (including those affected by leprosy) received care and treatment through Anandaban Hospital's in-patient and out-patient services
- 376 reconstructive surgeries were performed on leprosy-affected patients
- 435 treatment plans were provided to people diagnosed with leprosy-related ulcers
- 1,871 people living with leprosy were supported with prostheses and orthoses to improve mobility and enable greater independence
- 137 treatment plans were provided for patients with leprosy reactions (periods of inflammation that can affect the nerves) and other leprosy-related medical concerns
- 810 patients received pastoral care and counselling
- 4,096 patients diagnosed with skin-related conditions, received appropriate care and treatment
- 19,416 outpatients underwent consultations for a range of medical conditions
- LMNZ Youth Advocates raised \$25,000 towards a transit bus to transport patients, staff and equipment between Anandaban Hospital and their clinics



## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), LMNZ funds two projects. The first is the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP), which works with village communities and government health staff to establish a basic village healthcare programme across Bougainville. The second is the PNG Leprosy Control Partnership, which works with the PNG Division of Health to implement its Leprosy Control Programme across all of PNG.

### With your support, in 2014:

#### Bougainville Healthy Communities Project (BHCP)

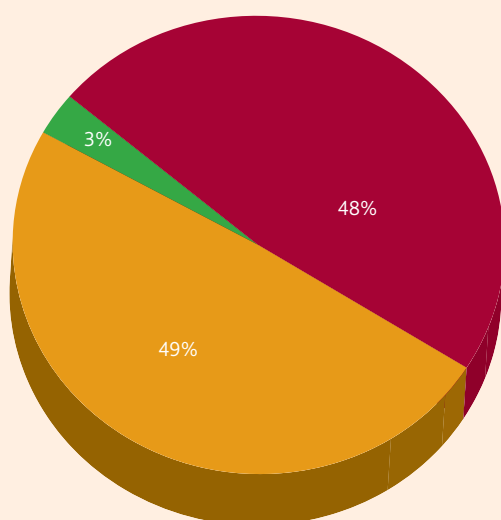
- 507 village health volunteers received training in community health development, bringing to 2,157 the total number of trained volunteers working in communities
- 209 village community leaders underwent leadership and governance training, taking to 1,863 the total number of trained leaders
- 1,394 of these leaders were active in establishing village authorities and health centres
- Volunteers visited 371 leprosy-affected communities, representing half of all communities in which BHCP is working

#### PNG Leprosy Control Partnership

- All 105 district health facility staff in five provinces with the highest prevalence of leprosy received training in leprosy diagnosis, treatment, and the referral system
- The system of active case finding (health volunteers visiting villages to detect leprosy) led to 104 more cases identified in 2014 compared to the 195 cases the previous year (a total of 299 people)
- New leprosy awareness-raising information, education and communication collateral (posters, self-care leaflets and DVDs) were developed for schools and churches

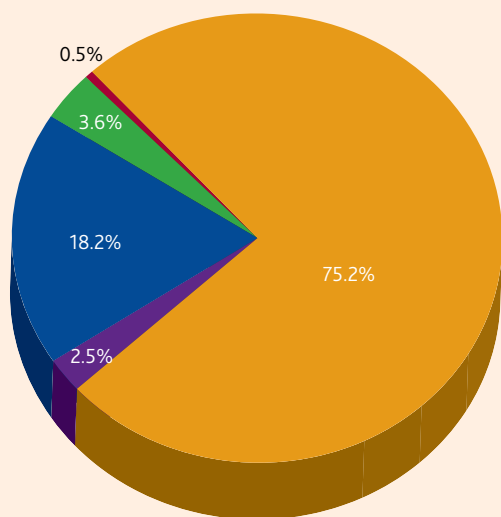


## Income Received



<span style="color: #800040;">■</span> NZ Government Grants	48%	\$2,168,930
<span style="color: #FFA500;">■</span> Private Income	49%	\$2,218,535
<span style="color: #008000;">■</span> Interest/Other Income	3%	\$118,131
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$4,505,596</b>

## Expenditure



<span style="color: #FFA500;">■</span> Overseas Ministries	75.2%
<span style="color: #800080;">■</span> Education	2.5%
<span style="color: #0000FF;">■</span> Marketing Expenses	18.2%
<span style="color: #008000;">■</span> Administration	3.6%
<span style="color: #800040;">■</span> Depreciation	0.5%

## The Year in Figures

This financial information summary is for the 12 months from 1 January to 31 December 2014, and is from the fully audited accounts. A full audited Annual Report for 2014 will be available at the Annual General Meeting held in May 2015. The Annual Report will also be available on [www.leprosymission.org.nz](http://www.leprosymission.org.nz)

## Thank you for your generosity

Thank you to all our generous supporters for your continued commitment to our mission. Without your compassionate support, we could not do our life-changing work among the poorest of the poor communities affected by leprosy.

Thank you, too, to the devotion of our faithful and beloved volunteers. Collectively, you have contributed more than 22,750 hours of your invaluable time as Moneybox collectors, Board and committee members, prayer partners, ethnic community volunteers, and office, stamp and mail-out volunteers.

Our grateful thanks also go to the global Leprosy Mission Network, our field partners, and the New Zealand International Development Group of MFAT (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade).

We also extend a special thank-you to those who so thoughtfully remembered the work of the Leprosy Mission in their Will.



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# Chittagong Project

## Lives transformed in Chittagong thanks to New Zealand supporters

*Leprosy-affected families in Chittagong have been transformed by the work of the Leprosy Mission and their community based Self Help Groups – thanks to Kiwi donations.*

*Suma and Shirin are grateful to their New Zealand supporters because the money and advice they receive is helping them to develop new skills, contribute to their family's income and create a brighter future. They share their stories below.*



### \* Suma Akther leading her Self Help Group

**Suma's family struggled to survive after her father was affected by leprosy. Although he is well now, the loss of his income meant the family became very poor.**

However, thanks to training and support from a Self Help Group, 20-year-old Suma's life is improving as she learns about her rights as a person.

"I received training in leadership, gender rights and how to speak up for myself and others," she says. "I also had embroidery training which included learning how to deal with customers, collecting orders and how to respond to people's wishes."

She's now chairperson for her Saikat Self Help Group – managing loans and accounting books, collecting repayments and running the group so everyone feels included and motivated.

Suma says embroidery is hard work at times, but she has patience, lots of artistic ideas and loves earning an income helping people 'beautify' themselves.

Suma recently got engaged and intends to keep her business going after her wedding. She dreams of producing fancy clothes and training other girls in embroidery.

*The Leprosy Mission is now in the final three-year phase of the Chittagong project, but there are still many other families that need support. Families like Nasir's who want the same chance for a whole new life.*



### \* Shirin Akther finds self-respect

**24-year-old Shirin was diagnosed with leprosy when she was just six years old. She received multi-drug therapy treatment and recovered with few side effects.**

Now she belongs to the Matamuhuri Self Help Group. "I've learned how to embroider and also trained in business development and group management," Shirin says.

"The Leprosy Mission provided me with a sewing machine and a loan to buy unprinted sari cloth, which I embroidered and sold for a profit. After that I got another loan to lease shop space in a market, where I sell my saris."

Shirin has already taught four other Self Help Group members to embroider – and they have started selling their work too.

"When I was growing up, my family believed girls were good for nothing," she says tearfully. "But that's not how they think anymore and that means so much to me. Now I have dignity. I respect myself and I know I can make a difference."





Natalie and Barbara in traditional Myanmar clothing and relaxing after the last course in Taungoo.



# Intouch with Myanmar

New Zealand physiotherapist Barbara Mawson went on a remarkable journey in late 2014, providing specialised training to the Leprosy Mission's physiotherapists in Myanmar (Burma).

Barbara, whose family has supported the Leprosy Mission for many years, was invited to Myanmar by the Leprosy Mission Myanmar's technical advisor and occupational therapist Natalie Smith.

*"I spent four weeks in Myanmar travelling to Pakokku and Taungoo teaching specialised skills to physiotherapists working out of the Leprosy Mission's disability centres," she says.*

Barbara says these outposts act as community hubs for the surrounding villages and do anything required to support the people they live amongst.

*"They treat and care for those with leprosy, but also address a wider brief of clients who may have cerebral palsy, epilepsy, Downs syndrome or had strokes," she explains.*

Barbara and Natalie taught Myanmar physiotherapists about age appropriate stimulation and neuro-developmental therapy. They also led a practical class about improving access for equipment like wheelchairs, and how to deal with barriers to access, as many of the houses are built up on platforms to avoid the rains.

*"The privilege of being able to upskill Myanmar's physiotherapists and see the real difference a week of expert therapy can make, transcends all discomfort and fatigue," Barbara says. "Thank you Leprosy Mission for being part of the ripple effect this will continue to have on the future of those we've met."*

A talented tutor, Barbara has been invited back to Myanmar in April 2015 to educate more Leprosy Mission physiotherapists.



Cho Cho Win is a 15-year-old girl with cerebral palsy who had been lying flat on her back most of her life. The physios made her a beanbag with cotton and ping-pong balls and started to stimulate her with age appropriate gadgets such as an iPhone. The beautiful smile she gave when we left, says it all!



# The Gift of Sight

During his latest trip to the Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Nepal, Brent Morgan and the 2015 Youth Advocates met two men - Harkey and Raju - whose lives have changed after undergoing eye surgery. Brent was touched by their stories of hardship and impressed with their determination to do what they could to improve their and their families' lives.



*Harkey Bhandari (left) is now confident he will be able to work on his farm again and provide for his family.*



*Raju Sing Dhami (right) did not believe that anything could be done to make life better for him.*

At sixty-two, West Nepalese farmer Harkey Bhandari had no idea that he'd contracted leprosy. He thought his clawed hands were the result of working long hours in his fields.

A year ago he could no longer feel his feet and there were unusual marks on his body. He did not know what was causing the physical problems and thought he was just old and his body was worn. Then his eyesight began to fail as he could no longer blink his eyes, and they became infected.

When he could no longer see properly, he was unable to work. Everyday activities were a struggle for him and, with a wife and children to support, his community "scolded" him for not providing for them.

He had no hope that his life would get any better until he heard about Anandaban Hospital. He travelled three days to receive reconstructive eye surgery and now wishes more people knew about the Leprosy Mission and the work they do.

Although he may yet have his left leg amputated due to severe ulcerations, Harkey is still positive about the future. "I have no words to explain how happy I am. I am overwhelmed by how much my life will change," he says.

Like Harkey, **Raju Sing Dhami** contracted leprosy without realising it. A plumber by trade, the first symptoms of leprosy appeared 14 years ago with ulcers on his feet and then clawed hands.

With the signs of leprosy so obvious, his community said the gods cursed him and he went to a traditional healer for treatment. It was unsuccessful. Raju's condition worsened and he became increasingly weak.

Before long his right eyelid no longer closed, so his sight was impaired and he was unable to work. The sixty-year-old widower felt he was a burden to his children, as he could not provide for them.

Eventually Raju was diagnosed at a local health clinic and had twelve months of multi-drug therapy. He was referred on to Anandaban Hospital where he's had reconstructive surgery on his right thumb (his fingers were too damaged) and eye surgery so he can blink his eyelids and protect his eyes from further damage.

He is excited he will return to his family in better health and able to live with greater independence. "I will be less of a burden on my family," Raju says. "I'll be able to look after myself again."



# Supporters Corner...



## *“A win-win for all”, say moneybox volunteers*

Recently the ranks of the Leprosy Mission's hard-working moneybox volunteers have been boosted by a passionate bunch of international students who met through the New Zealand Mentor Group.

One student, 24-year-old Logan (YeongSeok) Kim from Busan, South Korea, says volunteering has resulted in a mutually beneficial relationship.

“We get the chance to practise our English and learn more about Kiwi culture, while also collecting donations for the Leprosy Mission - it's a win-win situation for everyone,” he says with a cheeky grin!

The students have already embarked on a very successful moneybox drive. At least 20 Korean restaurant owners in



*Korean moneybox volunteers with a customer at Eat Box restaurant.  
L to R: Louis (Sungweon) Hwang, Do (Dohyun) Jung (volunteer), Logan (YeongSeok) Kim, and customer, Terrance Dagg.*

the Auckland CBD now have Leprosy Mission moneyboxes in their establishments.

Mr Leeyoung Yoo, owner of Eat Box restaurant on Queen Street, is thrilled to help transform the lives of people living with leprosy. “I am happy the Korean community can make a contribution to the work of the Leprosy Mission in this way.”

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*If you are interested in becoming a moneybox volunteer, please contact Gillian Whitley, Donor Development Manager, on **0800 862 873** or at [gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz)*

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## *Join our 2015 Supporters' Tour to India and Nepal*



*Last year's supporters meet young women from the Leprosy Mission's Faizabad vocational training centre in Uttar Pradesh, India. Photo: Courtesy of Aimee and Danny Kettoola.*

If you've always wanted to see how your generous support is helping to change lives in leprosy-affected communities – now is your chance! Join our supporters' tour to India and Nepal this September 2015 and see your contributions in action.

You will immerse yourself in vibrant cultures, tasting authentic local cuisine, and taking in fascinating sights and sounds. More importantly, you'll go off the beaten track and visit Leprosy Mission hospitals, vocational training centres and community development programmes, to meet the very people who are getting a second shot at life because of your support.

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Find out more about joining a supporters' tour by contacting Gillian Whitley on **0800 862 873** or **(09) 631 1806** or email: [gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz)

## *Thank you for your gifts of protective shoes*

We are thrilled by the support we've received from more than three hundred New Zealanders. Your response to our request for a donation towards the purchase of protective shoes has resulted in enough money for 1160 pairs.

At just \$10 a pair, these shoes are a lifeline for leprosy-affected people. For someone who must walk mile upon mile on swollen, nerve-damaged bare feet that are completely numb, protective shoes can be life-changing.

Not only do they help people regain their mobility, but in doing so they help them reclaim their income, their freedom and their dignity. Thank you for your generous and compassionate gift.





# Prayer & Praise

**"God has heard your prayers and knows about your gifts to the poor." Acts 10:31**

Prayer forms the firm foundation of the Leprosy Mission's work. Now more than ever, we need our supporters' prayers for our ministry to help cure, care for and restore people battling the devastating effects of leprosy in their lives. We are extremely grateful to those supporters who offer regular prayer support. If you would like to join us in prayer, you are welcome to request a special *Prayer & Praise* diary to help guide your prayers for specific individuals, projects and situations in the countries where we work. Order your copy of the *Prayer & Praise* diary bi-monthly by post, or monthly by email. You can also find the Prayer & Praise diary online at [www.leprosymission.org.nz](http://www.leprosymission.org.nz)

Thank you so much for standing with us in prayer.

**Request your *Prayer & Praise* diary today from Ngaira Lynch on 0800 862 873 or at [ngaira.lynch@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:ngaira.lynch@leprosymission.org.nz).**

## Bequests / In Memory

**Thank you for generous donations received in memory of:**

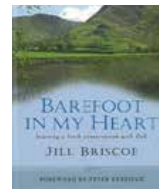
Mrs Audrey Hardcastle	Auckland
Florence (Joan) Spencer	Auckland
Mrs Margaret MacPherson	Blenheim
Mrs Catherine McEwin	Christchurch
Mrs Pearl Rushbrook	Hamilton

## The lasting legacy of bequests

We are extremely grateful to the following supporters who remembered the work of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand in their Will.

Mr Clifford Thomas Gibbs	New Plymouth
Miss Dulcie Joan Benjes	Rangiora
Mr Michael Breen	Christchurch
Vera Isabel Williamson	Auckland
Mr David William Bartlett Mead	Auckland
Mr Noel Lucas Adamson	Whangarei
Mrs Anna Maria Buitenhek	Tauranga
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Mrs Daisy Isabel Harland	New Plymouth
Mrs Rosemary Lucy Whittaker	New Plymouth
Mrs Rhoda Kathleen Mary Caroe	Auckland
Miss Margaret Elizabeth Kelsall	Hastings
Mrs Colleen Elizabeth Upton	Waikanae

## Hope-filled devotionals and reflections for you



### ***Barefoot in my Heart***

By Jill Briscoe

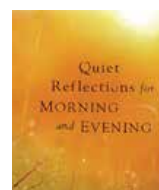
If you have ever found that your Christian Life was growing stale, *Barefoot in My Heart* is a roadmap to a peaceful heart, which will inspire you to grow deeper with God. **\$23 + P&H**



### ***Quiet Reflections of Hope***

By various authors

God wants to welcome you into the warmth of his presence every morning – to begin your day sitting at his feet with contentment and expectation. **\$23 + P&H**



### ***Quiet Reflections for Morning and Evening***

By various authors

This devotional encourages us all to begin and end our day with a quiet moment with God to refresh us and give meaning to our lives. Daily scriptures and a closing prayer will encourage you from dawn to dusk. **\$23 + P&H**

## Buy a book and help eradicate leprosy

To order your books today, please visit

[www.leprosymission.org.nz](http://www.leprosymission.org.nz) and order your copies at our online bookstore. Alternatively, contact Carolyn Currie on 0800 862 873 or at [carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz). The price of each book is \$23, with postage and handling (P&H) an additional \$5.50 for orders of up to five books and \$11 for orders of more than five books.

If you would like to include a bequest in your Will please contact Gillian on **0800 862 873** or [gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz)



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