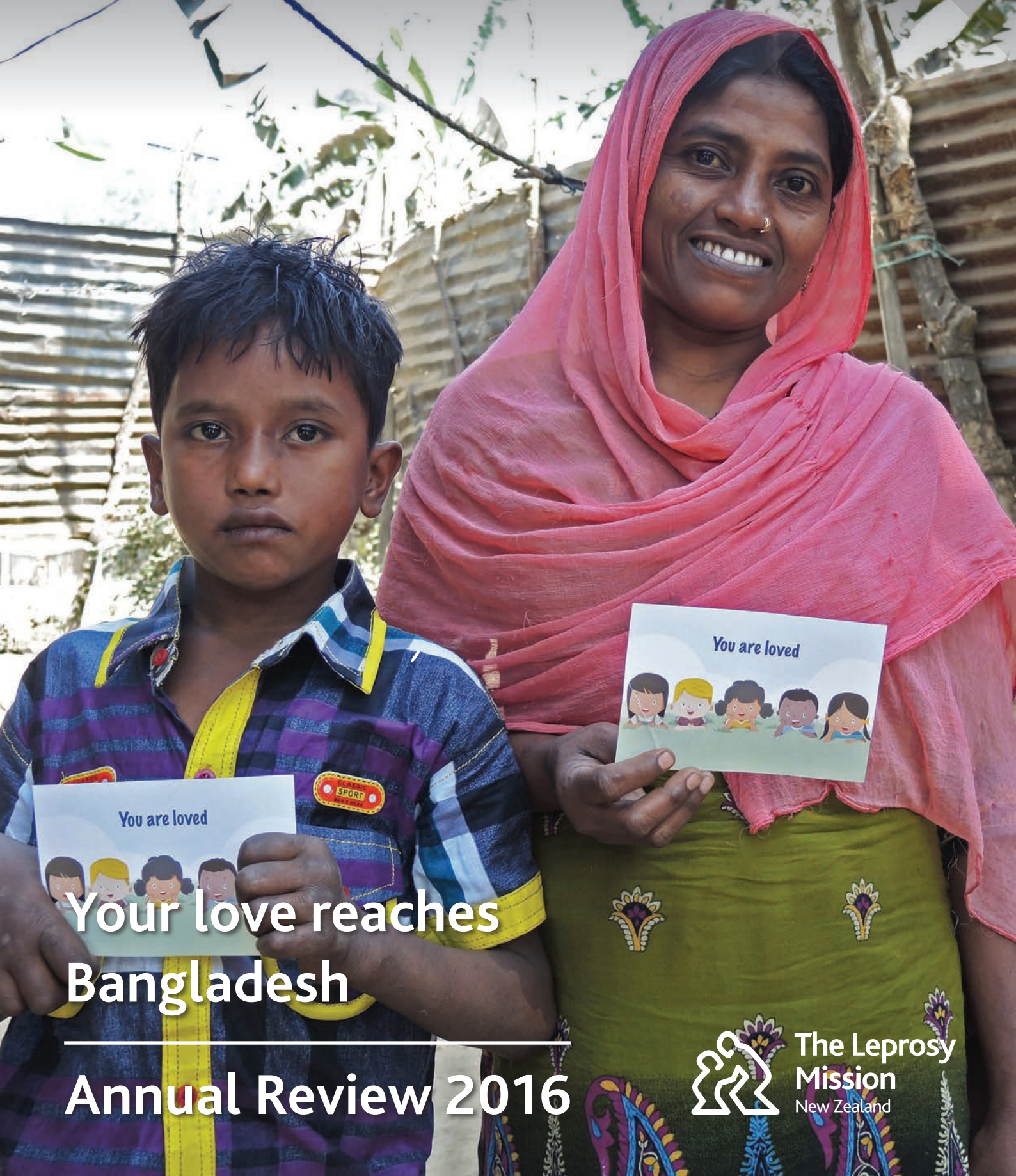


inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 441 / Spring 2017



Your love reaches
Bangladesh

Annual Review 2016



The Leprosy
Mission
New Zealand

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Welcome

Welcome to the Spring *inTouch* magazine.

Spring is in the air and I have a spring in my step knowing that your prayers and donations are reaching people affected by leprosy.

In Bangladesh I was able to give Rabiul one of the cards sent by you to let him know he was loved. His young life has been badly affected by leprosy resulting in the need for reconstructive hand surgery and ongoing medical care. Having been abandoned by his father, his family are struggling to survive. Your love and compassion will change their lives by bringing hope and light.

Rabiul is now receiving physiotherapy treatment and he is attentive to the daily exercises that are improving his hand movements.

His friend, Hasan, lives in the same village and at only nine years old also has leprosy. It is saddening to see another young boy have his life disrupted by this disease when their families already have poverty and malnutrition to deal with.

Thankfully through your support we are working in this community ensuring we cure, care for and restore their lives. The need can seem overwhelming and mercifully, the love of our God combined with the faithfulness of your prayers and support uplifts us all in our ministry. As you read the many wonderful stories in this magazine, continue to pray for individuals, their families and communities.

God bless,



Gillian Whitley
Executive Director



Gillian sharing your love with Rabiul.



Cover photo: Image of Bangladesh where the community received cards signed by NZ supporters.

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

The 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.

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Thank you to Bruce Millar, Eloise Johnstone, Micheal Bradley, Phil Johnstone and Tom Bradley for the amazing photos we feature.



Hasan begins his Cure One journey

Hasan is a very small 9-year-old boy from Bangladesh. His growth has been stunted by malnutrition and poverty. He lives at home with his family in a tiny rented house made from corrugated iron. There is just one room for the whole family and they barely have enough money for food once the rent is paid.

The curse of leprosy

Hasan's mother, Hagera, was devastated when she found out Hasan had leprosy.

"I was very scared," she remembers, "I thought his hands would become clawed."

After the shock of finding out her son could be permanently disabled, the suffering continued because the community turned against her and her small family.

"They were angry and they hated us," she recalls, "I thought leprosy was a curse."

The brink of survival

Hagera works as a manual labourer for just a few dollars a day. It is back breaking work.

"I dig soil," she explains, "I have to carry bags about 40 – 50kgs. The soil is used for building the foundations of houses."



Hasan's mother digs soil for a few dollars a day to provide for the whole family.

Cure, Care for and Restore

There is so much that can be achieved through Cure One. Hasan can finish his leprosy medication, he will have regular visits from the health workers and he will be supported to go to school.

Hasan's family could also join a self-help group. They could take out a loan to build a small shelter to live, this would transform their lives as they would no longer need to spend a huge portion of their tiny income on rent.



Hasan needs to take daily antibiotics to cure his leprosy.



The family live in one tiny room in a rented corrugated iron hut.

Because of incredible Cure One supporters like you we can transform Hasan's life. Please look out for updates in the inTouch magazines over the next year.

If you would like to become a Cure One supporter please visit cureone.org.nz or contact kiri.debeer@leprosymission.org.nz

Cured by you!

We are so grateful to everyone who has donated to, prayed for and supported our work in PNG and Bougainville. It is one of the most remote places on earth, however with the support of the NZ Government we can reach people to share your love and generosity with them.

In PNG and Bougainville, village health volunteers are trained to detect leprosy. They visit leprosy-affected patients regularly to encourage them not only to seek diagnosis but to make sure they complete their treatment.

Thanks to your incredible support, many people in PNG have received help from village health volunteers in their community and are now cured of leprosy. What a wonderful thing to be part of, thank you!

Augustine is cured from leprosy but he has a partially clawed right hand. He will work with a physiotherapist to learn how to exercise his hand and fingers regularly. This will prevent further clawing, meaning he will be able to live a full life and won't need surgery in the future.

He has a loving grandmother who takes care of him and makes sure he does his treatment every day.

Augustine likes to play soccer and he is the goal keeper for his team. His partially clawed hand doesn't seem to hold him back at all from doing what he loves.

"My friends love to play soccer with me, they said I am a good goal keeper!" he declares with joy.



"My hand is feeling so much better now!" Augustine exclaims.





Eurisder's smile says it all!

We wrote to you last year about Eurisder who was suffering from leprosy and was missing out on her education because she had no energy to get to school. Eurisder's leprosy was first suspected by the Village Chief, John Kuvatonim, who received training from The Leprosy Mission and became a village health volunteer.

He first noticed red patches on Eurisder's face, then referred her to the local health centre. The patches and swellings reduced when she received treatment and they have now disappeared completely.



Early diagnosis has prevented Eurisder from any permanent disability, thanks to village health volunteers. ***Eurisder now has every opportunity to go to school, get qualifications and lift herself out of the cycle of poverty.***



***"Thank you Leprosy Mission supporters!"
Pokana says with a smile.***

Pokana received leprosy treatment after he had painful nodules on his body.

He has completed the whole course of multi-drug therapy and has no trace of leprosy in his body. Because of early detection, Pokana has not developed any disability or noticeable problems.



Your support does wonders!

Thank you for your support for people in PNG and Bougainville. Because of wonderful supporters like you, we are able to train more village health volunteers. These stories show through your support people affected by leprosy can be treated at the very early stage, and be cured of leprosy without any disability.

Restored by you. Anjali can smile again.



Over the last year we have kept you up to date with Anjali, who has been our Cure One ambassador. A year ago we told you the harrowing story of how she found out she had leprosy by burning her feet horrifically by the fire.

Anjali's story was heart breaking because she was cruelly turned away from the local hospital due to her leprosy and had to travel for many hours to The Leprosy Mission hospital. She arrived frightened and distressed. Her feet had become very infected because of her burns and she thought she would lose her feet and become an outcast.

"I was terrified I would have to stay in hospital, I just wanted to go home," she recalls.

The next few months were a challenge for Anjali as she needed to stay in the hospital. During this time she received dressings for her wounds, antibiotics to cure her leprosy and protective sandals to prevent further ulcers.

She also received lessons so she could keep up with her schooling and counselling to help her cope with leprosy. Many people still believe it is a spiritual curse and Anjali was very distressed. The counselling was vital to rebuild her confidence and spirit.

Anjali took antibiotics every day for a year to cure her leprosy.



Anjali is now at home and back at school

"I enjoy school. I like science, maths and India language," she says "my father said to me first you must do your studies and then you can do whatever job you want to do."

It is wonderful to see her growing in energy and enthusiasm.

Leprosy could have robbed everything from this bright young woman, but because of people like you she has been cured, cared for and restored. Words cannot express how much that means to her and her family.



Anjali's father helps her and her sister with their studies.



Now she is at home with her family and she can smile again.

A photograph of a smiling woman with a red bindi on her forehead, wearing a patterned shawl, holding a young girl in a green floral dress. They are outdoors in a rustic setting.

Annual Review 2016

1st January to 31st December 2016



The Leprosy
Mission
New Zealand

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our supporters, the Leprosy Mission (LMNZ) remains committed to ending leprosy.

Our devoted supporters' loyalty continues to instil in us heartfelt gratitude for their generosity. The significant impact of your invaluable contributions in the past financial year is underpinned by the \$2,746,977 we could commit to our overseas ministry.



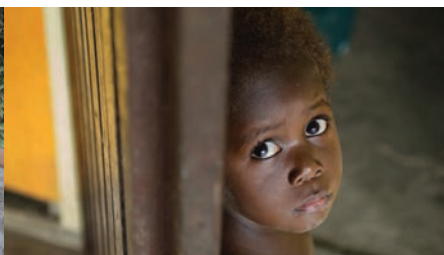
BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, New Zealand supporters and The New Zealand Aid Programme* funded two projects;

1. The Chittagong People-led Development Project (CPDP) located in Chittagong City, and
2. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Project, located in the rural Chittagong Hill Tracts.

With your support, in 2016:

- Total membership of self-help groups (SHG) grew to 225 groups with 3,389 members.
- The participation in social activities and the inclusion of members affected by leprosy increased in significant areas with 98% now included in wedding ceremonies and 92% in worship services.
- Loans were given to SHG members to start small businesses and the loan repayment rate is 100% and saving levels continue to grow.
- Increased income has enabled the SHG members to pay for school fees for their children which has reduced child labour.
- The Federations achieved their target financial sustainability goal of 80%.
- 23 community wells were installed and repaired. The use of clean water has increased and the transmission of waterborne diseases has decreased.
- SHGs have helped members to set up small scale income generating activities like animal rearing and vegetable cultivation.



BOUGAINVILLE

In Bougainville (the Autonomous Region of Bougainville of Papua New Guinea), New Zealand supporters, and The New Zealand Aid Programme* fund the Bougainville Healthy Communities Project (BHCP), which works with village communities and government health staff to establish a basic village healthcare programme across Bougainville.

With your support, in 2016:

- By the end of 2016 BHCP was operating in 12 of Bougainville's 13 districts representing more than 95% of its population.
- 1,103 cases of leprosy and TB were diagnosed. Those diagnosed with leprosy are now undertaking a managed treatment programme using Multi-Drug Therapy.
- 2,427 babies were born under safe conditions out of 2,558 total babies born in 2016.
- There is an increased proportion of Bougainville rural communities with improved health as a result of participating in all components of the healthy communities programme.
- Leadership in 712 out of a total of 817 village communities has been actively involved in supporting BHCP activities.
- The number of communities with a safe water supply has increased from under 30% to over 90%.



ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia New Zealand supporters provide educational support grants for children affected by leprosy from impoverished families.

With your support, in 2016:

- Project coordinating committees were organised in each local association and the target committees participated in discussions regarding the project objectives.
- 236 children (106 girls) received educational support in nine local associations across Ethiopia.
- Educational materials were procured and distributed to children affected by leprosy including 3,288 exercise books, 1,680 pens, 840 pencils and grants of 69,400 Birr (\$4,324) for school uniforms and registration fees.
- A small number of adults were supported in attending evening classes to attain a school leaving certificate to give them better job prospects.

*The New Zealand Aid Programme is the New Zealand Government's official aid for developing countries.

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

Throughout 2016, our projects brought essential services and support to leprosy-affected individuals, their families and their communities. We are extremely grateful to our staff worldwide for their devotion and determination.



INDIA

In India, New Zealand supporters continue to support Muzaffarpur Hospital (Bihar State), Faizabad Vocational Training Centre (VTC) and Faizabad Hospital (Uttar Pradesh State), and provided educational scholarships through the Catch Them Young (CTY) Project to children from leprosy-affected families.

With your support, in 2016:

- 1,938 new cases of leprosy were diagnosed and treated with Multi-Drug Therapy.
- 70 reconstructive surgeries were conducted including hand, foot and eye surgery.
- 277 patients were admitted and had their complicated ulcers managed.
- 412 pairs of protective footwear were provided to patients who had lost the feeling in their feet.
- 1,008 children (497 girls and 511 boys) have been supported with financial assistance to continue their education through the CTY project. This assistance will pay for school fees, books, uniforms and other related costs.
- 835 children are attending school, 121 are university students and 52 students are pursuing professional courses such as nursing, engineering and IT.
- 103 students enrolled in the VTC for vocational courses including computing, electronics, mechanics and tailoring. Of those that attended courses through the project 98.7% of students were successfully trained in academic exams and 80% are now in placements and 3% are self-employed.



NEPAL

In Nepal, New Zealand supporters provide funding for Anandaban Hospital. The earthquakes in April in 2015 resulted in extensive damage to the hospital and a shift in immediate priorities. The hospital has been operating to support people affected by leprosy and those who have suffered as a result of the earthquakes.

With your support, in 2016:

- 575 ulcer patients received outpatient visits, 283 ulcer patients received inpatient services and 182 received septic surgery.
- 177 reconstructive surgeries were performed including hand, foot and eye surgery.
- 1,070 patients received protective footwear, 30 received prosthesis and 1,840 received disability aids.
- 154 new leprosy cases were diagnosed with an 86% completion rate for Multi-Drug Therapy.
- Anandaban Hospital provided care and treatment for 33,727 people through in-patient and out-patient services.
- 1,333 visits to the in-patients department including medical, maternity, general surgery and orthopaedic surgery.
- The hospital continues to provide counselling and community supplies to earthquake affected people.
- Construction of the general medical ward, trauma ward, staff living quarters and the water tank is underway.



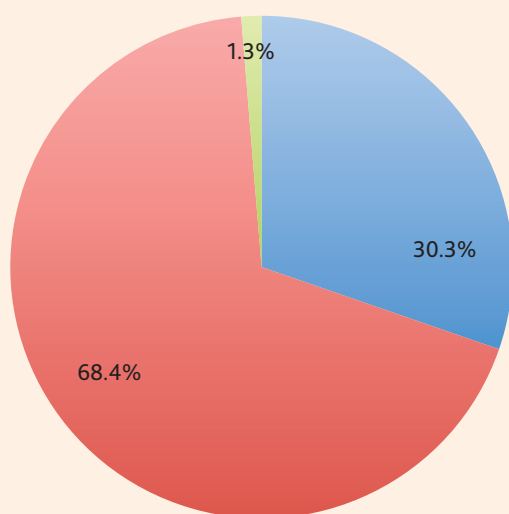
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), New Zealand supporters and The New Zealand Aid Programme* funded the PNG Leprosy Control Partnership, which works with the PNG Department of Health to implement its Leprosy Control Programme across all of PNG.

With your support, in 2016:

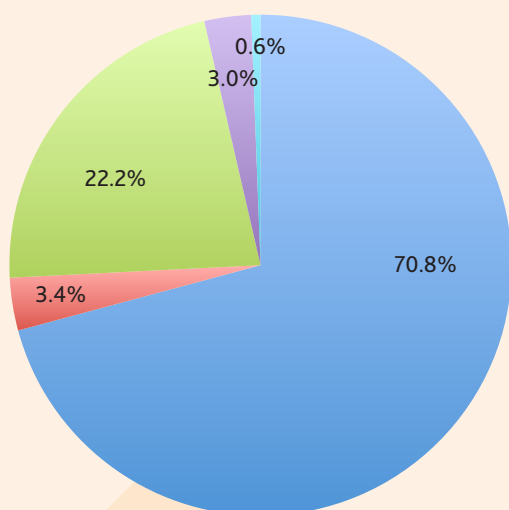
- 136 health care workers received leprosy training in 2015 and in 2016 they were working in 158 health facilities.
- 2 skin clinics in Central PNG resulted in finding 37 new cases of leprosy and case detection in Western PNG resulted in finding 22 new cases of leprosy.
- Health Care Workers received leprosy training through the project, and are now able to detect untreated leprosy cases. This will lead to early diagnosis and a reduction in disability.
- The new cases will eventually decrease after some years of continued case-finding efforts.
- 83 leprosy ambassadors were appointed in the National Capital District.
- 16 villages were visited to give leprosy awareness talks, reaching a total of 12,446 listeners.
- TLM provided technical input for developing PNG National Leprosy Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020.
- TLM PNG will be an implementing partner for National Leprosy Elimination Program 2016 - 2020.

Income Received



NZ Government Grants	30.3%	\$ 1,527,299
Private Income	68.4%	\$ 3,451,587
Interest/Other Income	1.3%	\$ 67,817
Total	100%	\$5,046,703

Where the money goes



Overseas Ministries	70.8%
Education	3.4%
Marketing Expenses	22.2%
Administration	3.0%
Depreciation	0.6%
Total	100%

The Year in Figures

This financial information summary is for the 12 months from 1 January to 31 December 2016, and is from the fully audited accounts. A full audited Annual Report for 2016 was available at the Annual General Meeting held in May 2017. The Annual Report is available on www.leprosymission.org.nz/AnnualReport16

Thank you for your generosity.

Thank You

On behalf of people and families affected by leprosy we would like to thank every single one of you who have supported us on our mission.

We would like to acknowledge all of our financial supporters including individual donors, those who have passed away and so thoughtfully remembered us in their Will, The New Zealand Aid Programme, the NZ Government's official aid for developing countries, businesses and suppliers, and The David Ellison Charitable Trust.

Over the last 12 months our volunteers have donated a staggering 22,750 hours of their time, and we cannot begin to express just how much of a difference this has made to our work. We would also like to thank our Prayer Partners for continuing to remember our work in their prayers.

We are very thankful for the on-going commitment of our Committee members, our Society members and our dedicated Board members who give their time and support us willingly.

Finally we would like to thank our field partners and the Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship for all of their hard work and support.



The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

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2017 Youth Advocates share their experience

Earlier this year, nine amazing young people joined us to visit leprosy-affected communities and witness our work in Nepal. Their goal this year is to raise funds for a digital X-ray machine to improve the medical facilities in Anandaban Hospital.

Kaleb Grant

"I want to be a youth advocate because I think it is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference as a Christian. Reading up about people affected by leprosy and also living with stigma made me passionately frustrated, so I want to get involved, speak up and help those affected by leprosy."

Emma Rouse

"I loved getting to hear stories from both doctors and patients. I was blown away by people's strength and resilience to cope and adapt to what life threw at them. I was also inspired by how tirelessly the team at Anandaban worked to support everyone who came to them for help."

Katherine Riceman

"I want to make a difference. So many people don't know leprosy still exists, I want to educate these people by talking in the community, schools, churches, and during fundraising events; as well as raising funds for the much needed X-ray machine for Anandaban hospital."

John Park

"It is a trip that truly humbles you – not only through the work of the team who selflessly serve those in need, but also by seeing those affected by leprosy smile and live gratefully. The presence of God cannot go unnoticed on this trip."



Come with us in 2018! Applications are open now!

For more information, and to apply, go to leprosymission.org.nz/youth-advocates or contact Gillian Whitley on 09 631 1806.

Kiwis in the Field

— Blair's Blog



In late February, a group of volunteers travelled to Bangladesh and taught sessions on emergency preparedness, problem solving and small business mentoring. One volunteer was Blair Matheson, Director of the Huka Honey Hive in Taupo and small business mentor here in New Zealand. He shared his experience with us in a daily blog, we hope you enjoy reading about his time in Bangladesh.

27 February:

Today is my first official day in Chittagong. We travelled two hours into the remote area of north Chittagong and visited two self-help groups with leprosy-affected families.

Courageous beyond belief, they have been cured of leprosy, overcome huge stigma and are part of a community again!

I met Rosi, he is cured of leprosy but with deformed toes and fingers. Yet this didn't stop him from working to make enough money to provide good family care for his two sons and daughter.



'I can grow more potatoes than ever before!' Rosi declared with excitement.

Rosi has been part of a self-help group for 12 years and he leads his own group now. He received leadership training and training on how to run and sustain a business. He bought his own land and he grows potatoes. He used to use insecticide to protect his crops but after receiving training from the Leprosy Mission, he started to use vermicompost and the impact has been phenomenal.

Rosi is a very humble man. After talking with him for a while, he wanted to honour us for our help, yet really he has done all the hard work. He is planning to form another self-help group in his community for more people to join.

'I want to name it as "New Zealand Help Group" because people in New Zealand have faithfully supported us,' he said gratefully.

1 March:

I had a full day training with 48 leaders about business management and sustainability. These leaders travel for hours every month by motorbike to visit each one of the 287 self-help

groups. They are absolutely passionate and committed to seeing all the businesses survive in the long term.



Blair speaking at one of the training sessions.

I met Mikan, one of the leaders. He had leprosy for years but he did not know, his feet are so deformed that they turned backwards.

Mikan wears a special pair of sandals and he walks well. It humbles me to think of the difference these sandals have made for him, and **I am grateful that I can give Really Good Gifts which include sandals like this.**



We, in New Zealand, seem to have so much more than what we even realise!

3 March:

Today I met Shilpi from a self-help group we visited. She sells her handmade mats for a living. Shilpi

weaves the most stunning and intricate mats and she was the first one I have seen who uses colours in her mats.



By making and selling coloured mats, she is able to earn nearly 3 times more than the normal woven mats. With this extra money, Shilpi can now afford to pay for her two sons' education.

Her elder son wants to be a surgeon in the future, whereas her younger son wants to do business.



'I will study hard so I can support my family in the future,' said Shilpi's elder son.

It is very encouraging to see first-hand the transformative power these self-help groups have brought to people affected by leprosy.

Today will mark the end of my first Bangladesh visit. I have been blessed enough to come and it is sad to leave, but what an honour and privilege to be here with these amazing people in an amazing country.

Supporters Corner...

In April we sent our Annual Supporter Survey with the inTouch magazine. We were once again overwhelmed by the kind words you shared with us.

Why do you choose to support the Leprosy Mission?

So that eventually this curse of leprosy will be completely wiped out.

What areas of our work interest you the most and why?

Making God's precious people become healed and accepted by others.

June, Whangarei

Why do you choose to support the Leprosy Mission?

My mother gave me a phial (container) for 5 cent pieces when I was a young lady and she supported the Leprosy Mission. I continue my support because it is Christian based organisation and the plight of those affected by leprosy touched me.

What areas of our work interest you the most and why?

The success of surgical operations and hearing how people's lives have been changed due to the work of the Leprosy Mission. Also reading about how people who are given start-up money have been able to start a small business and support their families.

Carolyn, Wellington

Join us on the 2018 Supporter Tour to India and Nepal

This once in a lifetime experience will be truly memorable as you journey through India and Nepal, witnessing how people are cured of leprosy and their lives transformed.

Save the date: 8 March – 21 March 2018

To talk more about this opportunity please contact Gillian Whitley on 0800 862 873 or by email gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz she would love to hear from you.

You can also find more information on our supporter tour page at www.leprosymission.org.nz/supporter-tour

"Being on the Supporter Tour has been just the greatest experience. I thought I was coming to be a blessing to others, but have been totally and utterly blessed by the appreciation of the hospital and all the folk here." Margaret, 2016 Supporter Tour participant



Bequests / In Memory

Thank you for generous donations received in memory of:

Betty Hardwick	Christchurch
Michael Mason	Waikanae
Gordon Revell	Wellington
Jean Skeates	Auckland
Wilfrid Hansen	Auckland

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.

Gertrude Elaine Leadley	Te Awamutu
Dawn Frances Gage-Brown	Matamata
W A Bullin	Albany
Violet Jenvey	New Plymouth
Maida Sowman	Whangaparaoa
Joan Mary Bligh	Christchurch
Margaret Joan Snelling	Christchurch
L Kiddey	Orewa
Elizabeth A Behrent	Hamilton
Richard Paul Ozich	Auckland
Ian Munro Todd	Auckland
Doris Lilian Walker	Auckland

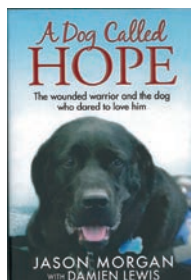
Books



The wicked wit of Queen Elizabeth II

Revealing an aspect of the Queen's personality that the Public rarely see, this book is a timely celebration of the Queen's whimsical side, including queenly quips as well as stories from the rest of the family and prime quotes from the inimitable Prince Philip.

\$35 includes P&H



A Dog Called Hope

A Dog Called Hope is the moving and heart-warming story of how Jason rediscovered his life's mission, his strength as a father and, through his beloved dog, his hope. It's the story of the closeness between one man and one dog like no other.

\$25 includes P&H

Buy a book and help eradicate leprosy

Please visit 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
Free postage throughout New Zealand.

Gillian would love to answer your bequest questions, either on the phone or even better, over a friendly cup of tea.

Gillian will also send you a really fascinating leaflet about bequests. It tells a beautiful story of how a lasting gift like yours can restore hope and family to those affected by leprosy.

Call Gillian now on 0800 862 873 or email gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz



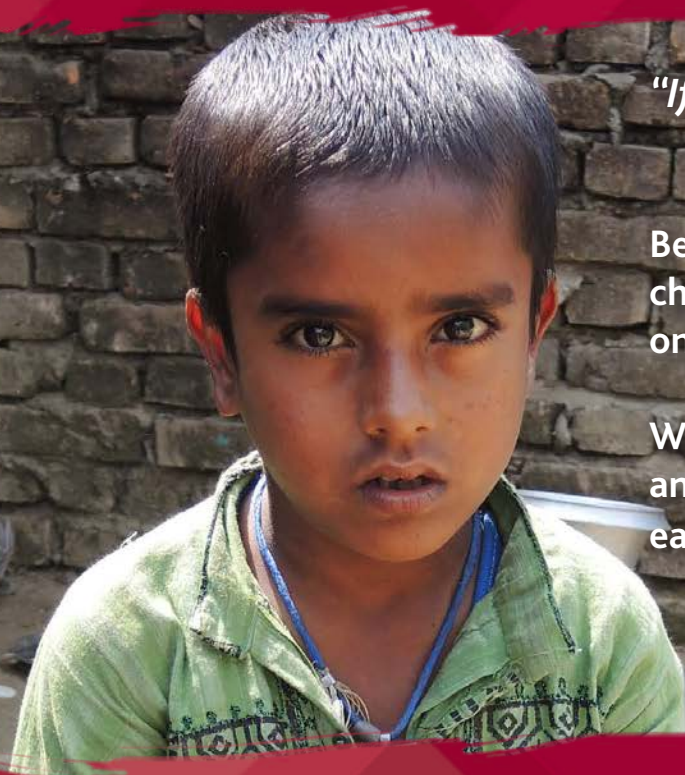
The Leprosy
Mission
Cure One

Cure Hasan



Cure One today

A world without leprosy tomorrow



"If you are willing, you can make me clean."
Mark 1:40

Being a Cure One supporter gives you the chance to walk with one person, like Hasan, on their journey to freedom from leprosy.

With a monthly gift you will cure, care for and restore one person affected by leprosy each year.

Call 0800 862 873

join Cure One at cureone.org.nz

Or for more information please fill out the form below and post back to us.



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Cure One



Cut along dotted line.

If you would like to find out more or make a donation please cut out this form and send to:
Cure One Enquiry, The Leprosy Mission New Zealand, PO Box 96262, Balmoral, Auckland 1342



I would like to find out more about becoming a regular supporter with Cure One

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments: _____
