

# inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 446 / Autumn 2020

Your Love Changes Lives

Cure One Update



The Leprosy  
Mission  
New Zealand

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# Welcome

Welcome to your Autumn edition of *inTouch*! I pray you are keeping and feeling safe at this time.

*"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."* Psalm 46:1

We are living in an unusual time. But God is with us. We have hope knowing that God is in control. I pray for good health and peace for you and your family during this unprecedented time.

My thoughts go out to all those affected by the pandemic Covid-19. I encourage you to pray for our nation and our global Leprosy Mission family.

As we move into a new decade, I cannot help but reflect on how faithful God has been, both in my personal life and the Mission. It is important that we remember that there is nothing that could separate us from His love. Please join me in praising God for His faithfulness and answers to so many prayers for the needs of people affected by leprosy. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you for your prayers and on-going support towards our vision of *Leprosy Defeated, Lives Transformed*.

Because of people like you, we are able to reach out to many thousands of people affected by leprosy and disability around the world, people like Bishal and his mother Lalsari.

I met Bishal and Lalsari few years ago in Nepal. My first thoughts were downcast; I was sad that a boy so young was in hospital, having contracted leprosy his young body was suffering severe leprosy reaction as he tried to fight the bacteria. Recently, I was back in Nepal with our Youth Advocates, and it was wonderful to see that Bishal is now in school. His mum Lalsari was assisted in securing a job in a paper factory so she can help earn a living to support the family – all thanks to incredible supporters like you!

Thank you for making this life-changing work possible and I hope you enjoy reading your *inTouch* magazine.

God bless,



Gillian Whitley  
Executive Director



Gillian and NZ supporters meeting Lalsari in Nepal.

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

*Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission New Zealand seeks to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.*

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Thank you to Bruce Millar, Bhupinder Singh, Hannah Davey, Jane Walker, Kathleen Gavin, Kelsey Kwan and Ronne D'Souza for the amazing photos we feature.



Cover Photo: Image of Bishal from Nepal who was featured in Christmas Appeal 2019.

# Kanti's Cure One Journey

## Cured by you!

Last year we introduced you to Kanti from India.

Only 13 years old, Kanti is already having to deal with the fear and devastation of leprosy. However, because of our wonderful Cure One supporters, there is new hope and promise in her life.

Kanti's leprosy started when her mother Sarita discovered discoloured patches all over Kanti's little body. Then, Kanti developed a penetrating ulcer on the sole of her right foot, which soon turned into full-blown drop foot – two telltale signs of leprosy.

***"We've come to the right place... my daughter will be completely cured, and she can continue her studies!" Sarita delights.***

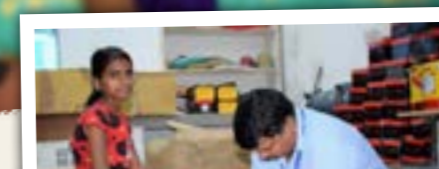
The Mission's Shardhara Hospital took Kanti in and she began her journey to recovery. Thanks to people like you, Kanti has completed the full course of multi-drug therapy and is now cured of leprosy.



## Cared for by you!

Kanti has been provided with protective sandals so her feet don't become more damaged.

The hospital staff also fitted her with a special spring orthosis – a device that pulls Kanti's foot up while walking so it will not drag on the floor.



Kanti has been fitted with protective sandals to prevent ulcers.



While Kanti was in the hospital, she was encouraged by the counsellor. Kanti understands she can be healed from leprosy and she can go on to pursue her dream of becoming a police officer.



## Kanti's next step

Through the Cure One programme, Kanti can receive reconstructive surgeries to correct the clawing on her hand and her drop foot. While Kanti is at hospital, she will also be taught physiotherapy to regain the full use of her hand and foot.

Kanti will be able to go back to school and play with her best friend Pooja.

**Thank you for being part of Kanti's story.** It is wonderful to share her progress with you; it is because of incredible supporters like you that we are able to bring hope and assurance into Kanti's life.

If you would like to become a Cure One Supporter, please visit [cureone.org.nz](http://cureone.org.nz) or contact Janesse on 0800 862 873 or email [janesse.mendoza@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:janesse.mendoza@leprosymission.org.nz)

# Kathleen Back in Nepal After 30 Years

Kathleen is one of our wonderful Board members at the Leprosy Mission NZ. Last year, she joined our Supporter Tour and travelled to Nepal. It brought back her memories from 30 years ago when Kathleen followed God's calling to work at the Mission's Anandaban Hospital. She shared her story with us; we hope you enjoy reading about her time in Nepal.

It all began with a Leprosy Mission film I saw at church when I was 12 years old. I'd already decided to be a missionary in India when I 'grew up', and after that film my goal became to train as a physiotherapist so I could go to India and serve with people affected by leprosy.

During a course at Faith Bible College, I had the opportunity to go to the leprosy hospital at Karigiri, South India, for three months. Being there confirmed in me that this was indeed God's leading for my life. I completed my studies and was able to work twice for periods in India.

However in 1984, while I was home in NZ on leave, visa rules for working in India changed and I wasn't able to return. This was a very hard thing for me to accept because it had been my dream since childhood but God had even better things in store!

At that time Anandaban Leprosy Hospital in Nepal needed a physiotherapist and, after much soul searching and prayer, I agreed to go.

I'd learned through the challenges of being a single white female working in India that it was essential for me to know I was where God called me to be. At times, the only thing that kept me going was holding onto the promise that when God calls he also enables.

***"The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24***

And so began six wonderful years at Anandaban.

**In November 2019, with my husband Bruce, I joined the Supporter Tour to Nepal. What a joy to return after almost 30 years!**

Much has changed, especially in the physical environment of both Kathmandu city and the Anandaban Hospital complex, but the care received by patients is as good as ever.



*Kathleen with patients Surya Kala & Ganga Kumari at Anandaban Hospital, 1990*

The highlight of my return was meeting up with not only staff who I'd worked with but also several people who'd been patients when I was there. Meeting them and seeing how their lives have been changed brought to mind the words in ***Isaiah 35:1 "The wilderness will rejoice and blossom."***

Two special people were Surya Kala and Ganga Kumari who came as young girls needing treatment for leprosy. They'd never been to school and when



*A sign on the way up to Anandaban Hospital*

I was learning Nepali, I would sit with them and we learned to read together from simple bible stories.

In time both girls married and had children. Sadly their husbands have since died and Ganga Kumari also lost her two children in a motorbike accident. Yet, both have a strong faith and good jobs. One of Surya Kala's daughters is currently studying medicine in China and the other works in Kathmandu.



*Surya Kala at work making a leather wallet*

Amar was a small boy with severe leprosy reaction in constant pain. Now he is a man of faith and the President of IDEA Nepal (an organisation of people affected by leprosy) working to advocate on behalf of people affected by leprosy. Amar is also the principal of a school in Kathmandu and is part of the Leprosy Mission International Board.

What a transformation - his life is so different from the little boy I met 30 years ago!

*Sadly since Kathleen's visit, Ganga Kumari has passed away. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*



*Kathleen with Surya Kala & Ganga Kumari, 2019*

Others like Kashi Nath, who was once a patient is now a staff member at the hospital teaching others how to care for their anaesthetic feet and hands.

As I reflect back on my time with the Leprosy Mission I would like to encourage you as supporters. Many have been Cured, Cared for and Restored because of you - lives that were like a wilderness have truly blossomed.



*(From left) Surya Kala, Amar, Kathleen, Ganga Kumari, Kashi Nath & Bruce*

**Together we can make sure that many more lives are transformed with our support and prayer.**

# Found and Cured - Because of You!



"My prayer for you is one of thanks because God is healing you of any illness. He loves to bless you abundantly because He loves you. Often His blessings come through other people, so now you can pass those blessings on to others." - Linda

"You have a lot of courage and a kind heart. We are praying for healing for you and that you will know God's love."

- Pauline & Henk

"My prayer is that God will heal you and you will soon be able to join your school friend. My friends will pray for you also. Remember Jesus loves you and we do too."

- Coral

**We wrote to you about Heizen from Papua New Guinea last year. Thank you for your prayers and support, especially all those who sent a heartfelt message for people affected by leprosy like Heizen.**

Only 12 years old, Heizen was diagnosed with leprosy by village health volunteers in his community.

Swollen nodes were developing on Heizen's ears and elbows, his left hand had also started to claw from nerve damage. It made Heizen weak and unable to grip things.

Heizen's leprosy had prevented him from going to school. He used to love writing and playing touch rugby, but he found it too difficult as his hand and arm were simply not strong enough.

Leprosy also meant Heizen could not help his mother to do simple household chores. It brought Heizen to tears.

**Thankfully, because of incredible supporters like you,** Heizen was taken good care of by local village health volunteers, Peter and Flora. They took Heizen to a nearby health clinic and

ensured he received and completed his full course of multi-drug therapy.



**Heizen, his mother Mathilda and village health volunteers at a health clinic.**

**Thank you for keeping Heizen in your thoughts and prayers.**

Heizen is now cured of leprosy!

Your love and kindness also helped provide Heizen with his school stationary and uniform.

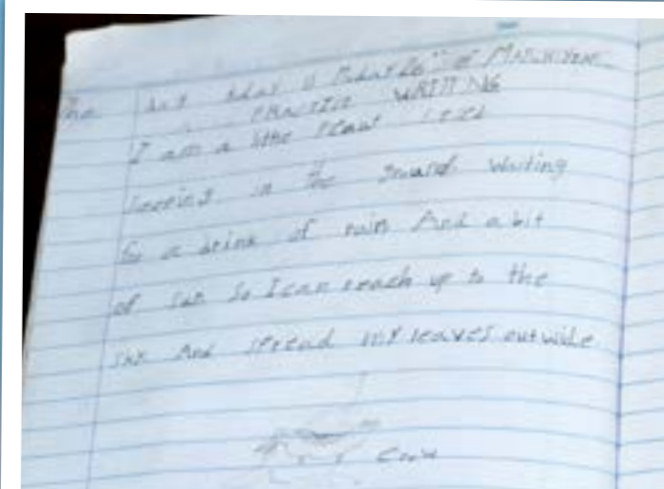


*"I enjoy writing and maths. I'm looking forward to going back to school!"*  
**Heizen rejoices.**

**Thanks to you** - Heizen's mother Mathilda received a small loan from the Leprosy Mission and started her own small business selling doughnuts. She recently also started Colour Phonics Training, a literacy class taught by using colours.

*"I am happy because I am now strong enough to help my mother to collect water from the village,"* says Heizen.

Your compassionate heart means the world to people affected by leprosy like Heizen in PNG. Thank you!



Heizen wants to show you a short story that he wrote recently.



Heizen's smile says it all!



*You are doing extraordinary things!*

In some of the most remote places on Earth, your help is reaching people affected by leprosy. The team in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville travel through difficult terrain to **make sure no one is missing out on the cure for leprosy.**

Your amazing support means we have trained community members to detect leprosy and provided training on the treatment of the disease. These wonderful village health volunteers then go into communities and ensure those who are diagnosed with leprosy, like Heizen, complete their treatment and provide them with the essential care, and support they need to overcome leprosy.





# You've Put a Smile on Bishal's Face!

Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas Really Good Gifts Appeal it is a blessing for Bishal and his family in Nepal.

Just 9 years old, Bishal was a regular visitor at the Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital due to the complications of his leprosy.

Thanks to incredible people like you and the love and care from doctors and nurses at Anandaban, Bishal was put on a 24 month course of multi-drug therapy and is now cured of leprosy.

He also received special medication to fight against leprosy reaction (an immune system response to leprosy bacteria) and he is now making good progress with his recovery. Bishal's family would never have been able to afford this special care and they are very grateful.



**"I have not lost hope. As long as there is life, there is hope - I can do something to earn a living and take care of my children. I can be happy again,"** Bishal's mother Lalsari says.

Through the Leprosy Mission community outreach programme, both Lalsari and her husband have found a job at a nearby paper factory in Kathmandu.

**"I enjoy working here. Now I feel a sense of belonging. I have a place to stay and work,"** Lalsari says gratefully.



Your love and compassion also means Bishal received a Really Good Gift of an educational scholarship. He is now back at school and he enjoys learning with his friends.

**"I love English and Mathematics class. I want to be a doctor when I grow up so I can help other people affected by leprosy,"** says Bishal.



**"I give thanks to God. I would like to say thank you ... Thank you so much for caring about me and my family,"** Lalsari declares.

The Really Good Gifts appeal exceeded its target and has provided practical life changing gifts to leprosy affected people in need like Bishal and his family. Thank you.

# OUR LITTLE SUPERSTAR

Last year, the Leprosy Mission had a partnership day with radio Rhema to raise awareness and funds for people affected by leprosy. We recently received a big donation from a 7 year old superstar!

Micaiah told us she was so touched and motivated by the stories she heard on the radio.

She was gifted a sewing machine on her birthday and was so excited to start sewing straight away!

Micaiah spent the next three months raising money through selling her homemade scrunchies and bake sales.

She made each and every scrunchie and continuously prayed for girls affected by leprosy.



Micaiah tracked her donation progress using a creative chart she drew.



*"The fundraising process was sometimes very hard and boring but Micaiah pushed through,"* says Micaiah's mum, Rebekah.

Micaiah was able to raise \$1,199 in total! She then prayed over a few scrunchies and sent them to us here at the Leprosy Mission NZ to take to young girls with leprosy, **"so that the precious young girls who wear them will know that Jesus loves them,"** she says.

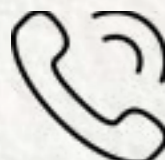
Here are the words Micaiah sent to us along with her donation:

*"To the Leprosy Mission,  
Here is \$1199 to cure leprosy. I want them to have a good life, not death. I made scrunchies to raise money. Here are some scrunchies for some girls with leprosy. I hope that when they wear the scrunchies that they will remember Jesus and that He loves them and He wants to give them life and freedom and joy.  
Love from Micaiah"*

Micaiah has a heart of gold and we are so grateful for all that she does for people affected by leprosy. Two months ago, our team was in India and had the opportunity to give out these beautifully made scrunchies to girls affected by leprosy. [Click here to watch a video!](#)

# SECURE WAYS TO GIVE

We really value your support, and we want to make it easy for you to continue your vital donations to help people affected by leprosy. So here are some easy and secure giving options you might want to consider:



## Telephone

Talk to us directly at the Leprosy Mission office in Auckland on the free phone number **0800 862 873** and you can make a secure debit/ credit card donation payment over the phone.

Remember to save our number to your contacts so you know when we call.



## Visit Your Local Branch

You can make a donation during your regular visit to the bank. The Leprosy Mission NZ bank account is: **02 0264 0029018 05**. In reference field, please put your name and phone number (and supporter number if you know it).



## Online Banking

If you have set up online banking with your bank, we are a **registered biller** so you can look us up by name (Leprosy Mission NZ) to make a donation that way.



## Leprosy Mission Website

You can make a secure payment direct on our website with a debit/ credit card at [leprosymission.org.nz/donate](https://leprosymission.org.nz/donate)

## My Record Book

Some banks in New Zealand are stopping the issuing and processing of cheques. This removes not only an easy way for you to give but also a handy recording place for your support.

We are pleased to let you know that the Leprosy Mission NZ has come up with 'My Record Book' as a central place for you to record who you are giving to, how you gave and the amount.

Feel free to contact us on **0800 862 873** to request your free copy of 'My Record Book', and if you have any questions about how to make a donation - we are more than happy to help.

My Record Book

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Leprosy Mission Prayer:

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy  
Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life.  
Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease;  
Give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients;  
Reunite the separated ones with their families and friends;  
And inspire your people with the task set before the Leprosy Mission,  
That it may never lack either the staff or the means to carry on its healing work,  
In accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name.  
We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Thank you so much for standing with us in prayer.

If you wish to receive Prayer & Praise diaries, please contact Denise on 0800 862 873, or [denise.herd@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:denise.herd@leprosymission.org.nz)

## Youth Advocate Scholarships

### A mission trip to Nepal in early 2021 – will you join us?

Each year, we choose a group of enthusiastic young people to become advocates for the vital work we do with leprosy-affected individuals and their families.

This is a life-changing opportunity that will shift your perspective on what is truly important, whilst you make some amazing friends along the way. During the trip you will learn about the causes and consequences of leprosy, meet with those affected by leprosy, visit community self-help groups, complete a two-night trek in Nepal, and possibly even watch a reconstructive surgery take place (actually in the theatre!).



**Applications are open now!** For more information, and to apply, please go to [leprosymission.org.nz/youth-advocates](https://leprosymission.org.nz/youth-advocates) or contact Hannah on [youthadvocates@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:youthadvocates@leprosymission.org.nz) or call 0800 862 873.



### Lost and Found

True Tales of love and rescue from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. Touching, often funny and heart-breaking but always bringing you close to tears, the stories in Lost & Found tell of the unbreakable bond between us and our four-legged friends.

**\$20 includes P&H**



### The Wicked Wit of Prince Phillip

Since the Duke of Edinburgh married Princess Elizabeth in 1947, his wit has continued to endear him to everyone he meets. The Prince says what he thinks. This book celebrates his wry humour and supremely wicked wit.

**\$35 includes P&H**

### Buy a book and help end leprosy

The above are only a sample of the books available for purchase.

To view all books, please visit [www.leprosymission.org.nz/book-store](https://www.leprosymission.org.nz/book-store) Alternatively, contact Carolyn Currie on 0800 862 873 or [carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz)

Free postage throughout New Zealand.

# "I am willing"

## Use your Will to do God's Will



A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. (Matthew 8:2-3)

During your lifetime, the number of people affected by leprosy has fallen tremendously. Yet many remain. God cares for them deeply and we know you do too.

Use your Will to make sure there will be hope, light and life for those still affected by leprosy after your lifetime.

A gift in your Will costs nothing now, but in the future will have great power to transform the lives of the most wounded, rejected and poverty-stricken.

### Call Gillian about leaving a gift in your Will

Gillian Whitley 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 fascinating leaflet about leaving a gift in your Will. It tells a beautiful story of how a lasting gift like yours can restore hope and family to those affected by leprosy. The easy process of including the Leprosy Mission New Zealand in your Will is also explained.

**Call Gillian now on 0800 862 873 or**  
email: [gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz)

