

inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 450 / Autumn 2022



Your Love in Action
for 110 years

Hossian's Fancy Footwork



The Leprosy
Mission
New Zealand

Welcome

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Welcome to your Autumn edition of *inTouch*!

I hope this edition of *inTouch* finds you well and I'd like to wish you a healthy and peaceful 2022.

I am always so thankful as I read through each *inTouch*. It is a reminder of just how your kindness and compassion is mending this broken world. Together we cure, care for and restore the lives of so many people affected by leprosy across the globe.

Your heart for people affected by leprosy is a blessing to us, especially last year in 2021. When the world faced waves of pandemic, you stood beside the most vulnerable: those facing the double devastation of leprosy and the Covid pandemic.

In New Zealand, wonderful supporters like you provide financial support, join us in prayer to raise awareness and funding for our work with people affected by leprosy.

In my role I have the honour to witness how each donation is channelled into creating a new life for a person affected by leprosy and their family, like Satendra's. I can assure you the blessing of your donations makes an enormous difference.

I hope that you enjoy reading this latest edition of *inTouch* magazine and being reminded about the real transformation your support is bringing into the lives of people affected by leprosy. Thank you for all that you do to make lives better every day.

God bless,

Gillian Whitley
Executive Director

P.S I hope you can take a moment to fill out the annual supporter survey found with this magazine or fill it online at leprosymission.org.nz/Supporter-Survey2022

Alternatively, you can use your smartphone to scan this QR below to fill out the survey:

As part of the Leprosy Mission family your feedback is important for us as we work together to achieve a world without leprosy.



Satendra's Cure One Journey



Cured by you!

Last year we introduced you to Satendra from Nepal.

Satendra was just a child when leprosy began attacking his body. It began with itchy patches on his hands and feet, and swollen fingers and toes.

Leprosy so badly destroyed the nerves in Satendra's fingers. Despair and depression broke his young heart.

"I could no longer hold a pen; it is very hard for me to write. So, I left school when in 7th grade," said Satendra.

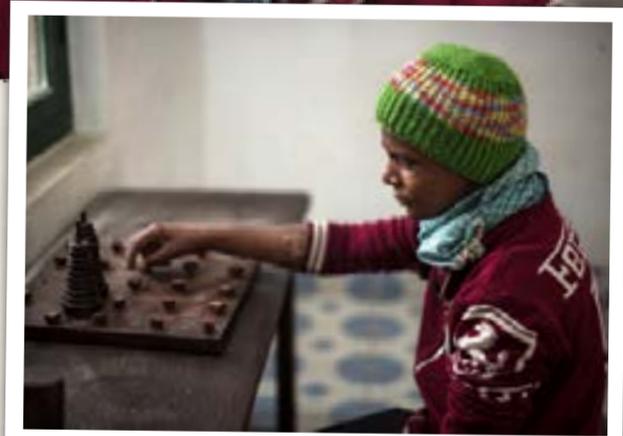
It was a long journey from his home town to Anandaban Hospital but answers and hope awaited him there. Satendra was diagnosed with leprosy and received daily antibiotics for his leprosy.

Thanks to you! Satendra is now cured of leprosy.

Cared for by you!

While he was in the hospital, Satendra was taught self-care practices including how to use oil to keep his wounds clean and massage his hands and feet.

He was also taught to do daily physiotherapy which helped Satendra regain some sensation of his feet and hands.



Sadly, Satendra had experienced teasing in his community because of the patches on his skin. Despair and depression broke his young heart. He took poison, trying to end his suffering forever.

Praise God his family found him in time to save his life.

As part of his care, regular meetings with the hospital counsellor were arranged for Satendra. He was encouraged and he understands he can be healed from leprosy and there is a bright future ahead of him.

Satendra has been very appreciative about the care and love he received at Anandaban Hospital.

"I want to thank the team at Anandaban for giving me new life, and for caring for me and my family," Satendra smiles.

Satendra's next step

Through the Cure One programme, Satendra has been connected into a self-help group for people affected by leprosy in the community he lives in. Satendra's dream is to one day set up his own grocery shop in his village. He can then earn a living to support himself and his family.

Thank you for being part of Satendra's story. It is wonderful to share his progress with you. Your kindness and compassion bring hope and assurance into Satendra's life.



If you would like to become a Cure One Supporter, please visit cureone.org.nz or contact Janesse on 0800 862 873 or email janesse.mendoza@leprosymission.org.nz



Cover Photo: Image of Hossian from Bangladesh who was featured in World Leprosy Appeal 2022.

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 Bishal Ghimire, Bruce Millar, Daniel Christians, Hannah Davey, Noeline Ferguson and Trevor Grant for the amazing photos we feature.

Really Good Gifts bring Great Joy

Thank you for the incredible response to our Really Good Gifts Christmas appeal last year which helps transform lives of many people affected by leprosy, like Suryakala in Nepal.

At just 8 years old, Suryakala began to lose feeling in her hands and feet. Gradually the bones crumbled, and she began to lose her fingers and toes. **Soon she was diagnosed with leprosy.**

Her family were forced by their village to banish Suryakala to a cowshed for many months. Isolated, alone, she had nobody to turn to.

'Nobody used to look at us or care for our problems. We were the first one to have leprosy in our village, so we were highly discriminated against by everyone and they blamed us that it is because of our sin,' Suryakala recalls.

Thankfully, Suryakala was referred to Anandaban Hospital where she received the much needed cure and treatment for her leprosy.

Anandaban Hospital is also the place where she encountered the love of Jesus. Suryakala found strength in the words in her Bible – words that told her there would be a better future for her.

Your kindness changed everything

Through Really Good Gifts, Suryakala has been able to have **reconstructive surgery** for her dropfoot. She was able to join a self-help group and was given a **sewing machine** so she can have a livelihood.

Because of you, Suryakala was able to secure a job at the Nepal Leprosy Trust workshop where she makes leather handicrafts for a living, with others affected by leprosy. This is a place where she found acceptance and a purpose for her life. She is able to earn a living to support herself and her family.

"I am now self-dependent and feel proud that I am able to earn for myself and my children. Thank you!"

Suryakala rejoices.



'Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us...'
Ephesians 3:20

One day, Suryakala's daughter Esther told her that she wanted to be a doctor. Suryakala had a heavy heart. She knew her children still faced fear and discrimination because of leprosy. She asked, "How will we get from where you are to where you want to go?"

It felt like an impossible dream.

Yet, because of kind supporters like you, Leprosy Mission supported Esther into a programme to study medicine.

Esther worked hard and excelled in her studies. With the encouragement and support from wonderful people like you, she is in her last year of her Medical Degree at university.

An impossible dream made possible!

It was more than Suryakala could ever imagine – all thanks to people like you!



Suryakala with her daughters, Elizabeth and Esther.

"I am very grateful. Thank you to kind New Zealanders who supported us and prayed for us," says Suryakala.



It is only thanks to amazing people like you and God's grace, Suryakala's life has undergone this radical transformation.

Your prayers and support bring lasting hope and a brighter future to people affected by leprosy, like Suryakala and her daughter, Esther.

What an impact you have made!

Suryakala's story is one of the many life-changing stories that your Really good Gifts have brought across the world.

Thank you for bringing the message of Joy, Hope and Love to the most marginalised, especially during this time of uncertainty.

The Covid-19 pandemic has put some of our project work on hold due to lockdowns and restrictions, but the team has been working diligently to make sure every person affected by leprosy can receive the much-needed cure and care they need for leprosy.

Please continue to keep the vital Mission work and people affected by leprosy in your thoughts and prayers. Pray also for God's protection and guidance for the staff at Anandaban Hospital and those who work on the frontline in Nepal as they help to diagnose, treat and care for patients affected by leprosy and disability.

Celebrating 110 Years in New Zealand

"If there was ever a Christ-like work in the world, it is to go amongst these poor sufferers..."—Wellesley Bailey



Wellesley Bailey, The Founder of the Leprosy Mission and his wife, Alice Bailey

2022 is a special year in the life of the Leprosy Mission – this year we celebrate 110 years in New Zealand.

From its small beginnings in 1912, founded on much prayer, Leprosy Mission New Zealand is proud to look back this year on its 110 years of impact.

We could not have reached this huge milestone without God's guidance and grace, and the faithful support from people like you.

As The Leprosy Mission approaches its 110th anniversary in New Zealand, we want to also say a heartfelt thank YOU for your ongoing support and for upholding the Mission's work in your prayers.

The need around the world is real, but so is HOPE.

In the past century, Leprosy Mission NZ has been at the forefront of the fight against leprosy. In partnership with WHO and other

likeminded organisations, the introduction of effective multi-drug therapy (MDT) over 30 years ago has made leprosy easily treatable. We have seen many real-life transformations take place – all because of incredible supporters like you.

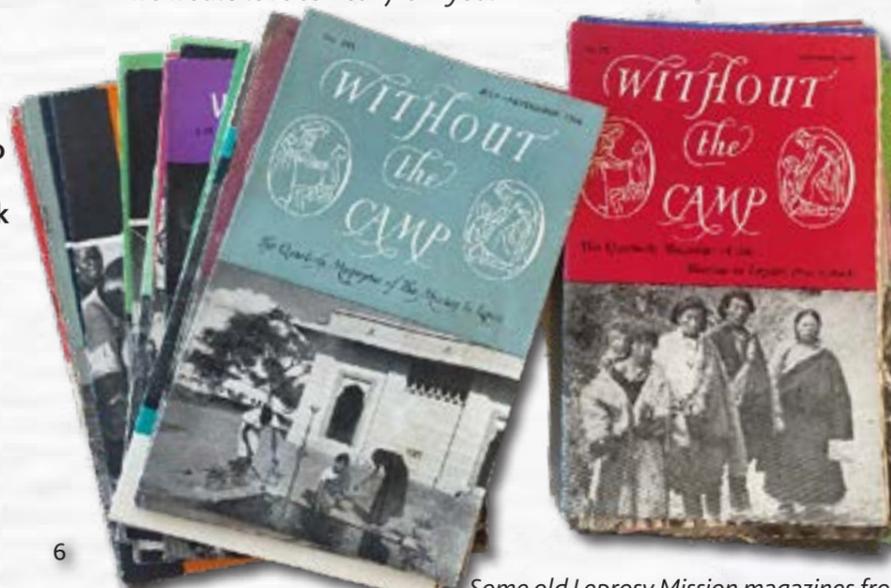
There is still much work to be done to end leprosy. However, we are getting closer to completing our mission.

In faith, as a global organisation, we have committed to bringing an end to the transmission of leprosy by 2035, which is to see *No Child with Leprosy by 2035.*

Together we share the hope that we will see an end to leprosy in this generation.

God bless you for your determination to see an end to this devastating disease once and for all.

Do you have a special memory or inspiration to share about your support of people affected by leprosy to celebrate our 110 year anniversary? You can write or email us on supporterservices@leprosymission.org.nz we would love to hear from you.



Some old Leprosy Mission magazines from the 1950s.

Your Love is *empowering* people like Kila in PNG!

Kila runs a fish business at her local market in Papua New Guinea. She is also the business mentor in her community.

She has a heart for people affected by leprosy, and she believes she is called to love like Jesus did.

"I believe the Leprosy Mission is part of God's plan. I've been blessed by the Leprosy Mission, and I want to pass on the blessings to others," Kila declares.

Kila teaches people in her village how to set up their own businesses and the importance of saving money.

With your support, as part of the Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project, LMNZ is partnering with a local Women's Microbank to provide small loans to people affected by leprosy to start and grow their businesses.

With the help from people like Kila, people affected by leprosy will be able to thrive and improve their future prospects. What a wonderful thing to be part of. Thank you!



"I started mentoring people with leprosy and disabilities. I taught people affected by leprosy how to run their own businesses," says Kila.

New Hope for Shabnam in India!

In the past 2 years we have been updating you with Shabnam's Cure One journey of recovery.

You will remember the rejection Shabnam faced from members of her family because of leprosy. Covid lockdowns have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable, and Shabnam was not able to complete her tailoring course at the Leprosy Mission Vocational Training Centre in Faizabad.

Shabnam returned to her family late last year, but in a time of hardship, family members rejected her again. All those past feelings of rejection and despair came flooding back to her.

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
Psalm 34:18

Remembering the kindness and support of the dedicated staff at the hospital, Shabnam was able to return to the Leprosy Mission's Naini Hospital where Dr Ruby, The Head of Naini Hospital took a special interest and met with her.



When Shabnam explained her heart-breaking situation, Dr Ruby encouraged her to complete her training to achieve some independence in her life.

Travel was arranged and Shabnam is now back at the Faizabad Vocational Training Centre to complete her tailoring course.

Thanks to your love and kindness, Shabnam will also receive counselling and will be helped to secure a job to earn a living and to support herself.

Your support is helping to reach the most vulnerable, so a young woman like Shabnam can have a bright future – thanks to supporters like you!

Hossian's Fancy Footwork



Hossian is a young boy in Bangladesh. Leprosy attacked his body at a young age and might have cost him the ability to walk. Thanks to supporters like you, today he loves showing off his fancy footwork playing football with his friends.

Thanks to incredible supporters like you, we reached the appeal target for World Leprosy Day. Hossian's story was featured in our World Leprosy Day appeal. Three years ago when he was 9 years old, Hossian tripped, fell and found he couldn't bear weight on his foot. He cried out to his dad.

After many days searching for answers at a local hospital, he was finally referred to the Leprosy Mission clinic where he was diagnosed with leprosy.

At the Leprosy Mission clinic, Hossian was given a plaster and a splint on his foot and the medicine to cure leprosy.

Hossian is testament to what is achieved through your support.

The physiotherapist said that if Hossian had arrived just six months later, the diagnosis could have been very different.



You have helped to cure and care for children and freed them from a lifetime of disability - thank you!

The Bangladesh self-help group project – your project – has seen 3824 people join 248 self-help groups! Hossian's father has joined one of these income generating self-help groups.

"I heard New Zealand is a beautiful country and with very nice people with kind hearted. We are the people affected by leprosy who are getting treatment and development support from your supports," Hossian's father declares.



How amazing it is to see your support reaching out from New Zealand to Bangladesh, and creating life-changing impact for a family like Hossian's!

World Leprosy Day 2022

The World Leprosy Day 2022 theme was **UNITED FOR DIGNITY**. World Leprosy Day is an opportunity to celebrate people who have experienced leprosy, raise awareness of the disease, and call for an end to leprosy-related stigma and discrimination.

We invited New Zealand churches and supporters to be a part of World Leprosy Day. **112 churches around New Zealand**, that is more than **6,000 New Zealanders** joined tens of thousands of Leprosy Mission supporters around the globe in prayer for this event.

There were many heart-warming comments from churches and supporters around New Zealand, but one of them stood out. It was a new supporter who had himself been affected by leprosy.

Deacon is an accomplished musician from the Pacific Islands. He contracted leprosy and was diagnosed at 21. He told us, **'This is a very treatable but dreadful disease. Maybe this was the reason why Jesus selected to mention it and performed one of his wonderful miracles while He was here on earth.'**

Many Samoans like Deacon will know a famous Samoan song about a grandmother whose grandson was taken away to a separate island on

diagnosis of leprosy. The song **"Le Manutagi"** (the bird that cries when sad) talks about the pain of a grandmother who had to endure the suffering and loss of a grandson who was afflicted by leprosy.

Deacon has performed an instrumental version of this song and invites you to listen to it online at <https://leprosymission.org.nz/Deacon-music>

Alternatively, you can use your smartphone to scan this QR code to listen to Deacon's performance here.



Thank you and welcome to the Leprosy Mission family, Deacon!



**Save the Date
Global Prayer Day
11 May**

For the second year in a row, we are inviting you to join an international prayer session online at a time that suits you.

All 30 countries within the Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship are setting aside 11 May in prayer. There will be large, global prayer sessions for people connected to the work of the Leprosy Mission worldwide through Zoom.

This is an exciting event that includes songs, prayer and testimony and we invite you to be part of the day.



Scan QR code to sign up here

Please contact Nadia if you want to know more about the Global Prayer Day at 0800 862 873 or email nadia.paul@leprosymission.org.nz

Serving Others

"There are just not enough hours in a day to do all the things I need to do," said 90 year old Noeline over the phone.

Noeline recently called our office to give a donation to the World Leprosy Day appeal and in conversation shared that she had recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She also revealed she had been supporting the Leprosy Mission for over 60 years!

We were so inspired by her story of support we would like to share it with you.

Noeline's journey began at the wee age of four where she would listen to stories at Sunday School, **about people in the Bible who were shunned and who had suffered deeply because of leprosy.** It was here that her tender heart was set on wanting to dedicate her life to helping others.

She grew up and chose a career path as a Karitane nurse. Noeline went on to explain that Karitane nurses are specifically trained to work with sick children in their homes. Here she fulfilled her love and great passion for children.

Noeline's support for children affected by leprosy spans over 60 years to date, as she still supports our Regular Giving Program at the Leprosy Mission NZ. The **CURE, CARE and RESTORE** of children affected by leprosy mean everything to her, she says.

Three of Noeline's daughters in her family of five are also in the health industry and it's here that she began to also volunteer her service. Noeline has sewn hundreds of cot quilts over many years and has lovingly donated these cot quilts to



"At my age I count it a blessing from GOD to be still able to see with my glasses and to have nimble fingers to continue my work," Noeline rejoices.

children's wards at hospitals.

By now, I was completely inspired. How was she still able to do all this at the wonderful age of 90? she replied, **'By dividing the hours in my day, I am still able to do the things that are uppermost in my heart.'** Noeline then laughingly reminded me that she would need to get back to her sewing machine to finish off her cot quilt by nightfall.

Just as Noeline was greatly encouraged by the work that the Leprosy Mission does to help people affected by leprosy, I too was so encouraged by Noeline's practical example of love and service. I was reminded about what Jesus said about service to others.

'For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.' Luke 22:27

I pray today that you are also encouraged and inspired to serve others.



My Record Book

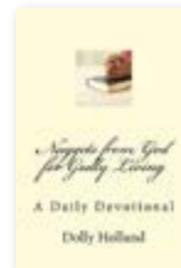
The removal of cheque facilities by banks last year removed not only an easy way to give and make purchases but also a handy recording place.

We are pleased to let you know that the Leprosy Mission NZ has created 'My Record Book' – a handy booklet that can be used to record who you are making a payment to, how you gave, and the amount.

Feel free to contact us on **0800 862 873** or email supporterservices@leprosymission.org.nz for your free copy of 'My Record Book'.



Books



Nuggets from God for Godly Living

A daily devotional for one year. Inspirational thoughts received by the author during her daily Bible reading and prayer time with the Lord. Coupled with the thought is a scripture reference to look up that goes along with the thought for the day.

\$25 includes P&H



Illuminating Ourselves

Illuminating Ourselves is a collection of stories, poems, photos and art by people of many abilities from all over the world. Every page tells a story of survival and suffering, of self-growth and self-actualisation.

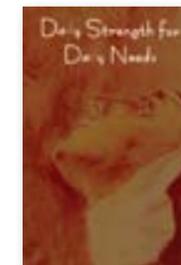
\$20 includes P&H



The Dog at My Feet

In this heartwarming collection of true stories, you will meet many dogs - some big, some small, some rambunctious, and some serene. Each of them has played an important part in the lives of their humans.

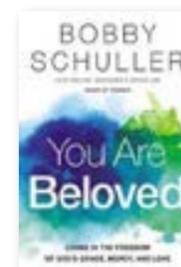
\$30 includes P&H



Daily Strength for Daily Needs

A selection of prose and verse, with accompanying texts of Scripture, is intended for a daily companion and counsellor. It is hoped it may help to strengthen the reader to perform the duties and to bear the burdens of each day with cheerfulness and courage.

\$35 includes P&H



You Are Beloved

This book shows you how to let go of these fears and put your trust in the One who sees you for who you really are. Here is an easy to follow, proven path to personal dignity for all those who think they are not good enough no matter how.

\$35 includes P&H



Blessings for your Baby

The ideal gift for a dedication or christening or simply to welcome a newborn baby. This carefully chosen collection of photos, prayers, and Bible verses reminds the reader just how much God loves and cherishes each precious newborn child.

\$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 Alternatively, contact Carolyn Currie on 0800 862 873 or 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.

Your bequest 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 your bequest

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 bequests. 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

