

inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 442 / Autumn 2018

**Thank You from PNG
and Bougainville**

Hasan's Cure One Journey

**A Youth Advocate
returns to Nepal**



**The Leprosy
Mission**
New Zealand

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Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn inTouch magazine.

It has been a wonderful first part of the year as I have led Leprosy Mission supporters and Youth Advocates on trips to view our work first-hand in India and Nepal.


For many on the Supporter Tour the experience has come after a lifetime commitment of prayers, and giving to the Leprosy Mission. Seeing supporters from New Zealand take the hand of people affected by leprosy and share their love for them is both humbling and uplifting.

Back in New Zealand I enjoy and am grateful to have corresponded with many of you who support the Leprosy Mission. Every year we gather feedback through our annual survey, I hope you will take a few minutes to fill out the survey enclosed and send it back to us. I value your words of encouragement and advice as together we work to see leprosy defeated.

I have mentioned before that I love my role as a grandmother. My grandson is now a toddler and he is starting to run around and talk, and we have just welcomed another wee one into the family. As I give thanks to God for how He has blessed me, I thank Him also for the opportunities He has given me to serve others in this world.

As you sit down to read and enjoy the stories in this magazine, please know that they are wonderful outcomes that simply could not happen without your prayers, love and support.

With blessings,



Gillian Whitley
Executive Director



Gillian meeting Thesia in PNG.



Cover Photo: Image of Thesia from PNG who was featured in World Leprosy Day appeal 2018.

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, Jane Walker, Meg de Reus and Richard Ashim Mondal for the amazing photos we feature.

Hasan's Cure One Journey



Cured by you!

Little Hasan was terrified when he realised the white patches on his body were the beginning of leprosy. He had already seen his friend Rabiul go through the terrible effects of leprosy. Hasan was scared his future would take the same course.

However, because of our incredible Cure One supporters, there is new hope and promise in his life.



Health workers visit Hasan regularly to make sure he completes his full course of medication and does physiotherapy to prevent deformity.

After taking multi-drug therapy for 6 months, **Hasan is now cured of leprosy.** And because of early detection, Hasan did not develop any forms of disabilities. **There is so much to celebrate!**

Cared for by you!

The community turned against Hasan and his small family when they found out Hasan had leprosy. They believed leprosy was a curse from God.

Thankfully, health workers visited their village and brought the entire community together to learn about the causes and consequences of leprosy.

"Before they hated us, now they encourage us." Hasan's mother, Hagera says.

Now people affected by leprosy, like Hasan and his family, are welcomed back into the community. They encourage each other to seek diagnosis and take antibiotics regularly.



"I am happy because I am cured from leprosy. I can play with my friends and help my family!" Hasan smiles.

Hasan's next steps

Hasan has never been to school. Through the Cure One programme, Hasan will be supported to go to school. He will learn to read, and write, develop self-confidence and improve his future prospects.

Also, Hasan's family will join a self-help group. They can gain the skills and knowledge they need to become socially and economically independent.

Thank you for being part of Hasan's journey.

It is wonderful to share his progress with you; it is because of incredible supporters like you, we are able to give Hasan and his family a bright and hopeful future.

You can become a Cure One supporter today.
Please visit cureone.org.nz or contact kiri.debeer@leprosymission.org.nz

Thank You from PNG and Bougainville

Thank you – we met our fundraising commitment with the New Zealand Government in 2017.

Through the 'Bougainville Healthy Communities Project' and the 'Sustainable Livelihoods Project', the New Zealand Aid Programme* has multiplied each of your incredible gifts five times. Therefore, the Leprosy Mission can work alongside with communities in PNG and Bougainville to transform the lives of those affected by leprosy.

A New Melody for Boniface

Boniface is a 14 year old boy who was featured in our January appeal last year.

Two years ago, Boniface's face started to itch, then he developed painful swelling on his face.

Leprosy also gave Boniface a painful ulcer on his leg which was causing him to lose feeling in his foot. He often struggled even to get out of bed. Because of his illness and lack of energy, Boniface could no longer go to school. He became sad and withdrawn.

Thankfully, because of the support of New Zealanders like you, **there is new hope in his life.**



***"I am now cured of leprosy!"
said Boniface.***

Boniface received regular check-ups from village health volunteers and he has completed the full course of multi-drug therapy.

Boniface enjoys playing the guitar and singing praise songs to God!



"I want to be a gospel singer in the future!" Boniface declares with joy.

'Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!'
Psalm 95:2



Lily is now on the road to recovery

We wrote to you about 12 year old Lily in July last year.

Lily had advanced leprosy on her foot – she had lost two toes, and she had a deep ulcer on the sole of her foot. Leprosy has also given Lily dropfoot and a loss of sensation in her leg.

Lily was devastated and ashamed about her leprosy. She found it hard to make eye contact with others, and she often isolated herself from the rest of the world.

Thanks to the kindness and prayers from wonderful supporters like you, Lily is in a much better place now.



Lily has started her multi-drug therapy treatment. She receives bandages for her ulcer from the Leprosy Mission. Village health volunteers also teach Lily to take care of her wound.

Lily gives thanks for your support

Lily was delighted to meet our project staff again, and proudly showed us her drawings. She is smiling much more now, and she enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



Last year, we gave Lily her first ever pens, this is what she drew.



Lily received a colouring book and some colouring pencils given by a New Zealand supporter.

Thank you for your generosity!
It is making a huge difference to leprosy-affected communities in PNG and Bougainville!

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.

To date, more than 2500 village health volunteers are trained and there are now both male and female volunteers in each of the village communities; over 2000 community leaders also received leadership and governance training.

Please continue to hold people affected by leprosy in PNG and Bougainville in your hearts and prayers. Thanks to your wonderful support, it shines as a beacon of hope and faith in the community.

The on-going need is great, but together we can end leprosy in PNG and Bougainville.

With your help, our team in PNG and Bougainville can continue to visit people affected by leprosy like Boniface and Lily regularly, to check their progress and make sure they are receiving leprosy treatment that will cure their leprosy forever.

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

Thank you for being part of Rabiul's story



Rabiul is cured from leprosy and can play with his friends again.

The journey from leprosy is often a hard road travelled, but thanks to our incredible supporters who donated to our Bangladesh 3x Government Match Appeal last year, Rabiul regained movement in his hands.

Rabiul is a little 8 year old boy from Bangladesh who we wrote to you about last year.

Two years ago, he started developing horrific lesions on his skin and was diagnosed with leprosy.

Soon Rabiul's little hands began to claw and become deformed, facial nerve damage also means Rabiul cannot smile.



"I can't use my fingers," he says.

"I can't hold food on my own. I used to go to school but I'm not able to write so I can't finish my studies. The teachers tried to help me but I can't hold a pen."

Once an active and happy child, Rabiul became increasingly sad and withdrawn.

"I love to play cricket with my friends but I can't hold the bat anymore," says Rabiul.

Rabiul's story is a very sad story but because of your wonderful support, he can be hopeful about his future again.

Praise the Lord!

Rabiul was put on multi-drug therapy and was cured of leprosy.

He also had reconstructive hand surgery on his clawed hand which was only possible because of wonderful supporters in New Zealand like you. Rabiul is recovering well and does his physiotherapy exercises regularly.

"I rub my hands and fingers with oil several times every day, and the stiffness in my fingers is going away." Rabiul declares with joy.



Rabiul can go to school and play cricket with his friends again!



Although Rabiul faces a long journey of recovery, he is very hopeful about his future.

Rabiul's prayer to God is simple and pure.

"I pray to God that Leprosy Mission can support other boys like me."

**Thank you for supporting our work in Bangladesh!
Your kindness and prayers make a world of difference to leprosy-affected children, like Rabiul.**

Really Good Gifts bring great joy

In Bangladesh, primary school is free and compulsory but the dropout rate is very high. It is because parents simply cannot afford school supplies for their children, and very often children are required to help with earning income for the family such as farming and household chores.



Nazifa proudly wears her schoolbag and uniform gifted through the Back to School Kit.

Nazifa's father, Mr Nasiruddin, joined a self-help group in his village after he was cured of leprosy. He works as a carpenter to support his family but still it is difficult for him to afford a school bag and other school materials for Nazifa.

Thanks to our incredible supporters like you, in 2017, 270 Really Good Gifts of Back to School Kits were distributed to children in Bangladesh, including Nazifa.

Nazifa was overwhelmed with joy and said *"I never thought that one day I will be able to carry a school bag, I am very happy because I have my own school bag like the others."*

"I want to be a doctor in the future, so I will be able to serve leprosy-affected and underprivileged people," Nazifa said confidently.

It is a delight to see a little girl so excited about school. Nazifa's eyes lit up when she found out that her school bag contained exercise books, pencil case, stationary, a water bottle and new school uniform!

Many leprosy-affected children in Bangladesh received a school bag and learning materials thanks to you!

For children in leprosy-affected communities, education really does mean everything as it is the best means of escaping poverty and improving their future prospects.



A Youth Advocate returns to Nepal



Meg de Reus is a registered nurse. She is also one of our wonderful Youth Advocates who visited Nepal in 2016. Meg has always had a passion for working with those less fortunate in society.

In 2017, she decided to return back to Nepal and volunteer at Anandaban Hospital for three months. It was a remarkable experience and she wants to share it with you.



Phulti, a friend I will forever keep close to my heart.

The patients at Anandaban Hospital are what really brought me back. They all have an incredible sense of joy and happiness. They are the most resilient people I have ever met.

Since there is such bad stigma surrounding leprosy, I love being able to show people affected by leprosy that I do not think less of them, and I am not afraid to touch their hands, to sit with them and to share meals with them.

I love spending time with the patients and staff at Anandaban. **My favourite part of being in Nepal is the relationships I've formed while I was there – relationships that will always hold a special place in my heart.**

Some of the older women taught me how to knit, and I played cards with the younger patients. One of the ladies knitted me a beanie with some wool I gave her; **another lady would just fill my heart with joy by her smile – she had lost so much in life because of leprosy but would still smile every day.** These are some precious memories that I will never forget...



Even though we speak different languages, I was able to bond with them.

I feel so blessed to be able to see first-hand the incredible work happening here at Anandaban. I never quite realised the extent of how much money is required to do this work and how much is done through support from all around the world. It was truly a privilege to witness the lives that are being transformed because of supporters like you. Thank you!

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Youth Advocate, please visit leprosymission.org.nz/youth-advocates or email youthadvocates@leprosymission.org.nz

Supporters Corner...

Beverley Cross, one of our incredible supporters, joined our Supporter Tour to India in 2016. She brought William the Bear along, together they visited the Leprosy Mission Hospitals, training centres, some community development programmes and had the chance to spend time with people affected by leprosy.

Last year Beverley penned her first children's book about the adventures of William, to help raise funds and awareness for the Leprosy Mission.

"When I was 5 years old, I met a couple of elderly missionary ladies who had returned from the Mission fields of India and China, and their stories stayed with me. I knew I wanted to go there too," says Beverley.

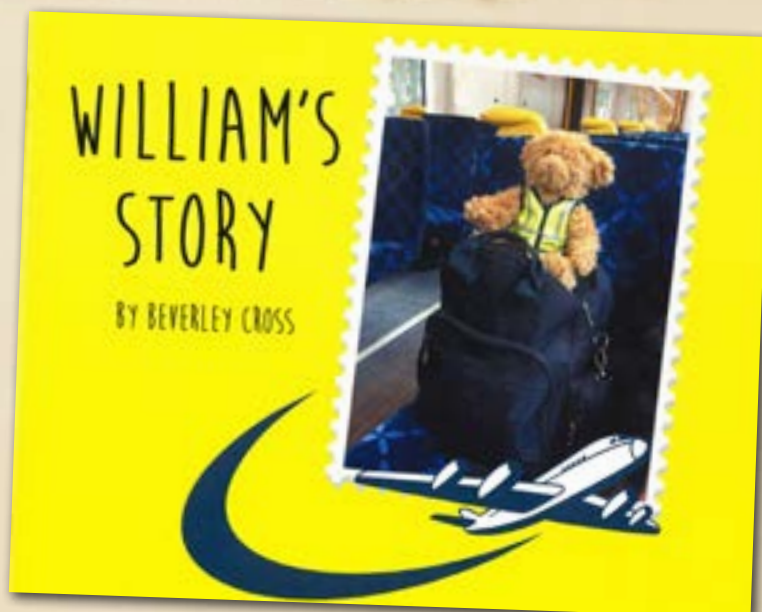
Throughout her life, Beverley never lost sight that one day she would be working for the Leprosy Mission. In 2004, she made her first trip to India where she visited a leprosy hospital in Faizabad in Northern India, and had the opportunity to work in the operating theatre there.

This is not only a story about one teddy bear's adventure to India; it is also the story of a woman of incredible faith, who kept alive a dream that she had nurtured for well over 50 years.

Beverley's mission is to not only raise awareness of leprosy, but also to inspire and encourage children to have a dream, to keep the faith and believe that one day God will use you in His way to fulfill His plan for you.



William joined a sewing class at the Faizabad Vocational Training Centre.



We are very grateful for Beverley's faithful support of the Leprosy Mission, and her compassion for people affected by leprosy.

Beverley will donate a percentage of every book sale to the Leprosy Mission New Zealand. This book is surely a lovely present for your younger family members.

To order your copy (\$20 includes P&H), please visit www.leprosymission.org.nz/book-store or contact Carolyn Currie on 0800 862 873 or at carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz



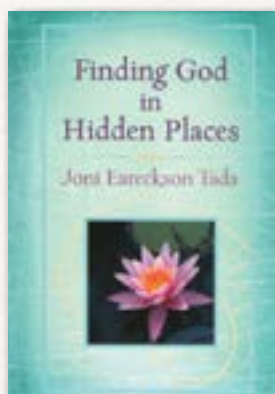
Beverley Cross (far right) visited a leprosy-affected family in India.

Each year we take a group of supporters like you to visit our projects in India. They meet people affected by leprosy being helped and hear their stories.

For more information, please contact Gillian on 0800 862 873 or supportertour@leprosymission.org.nz

Buy a book to help eradicate leprosy

Buy an inspirational book today for yourself or as a gift, and help transform the lives of individuals and families affected by leprosy. The funds raised through our book sales go directly to supporting the poorest of the poor in the countries where the Leprosy Mission works.



Finding God in Hidden Places

Author and artist Joni Eareckson Tada (a tetraplegic) invites readers to join her on a deeply personal journey as she explores the presence of a holy God in hidden places. Joni recalls moments in her life when God was present both in happy and sad times.

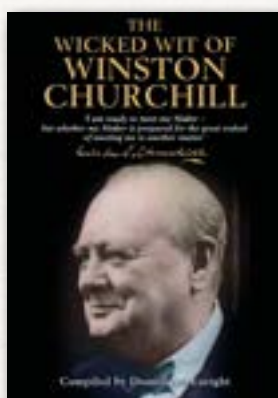
\$25 includes P&H



The wicked wit of Queen Elizabeth II

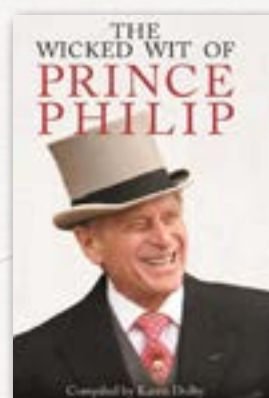
Revealing an aspect of the Queen's personality that the public rarely see, this book is a timely celebration of the Queen's whimsical side. This book includes queenly quips as well as stories from the rest of the family and prime quotes from the inimitable Prince Philip.

\$35 includes P&H



The wicked wit of Winston Churchill

Sir Winston Churchill was a man of vast humanity and enormous wit. His most famous speeches and says have passed into history but many of his aphorisms, puns and jokes are less well known. This book brings quips that show what was best about this lovable, infuriatingly conceited, wildly funny and brilliantly talented Englishman. **\$35 includes P&H**



The wicked wit of Prince Philip

Since the Duke of Edinburgh married Princess Elizabeth in 1947, his wit (and the occasional 'gaffe') 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



One Minute with God

An inspirational dayspring day brightener. Flip over the page every morning to find a bible verse together with some new encouragement or inspiration for the day ahead. Can be used year after year. A great gift with a dedication page for your own personal message.

\$30 includes P&H

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 at Carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz

Free postage throughout New Zealand.

In Memory

Thank you for generous donations received in memory of:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Frederick Armour | Wellington |
| Frances Clement | Te Aroha |
| Ernest Fritschi | Wellington |
| Valerie Fuller | Christchurch |
| R S Mangar | Kaitaia |
| Betty Maureen Newby | Auckland |
| R Martin Yeoman | Christchurch |
| Huybrecht Poot | Rotorua |

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.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Marion H Brown | Auckland |
| Beverly Mabel Makinson | Christchurch |
| Jean Cecelia Bushnell | Auckland |
| John Andrew Furness | Lower Hutt |
| Joan Robb | Auckland |
| John Alexander Stoddart | Waipawa |
| Ken Gunn Heard | Tauranga |
| Dorothy Buchanan | Auckland |

CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN COMPETITION

We invite you, your friends or your family members to help us design our Christmas card this year!

Simply design your Christmas card below and send it back to us. Or you can design online with a canvas size of 255mm x 125mm and send it to kelsey.kwan@leprosymission.org.nz

Ideas: What Christmas means to you? What is your favourite thing about Christmas? God's message for the Mission, people affected by leprosy celebrating Christmas...

BE CREATIVE!

The closing date for entries is **Wednesday 15 August 2018**.

The winning entry will be featured in September *inTouch* magazine.

Winner will receive a MYSTERY PRIZE, and your design will be printed on our Christmas card this year which will be distributed nationwide.

We look forward to seeing your design!



Cut along dotted line.

Contact details

Name:

Age:

City:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Idea behind design:

"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 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. 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



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