

inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 432 / Autumn 2013

Progress in PNG

2013 Youth
Advocates in Nepal

Kiwi Visits
Faizabad Hospital

From Adversity
to University

Annual Review 2012

Stamping Out Leprosy

Running 4 Rights



**The Leprosy
Mission**
New Zealand

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You Can 'Stamp' Out Leprosy

Welcome

Greetings and welcome to the Autumn 2013 edition of *inTouch*!

2013 marks the beginning of the Leprosy Mission's second hundred years in New Zealand.

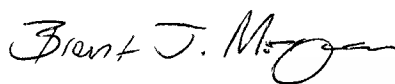
There has been great progress towards the eradication of leprosy, particularly in the last thirty years, however there is still more to be done. I am energised by the fact that this 'ancient grief' can be beaten in our lifetime.

I was recently in Nepal with our Youth Advocates and saw first-hand the great work our field colleagues are doing to help cure, care and restore people from leprosy. I was humbled by the individuals we met along the way and the stories they shared.

I hope that you enjoy our report back inside!

I trust that you enjoy this edition of *inTouch*. Thank you once again for your prayers, good wishes and generosity which makes all that we do possible.

With blessings,



Brent Morgan
Executive Director



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



Boy playing in the village of Hope in Delhi, India. Photo – Michael Bradley.

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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BHCP staff with new backpacks with Matt Halsey (back right) and Tony Wrightson (front left) (Programmes Committee)

Progress in PNG

The Leprosy Mission gave all the BHCP staff an early Christmas present in recognition of their hard work – a new backpack. The backpack is a good quality, practical gift and essential equipment for staff that spend most of their time walking in remote rural areas to work with communities.

Matt Halsey, the Leprosy Mission's Programme Manager for Bougainville, a province within Papua New Guinea (PNG) says his last trip there in October was very productive.

"We went to check progress on the gradual hand-over of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP) to the Bougainville Division of Health, see how our 23 Leprosy Mission staff were going and further develop the project design for the next three years," he says.

Matt says that in 2013 the Leprosy Mission and the BHCP team will be reviewing the quality of the work they are doing, revising the training material and up-skilling all the BHCP staff. "We are always trying to improve on what we are currently doing". They also intend to go back through the province to villages that have been skipped because they didn't want to join the project the first time training was offered.

One of the biggest successes over the past year has been expanding the BHCP project into the Buin district, which is at the southern end of Bougainville. "Reaching villages in Buin was important because it is an area where, until very recently, there had been conflict going on," says Matt. "People were really stoked to see us because they hadn't been receiving health or any other services, and we were the first outsiders that they'd seen now that there's a bit of peace."

BHCP selected two district facilitators to work in Buin and the training team went out and delivered general public health training to 153 volunteers and 134 Chiefs. Keeping communities healthy is extremely important when the nearest health centre could be up to eight hours walk away. (172 volunteers and 188 leaders from other PNG districts also received training in 2012.)

Starting on the design of the next three years work programme with Bougainville Health Division staff and the BHCP team was also a highlight of Matt's trip.

"The next three years are going to be more hard work for us all", Matt says "but by the end of it all of Bougainville's villages will be looking after their own health and making the best use of the government's health clinics when they need to. The BHCP team is great and this dream is not far off!"

"I have seen a change in the mindset of people in our village (since BHCP started here). Hygiene and sanitation was not in their daily vocabulary in the past. It's now their everyday language. You can see people caring for their flowerbeds. Now people are concerned about animals running free in the village, like pigs and dogs, and they are finding ways to control that. There is now a change in attitude in mothers about attending antenatal checks. More mothers are accessing health services."

- Chief Kenu from Kovanis Village in Tinputz District.

"Our ultimate goal, although this is still some way in the future, is that the government will fully take over running it," he says. "We have a great relationship with the Health staff and are making progress, however, reliable PNG government funding makes this handover challenging, so we need to ensure they are able to sustain the project in the future."

Currently, Matt explains, the Bougainville government doesn't have enough money, staff or skills to operate well. "Our system runs well because we are running it," he says. "Now we need to work out how we build our programme into the government's system. We have three years to do that. It's going to be a lot of hard work but I believe that we can set the BHCP village health programme up in such a way that the handover is successful."

2013 Youth Advocates in Nepal

The Youth Advocate Scholarship programme was established in 2010 to give young people the opportunity to see the reality of leprosy at Anandaban Hospital and the local community and learn about the Leprosy Mission's work in action.

This year the six successful students are Cameron Dyer, Kit Haines, Rachel Heslop, Dylan Kimpton, Harriet Judd and Ivan Robertson.

They return to become Advocates for the Leprosy Mission and raise awareness and funds for vital work overseas.

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." – Matthew 17:20 NIV



Cameron Dyer

Studying: Bachelor of Medicine, University of Auckland (3rd year)

"I consider myself very blessed to have a strong Christian base. I believe it is entirely possible to eradicate leprosy and I am so glad to be a part of it."



Ivan Robertson

Studying: Bachelor of Medicine, University of Auckland (3rd year)

"I want to use my medical degree in the developing world when I graduate, so being a part of the Youth Advocate Scholarship programme is life-changing and has allowed me to witness the consequences of leprosy first-hand."



Rachel Heslop

Studying: Bachelor of Medicine, University of Auckland (3rd year)

"From a young age I have always been interested in developing countries and what I could do to make a change and help those in need – that's why I decided to become a doctor."



Dylan Kimpton

Studying: Bachelor of Medicine, University of Auckland (3rd year)

"I am passionate about Jesus. I want to become a missionary in the future and want to see what kind of things I can do in developing countries with my medical degree."



Harriet Judd

Studying: Bachelor of Nursing, Massey University, Wellington (2nd year)

"I went into my nursing degree with a long-term goal to help those in need, wherever that may be. I know being a Youth Advocate is a great opportunity to help me decide where I am most needed after I have finished my degree."



Kit Haines

Studying: Bachelor of Law and Arts (history major), University of Auckland (4th year)

"I am excited about becoming an advocate for Leprosy Mission NZ and look forward to my involvement with the five other Youth Advocates."



Arriving in Nepal amidst the noise, crowds, porters and dust was a bit of a culture shock for our six young adventurers. Rachel says that even leaving the airport was an entirely new experience for them. "The driving was crazy and there were military police and camps all over the city."

However, Anandaban Hospital and its campus more than made up for the pandemonium in the wider city.

"At Anandaban, Christianity is on show," says Cameron. "The spirituality of the people is impressive and the names for each of the wards in Nepali mean 'Grace', 'Love', 'Hope'."

Rachel continues, "It is beautiful, everyone loves each other, everyone serves and no-one is in a hierarchy." Kit noticed the love too and says that "it just surrounds everything and everyone there – it was like a glimpse of the kingdom of God."

The group also noticed they didn't have to explain their faith – it was just accepted.

"Having God as a central part of your day is a blessing," says Dylan.

The students also enjoyed other elements of living on campus, but what affected them the most was the leprosy work they saw and the stories they heard.

"I did not think the stigma would be so bad," Harriet says. "Then I heard about Ganga's life – her uncle saying that she should be drowned in the sea - because she had leprosy."

They also were faced with the medical impact of the disease. "Reading about leprosy does not prepare you for the reality of seeing it in action or hearing the stories of people affected by leprosy and its physical and emotional impact." Ivan says.

Kit had not realised what happened prior to treatment. "People seem to have no concept of pain. Many cannot physically feel what is wrong with their bodies until their ulcers started smelling because of the rotting flesh."

"They have to take drugs and stay in hospital, yet somehow they also need to work and earn money to support their family," Rachel says. "It is difficult for them to stay in hospital for extended periods of time and socially isolating being away from family."

As their group saw more of the work at Anandaban they were impressed how well the hospital functioned on a number of different levels, despite the limited resources.

"On a practical level, it exceeded my expectations." Ivan says.

Rachel believes that without the Leprosy Mission "the rich would get richer and the poor would get poorer. There would be discrimination and physical struggle – the Leprosy Mission is needed to help change happen."

Cameron says, "The advantage of being here and seeing the work and understanding what I could contribute in the future is amazing."

The group came home knowing how blessed they are to live in a country where there are opportunities for everybody, no matter what your background is.

The 2013 Youth Advocates have been challenged to raise money for a new generator for Anandaban Hospital to provide power to the hospital when the main power supply is not available. Often the hospital copes for more than 16 hours a day without electricity from the national grid.

If you would like more information about the Youth Advocate Scholarship or would like a Youth Advocate in your area to come and talk to your local church, youth group or high school, please contact Gillian Whitley on 0800 862 873 or gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz



David Titheridge visits our work at The Leprosy Mission Hospital in Faizabad, northern India – By David Titheridge

My great aunt Maisie served the Leprosy Mission in Christchurch for most of her life. Her house was full of handmade toys and clothes and baking for the annual fair, and photos of leprosy work in Asia. So I grabbed the chance to visit the Leprosy Mission in northern India myself during March 2012.

My first stop was Barabanki, just east of Lucknow. The outpatient hospital there averages 250 patients per day: about 30% have leprosy. But I learnt that medicine only forms part of the Leprosy Mission's activity, as I witnessed how their Women's Empowerment Programme is transforming a village of 916 inhabitants. When I climbed out of the jeep and saw cows under thatched roofs, I felt as if I'd entered a Christmas nativity scene, and I was reminded of gospel stories about villagers threshing grain. They showed me their new vermin compost pits, which generate fertiliser from cow dung. Then I met a blind boy and a lame woman. They stood beside brick toilets – almost the cleanest I saw in India! – that the Leprosy Mission had built so they wouldn't have to go out in the fields.

In a concrete community hall, two dozen women in clean colourful saris sat patiently on a blue tarpaulin. Until recently, most of them were illiterate. Now they can read street signs, which gives them confidence to venture outside their village. A few have written leprosy symptoms on walls, alongside the Leprosy Mission's logo of Jesus embracing a leprosy sufferer. Several villagers have read these signs, diagnosed themselves, and reported to hospital in time for treatment. After introductions, the women filed up to chalk their names on the blackboard – some proudly writing their whole address, or doing an addition sum. Then I too slowly wrote in Hindi, "Hello. My name is David." They are native speakers and I'm from a different world, yet we were all beginners in writing the script. It was so much fun! Before I left, they sang folk songs and easy-to-remember ditties about vaccination and disease prevention. I'd heard it said that educating women is the best way to fight poverty, and this was a living example.

I spent the next two days at a larger Leprosy Mission complex in Faizabad, where a Vocational Training Centre was established in 1992 to empower members of leprosy-affected families. A poster read, "All we teach them is self-reliance. Look how God makes their lives productive. They can sew, they can sow, and they can reap. They can spin, they can learn, they can teach. They can fix almost anything...." Boys in blue overalls repaired car engines, TVs and phones, or constructed wooden beds and cupboards – some for outside contracts. Girls in red-checked uniforms sewed stuffed rabbits and dogs, kids' clothing and bags. Those in a computer class showed me the presentation slides they'd made of friends and Bollywood stars.

In the retirement home, elderly men clasped my hands between their gnarled fingers. One jumped up to sing two choruses for me. He had missing teeth and a stained shirt, and I didn't catch much beyond "Jesus" and "love", but I couldn't miss the way his face shone with gratitude and joy. Many were crippled, some blind, and they owned little more than the onions in their garden plot. Yet these men seemed richer in happiness than many of us.

In the physio ward of the 1938 leprosy hospital, patients awaiting surgery held up their clawed hands. Others were post-op and could straighten their fingers. They demonstrated their rehabilitation exercises – compressing springs and picking up blocks or beads. In readiness for when they return to work, they are taught to wrap sharp or hot implements in cloth as many damaged limbs have lost sensation and they are given leather sandals with customised insoles to protect their feet.

The Leprosy Mission's labour is bearing exciting fruit here, but it's also tough, as funding has dropped. Towards the end of my visit, next to a diagram of blood cells in the biochemical-testing lab, I spotted the same old painting of Jesus that used to hang in Auntie Maisie's guest room. It was good to be reminded again of the One who calls us to care and strengthens us to serve.



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New Zealand Supporter Tour to India 2013

Brent Morgan, Executive Director, will lead a supporter tour in India during September 2013. The tour party will meet with Brent in New Delhi on the 19th September and travel to see Leprosy Mission projects in northern India. The tour party will finish back in New Delhi on the 25th September for you to either return to New Zealand or extend your holiday. For more information on this opportunity or supporter tours to India and Nepal in conjunction with the Leprosy Mission Australia, please contact Gillian Whitley 0800 862 873; gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz or check out the website under 'Get Involved'.

From Adversity to University

"Lift up the hands that hang down and strengthen the feeble knees" Hebrews 12:12



Kamless now aged 15 and Brent outside the guest house in New Delhi, owned by the Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMT)
© Leprosy Mission NZ 2012.

In our annual appeal last year, we introduced you to Kamless, who at 12 years of age was diagnosed with leprosy at the Muzaffarpur Leprosy Mission Hospital in Bihar, India.

Initially given a course of multi-drug therapy (MDT), Kamless subsequently experienced weakness in his right hand which resulted in the little finger and ring finger on this hand becoming clawed through leprosy. He underwent reconstructive surgery to correct his clawed hand, followed up by a course of physiotherapy.

That was three years ago and at the end of last year, Brent Morgan, Executive Director of the Leprosy Mission New Zealand, visited India to attend his first meeting as a board member of the Leprosy Mission Trust India.

While he was there Brent took the opportunity to visit Bihar, one of the poorest states in India, to deliver messages of hope from Kiwi supporters and to visit Kamless and his father Moti Lal. The trip turned into a cross-country adventure as Brent explains.

"When I was in Muzaffarpur," Brent says, "I met with Dr Kerketta, Kamless's surgeon, who told me staff at Muzaffarpur Hospital had recently visited Kamless's village to contact him prior to my visit.

"They met with his grandparents who let them know Moti Lal had moved his family to New Delhi shortly after



Brent hand-delivered more than 200 'to India with love' messages from last year's annual appeal while he was visiting Muzaffarpur Leprosy Mission Hospital in Bihar

Kamless's surgery. They gave hospital staff Moti Lal's contact details so they could get in touch with the family and arrange for me to visit them."

New Delhi is almost 1,100 kms (or about 20 hours via train) from Bihar, but the move allowed Moti to go into partnership with his brother. Together they own and run two teashops, which have created an income for both their families. Moti can now provide food, housing and education for his family.

"Kamless and Moti Lal were very happy to meet with me and I was delighted to see that it is no longer obvious that Kamless was affected by leprosy," Brent says. "He is very happy."

At 15, Kamless is doing extremely well in school, coming 58th out of 600 students in his year seven exams. He hopes to go on to university and study software engineering after he has finished high school.

Kamless says the positive changes in his life would not have been possible without the kindness of his New Zealand supporters. "Thank you for supporting the work at Muzaffarpur Hospital," he says. "You are people with a heart, please continue to support the work so that others can have a smile like mine."



"Together we can weave hope into their lives, until we all live in a world without leprosy."

Parachute Festival prayer stations a success

Parachute – a three-day Christian music festival held near Hamilton every January and attended by around 18,000 people – conveniently coincides with World Leprosy Day. "The opportunity to raise awareness about the struggle that millions of people in the developing world still have with leprosy is huge at a festival the size of Parachute," says Brent Morgan, Executive Director. "So is the opportunity to highlight the success stories and to explain how people can get involved."

We decided to put together a unique experience that engaged visitors by guiding them through 'prayer stations'.

Prayer Station 1 – Cure

The first station focused on the fact that leprosy still exists today. People were asked to place their hands on samples of the actual medicines used to cure leprosy and to pray these medicines would reach people quickly, before the disease does physical damage.

Prayer Station 2 – Care

The second station described how leprosy-affected people need ongoing care such as surgery and physiotherapy. Visitors were told of Mr Wei, who became blind in one eye due to leprosy, and how he was healed. People could touch materials of different textures and reflect on how vulnerable they would feel if their senses were stolen by leprosy, while praying for those who need ongoing care.

Prayer Station 3 – Restore

Stigma and discrimination was the focus of the third station. Information highlighted how fear of the disease can damage and destroy family and community relationships for those affected. People prayed for the restoration of these bonds and the important support networks they create. They were invited to write a message of hope, which will be shared with people like Kamless (see page 7).

Prayer Station 4 – Weave

The last station invited people to weave a friendship bracelet of blue, white and burgundy with each strand representing a different part of the Leprosy Mission's work - Cure, Care and Restore. A fourth strand represented "your friendship".

The prayer station experience was a huge success. Over the three days the festival ran, around 1,000 visitors went through the prayer stations, and visited the stand to talk to Youth Advocates about leprosy, how it affects people and how the average Kiwi can help.

"It was amazing to see our Youth Advocates enthusiastically chatting with people about the different aspects of leprosy and sharing their newly acquired knowledge" says Brent Morgan, Executive Director.

To view more photos from Parachute 2013 go to the Leprosy Mission New Zealand's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/leprosymissionnz

Cure One going One better

"Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time..."
- Mother Teresa

A unique way to change someone's life is on its way, with a name that is already well known. The first public appearance of the new Cure One was on the big screen at the Parachute Festival in January. The huge audience had the chance to see a powerful video of images of people directly affected by leprosy, including the *inTouch* cover image.

Cure One will give you the chance to walk with one person whose life has been shattered by leprosy – and see them completely cured.

As a Cure One supporter you will see every stage of that one person's journey, from cure, to care, to being restored to their community through support and livelihood.



"With a great, great sigh of relief, we'll say goodbye to this ancient grief." We are very thankful to the band [shift], for letting us apply their inspiring lyrics to the great cause of a world without leprosy, and to Michael Bradley for his wonderful photographs.

If you would like to receive more information on becoming a Cure One supporter please call Heather Warne on 0800 862 873 or heather.warne@leprosymission.org.nz Visit www.cureone.org.nz

Annual Review 2012

1st January – 31st December 2012

2012 marked 100 years of the
Leprosy Mission in New Zealand.



**The Leprosy
Mission**
New Zealand

*A child from the Village of Hope Delhi.
© Copyright Michael Bradley*

With your support, we have an unwavering commitment to eliminate leprosy from the earth.

It has been a challenging but extremely rewarding year at the Leprosy Mission New Zealand.

Our loyal supporters have continued to be phenomenally generous and we have been able to commit \$3,327,934 to overseas ministry, surpassing 2010/2011 by close to \$500,000. We cannot thank you enough for joining us on our vital mission and making this life-changing work possible.

Over the last 12 months our projects have continued essential services and support to leprosy-affected individuals, their families and their communities. We are extremely grateful to our partners in the field for their dedication and perseverance. Below is a summary of some of our achievements for 2012.



BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh the Leprosy Mission New Zealand funds two projects in Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Project activities over the past year have included:

- 17,650 people living in 'high risk' areas for leprosy transmission in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were screened for leprosy
- 636 days of special leprosy clinics were run in these areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and 40 people received ongoing support at home to look after their ulcers
- More than 46,000 people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were reached in leprosy awareness raising activities
- More than 400 protective or other assistive devices were provided to people affected by leprosy disability
- Over 100 leaders of self-help groups received training in leadership, group management, basic book-keeping skills and in preparing simple business plans
- 456 people received training and support in technical or business skills to assist them in starting or improving their business or trade
- 385 small loans were issued to self-help group members to run small businesses and help them generate a sustainable income
- 877 self-help group members received education about their rights as people and as people affected by leprosy



CHINA

In China we provide our support through HANDA, an association of people affected by leprosy, which provides support to leprosy affected people in Southern China. Many of the individuals and families they work with have spent their whole lives living in remote leprosy villages, excluded from mainstream society by leprosy and the stigma imposed on them by surrounding communities.

Some of HANDA's vital services we have helped to fund over the past year include:

- Publicity campaigns and public events to raise awareness and educate the public about the causes and consequences of leprosy
- Specialist social workers and other support for leprosy-affected people to help them to restore their confidence and sense of self-worth
- Inter-village and city visits to provide new experiences for village residents and break down barriers between them and the outside world
- Visits to the villages by volunteers for social activities
- Starting new income generating activities, such as a 1 acre 'eco-farm' and sewing enterprises, in villages
- Providing life-changing eye surgery through a mobile eye clinic and a mobile prosthesis-making (e.g. leg) team to people living in isolated leprosy-affected villages in China



ETHIOPIA

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

- After thorough investigation, two grain mills (with 5 milling machines each) are being built for the communities and Branch Associations (approx. 200 members) in Enjibara and Fagita Lakoma in the Amhara Region. The provision of these mills will enhance income generating ventures, grain milling, grain selling and Injera baking and selling businesses, breaking down stigma and discrimination
- The Hawassa Saving and Credit co-op is registered with the government and has 14 members who have taken out and are paying back loans according to their business plans
- Working with Federation of National Associations of persons with Disabilities
- Training of Trainers, entrepreneurship and Community Based Rehabilitation undertaken
- Working with ALERT hospital
- 26 radio programmes broadcast on National Radio
- TV drama produced for health awareness on Leprosy
- 265 children being educated

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

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



INDIA

In India the Leprosy Mission New Zealand funds two community projects with our partner TLM India: Empowering Communities to address their own issues in Andhra Pradesh and the Empowerment of Village Women in Rural Uttar Pradesh.

Recent project activities included:

- 94 persons with disabilities (M 50 F 44) given management training
- 43 new Self Help Groups (SHGs) were formed making total of 138 with 1,216 members
- 278 members from 40 SHGs were trained on book keeping
- 48 leadership development programs were conducted and 689 members were trained
- 34 SHGs were provided training on rights and entitlements.
- 8 self-care groups were formed with 52 members. Taking the total to 46 groups with 221 members.
- Total of 63 Health & Education committees formed
- 59 Mass awareness programs on health and advocacy organized for communities. Total 5,801 people attended
- 10 persons affected by leprosy referred for treatment
- 34 programs conducted for women about women's rights, schemes & entitlements available from Government. 1,578 attended
- 16 SHGs accessed Bank Loans



NEPAL

In Nepal the Leprosy Mission New Zealand provides funding for Ananaban Hospital and our partner organisation IDEA Nepal.

- Anandaban Hospital is a 110 bed facility (80 leprosy beds and 30 general beds)
- The hospital also operates two clinics in Kathmandu city plus satellite clinics and health camps in rural areas
- The new hospital laundry was fitted with two heavy-duty washing machines, one dryer and an extractor
- The 2012 Youth Advocates raised \$15,000 towards a 4 wheel drive car which is essential for the effective delivery of services in Nepal
- IDEA Nepal (Integration Dignity and Economic Advancement) is a non-government organisation whose leadership is primarily made up of individuals who have personally faced the challenges of leprosy. IDEA's advocacy and awareness raising activities include:
 - An Advertising Campaign with brochures; calendars; newsletters; posters and billboards
 - A Media Campaign including radio and TV broadcasts
 - A Three day Integrated Empowerment Workshop
 - Health Education Classes conducted in 30 districts to break down stigma



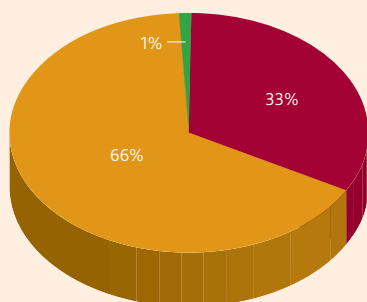
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In Papua New Guinea the Leprosy Mission New Zealand funds two projects: 1) The Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP) which works with village communities and Government health staff to establish a basic village health care programme across Bougainville, and; 2) the PNG Leprosy Control Partnership, a new project being developed by Leprosy Mission PNG in 2012 to work with the PNG Division of Health to implement its National Leprosy Control Programme.

Over the last year:

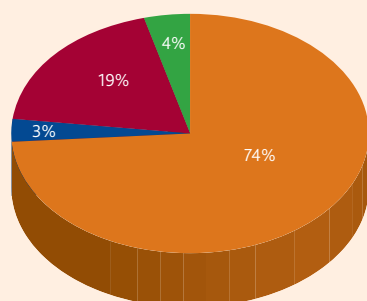
- The design of the PNG Leprosy Control Partnership was completed and partial funding obtained for it from 2013 from the New Zealand Government
- BHCP expanded into Buin district and is now established in the 8 most populous of Bougainville's 13 districts
- BHCP trained 325 village health volunteers and 322 village leaders, bringing the total number trained to 1,497 village health volunteers and 785 leaders
- Currently 12 project district facilitators travel within their remote districts to monitor and support the volunteers as they work to develop 'healthy communities' in their villages
- Volunteers raise awareness about key leprosy issues, identify locals who are ill and refer them to health facilities for diagnosis and treatment
- By 2015 the Programme will cover all villages in Bougainville

Income Received



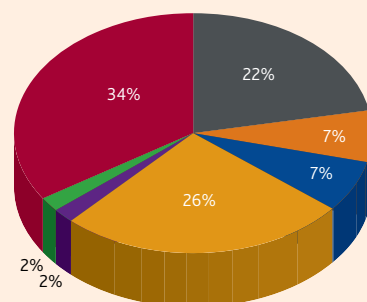
| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| NZ Government Grants | 1,477,046 |
| Private Income | 2,929,748 |
| Interest/Other Income | 65,021 |
| Total | \$4,471,815 |

Expenditure



| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Overseas Ministry | 3,327,394 |
| Education | 136,798 |
| Marketing Expenses | 845,653 |
| Administration | 202,601 |
| Total | \$4,512,447 |

Remittances by Countries



| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Bangladesh | 748,345 |
| China | 240,766 |
| Ethiopia | 224,054 |
| India | 854,984 |
| Nepal | 53,813 |
| International Office | 77,883 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1,127,549 |
| Total | \$3,327,394 |

The Year in Figures

This financial information summary is for the 12 months from January 1st 2012 to December 31st 2012 and is unaudited.

Audited accounts will be available following Annual General Meeting of Members which is to be held on 23rd March 2013. The full audited financial report will be available thereafter from our Auckland office and our website.

Thank You

We are extremely grateful to all of our supporters for their generosity and commitment to our mission. We simply could not do our vital work without you! On behalf of people affected by leprosy, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We would also like to acknowledge our committed and loyal volunteers, who have collectively donated over 15,000 hours of their time; the Leprosy Mission New Zealand Board, moneybox collectors, committee members, our prayer partners, ethnic community volunteers, office, stamp and mail out volunteers. Also the generosity of those who so thoughtfully remembered us in their Will. Grateful thanks to the global Leprosy Mission network, our field partners and the New Zealand Government's International Development Group of MFAT (formally known as NZAID – the New Zealand Government's International Aid and Development Agency).



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The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

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Bible in Schools tackles leprosy

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6



"We hope that our contribution will help in your efforts." Sue Shewan.

Schools at opposite ends of the country have been involved in raising awareness about leprosy in the past six months.

Bible in Schools classes at Howick Primary School, Auckland and Gleniti School, Timaru have involved their children in thinking about leprosy and how they can support the Leprosy Mission. They've both tackled it in different ways.

Mary Pepping, one of the Leprosy Mission's supporters and a Bible in Schools teacher, says she shared Father Damien's story with her class at Howick Primary School to raise awareness about leprosy and its ongoing prevalence in some parts of the world.

"I borrowed the Molokai DVD, showed the children the movie trailer, and then asked them to write letters about Father Damien," she says.

Similarly Sue Shewan in Timaru was keen to share the story of Jesus healing those affected by leprosy with her classes at Gleniti School.

"As part of the lesson we discuss leprosy, what it is, and what can be done about it in today's world," she says.

One of the teaching tools she uses as part of the lesson is an old Kids *inTouch* magazine that has an article about a boy who collected 2,000 postage stamps to send to the Leprosy Mission.

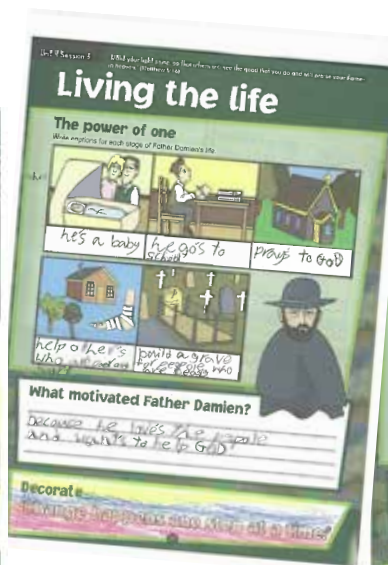
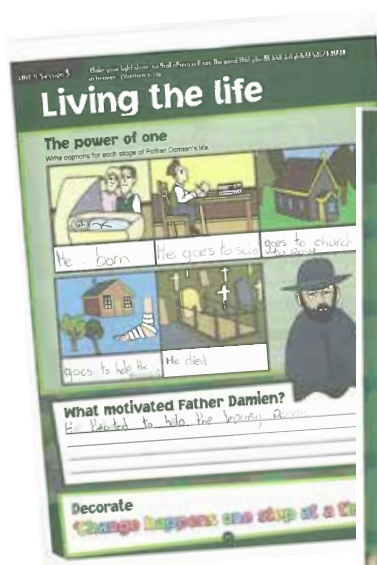
"The children are always very impressed," Sue says, "and keen to take up the challenge to collect at least that many stamps.

"Every single child remembers to bring postage stamps at least once during the year with many faithfully remembering every week. 'A little and often' has been their aim rather than quantity.

"Even children from other years still come in and contribute stamps. I am always inspired by their faithfulness in remembering to bring stamps each week. It is such a blessing - great kids!" she says.

The total sum of their efforts in 2012 was a massive 4,939 stamps!

Please contact Ngaira Lynch on 0800 862 873 or ngaira.lynch@leprosymission.org.nz if you would like our Bible in Schools materials.



Work by the children in Mary Pepping's Bible in Schools class.

KIWIS in the Field

Linking with like-minded mission to support leprosy-affected people.

Trevor and Shirley Parkinson, who worked for the Leprosy Mission for 11 years from 1990 – 2001 as the Area Representatives for the South Island, are now working for the Christian Missions Charitable Trust (CMCT).

Trevor says their involvement with CMCT began after Shirley visited one of their ministries during a Leprosy Mission visit to South India in 2000.

"After she returned to New Zealand, Shirley began selling handicrafts for CMCT and has been doing so ever since," he says. "This ongoing relationship built further bridges and in 2007 Bethany CMCT, Auckland, asked us to consider coming on board as their New Zealand representatives."

Trevor says that as the role was a new one for Bethany CMCT, he and Shirley sought guidance from the Lord and it was not until 2009 that they accepted the role and began representing New Zealand in "this amazing ministry".

Now, as New Zealand Director of the Bethany CMCT, Trevor, along with Shirley, is responsible for raising awareness and support for the CMCT and its various projects. Their work is focused on reducing poverty in Chennai, India, and in 2012 the Leprosy Mission started contributing a small amount towards their work as Chennai has a relatively high leprosy rate.

Trevor and Shirley recently visited the Alampakkam Leprosy Colony (part of the CMCT's ministry) in Chennai and wanted to share what their work and the Leprosy Mission's support is doing for people and their families in the colony.

"The Alampakkam Leprosy Colony was taken over by CMCT for relief and rehabilitation work from 2002," Trevor says. "Apart from a full time staff of 11 (a head of department, a project coordinator, two social workers, one cook, one handicraft instructor, one leprosy inspector, two nurses, one doctor and one tuition teacher) the Mission also involves family members of those affected by leprosy in the colony's handicraft centre.



"Twenty women are employed to produce a range of handicrafts such as embroidery, cross stitch and candles, which are sold in India and overseas to support the ongoing needs of the colony."

The CMCT rely on the work of volunteers selling handicrafts, like Shirley, in 10-12 countries throughout the world. "They've taken the CMCT's mission to heart and all proceeds from their handicraft sales go back to CMCT to pay the wages of the women who work in the 'Haven of Hope' Handicraft Centre," Trevor says.

He says there is also a new project that CMCT is working on in Chennai to help leprosy-affected people to interact, build friendships and encourage one another as they work to set up self-help programmes.

"A new building will be completed when sufficient funds are available," he says. "This will allow three different leprosy colonies, including Alampakkam, to come together for the self-help programmes that we're developing and offering the colonies."

Trevor recalls one poignant moment that he and Shirley had during a visit to Chennai in 2010.

"On one particular occasion we visited a number of soup kitchens - CMCT provides this service to elderly women, especially widows," he says. "Shirley was involved in distributing meals to the women and I had the privilege of sharing God's Word with them."

"The pinnacle moment of our visit was meeting a dear, 72-year-old woman called Padamai, who lived under a staircase in a government slum area. She shared her story with Shirley telling her about her loneliness as a widow and how being a widow affected her acceptance in the environment in which she lived and before long they were both crying – it was a touching moment, and it was especially exciting to find out that Padamai has come to know the Lord."

Now entering his fourth year as the New Zealand Director, Trevor is looking forward to the challenges Bethany CMCT faces and the successes their work can achieve in the coming months.

He adds, "We also very much value the partnership we have with the Leprosy Mission. The support you provide makes a difference in the lives of those who are often lost to society because of their connection to such a disease as leprosy."



Where there is no vision, the people perish

— Proverbs 29:18

("This verse is in the entrance Hall of CMCT with a map of India as its backdrop, an amazing message as you enter the building and all its ministries based there," Trevor says.)

The Christian Missions Charitable Trust



- Was established in 1979
- Was founded by Colleen Redit (pictured), who is the current President of the CMCT
- Works to transform the lives of people in India regardless of caste, creed or race
- Has 26 specific areas of commitment and work (such as Alampakkam Leprosy Rehabilitation and the soup kitchens)
- Has 10-12 countries with supporting ministries (Bethany CMCT NZ is one of the supporting ministries)
- Employs more than 370 staff. They are always locals in the area each ministry is based
- Shares God's Word with those they come into contact with, so that other souls can find comfort in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Has more information on their website www.christianmissionsindia.com

Moneybox – 2013 – creating big change from your small change

Thanks to the dedicated work of hundreds of collectors the Leprosy Mission moneyboxes have raised more than \$3 million over the past 50 years for thousands of leprosy-affected people in Bangladesh.

Bernard Gomez tells us more about how moneyboxes have changed two Bangladesh citizens lives for the better in the next article, but the work of these iconic boxes is not over yet. In 2013 we need help to raise more than \$100,000 so that we can continue our vital work with leprosy-affected families in Bangladesh.

Spreading the word about moneyboxes in homes, churches and schools is a fun and easy way to help as just a few coins from pocket money and loose change can go a long way!

If you are interested in supporting our Moneybox Programme please contact our Moneybox Coordinator, Carolyn Currie, on 0800 862 873 or email her at moneybox@leprosymission.org.nz



Bernard's 2013 trip to Bangladesh

Bernard Gomez, who is a member of Leprosy Mission's Programmes Committee, recently travelled to Bangladesh to provide training to some of the Leprosy Mission staff working in the Chittagong Hill



Mohammed Nurui Islam

Tracts, and also to find out how moneybox funds are impacting on the lives of those affected by leprosy. He was delighted to talk to two people who have turned their lives around thanks to the support they have received from the Leprosy Mission.

Forty-five year old Mohammed Nurui Islam is a carpenter by trade. When he found out he had leprosy he was very upset and thought his life was over. After successful treatment from the Leprosy Mission, Mohammed received a loan to start his own homeware carving business (making items such as headboards and cabinets).

Now he has two employees to help him keep up with all the work and hopes to support his youngest daughter's dream to become a doctor. He's very grateful for the Leprosy Mission's support. "I always dreamed of owning my own workshop. Without the help from the Leprosy Mission, I would not have been able to fulfil my dreams," he says.

Shanti Debi Tripura, one of the women successfully treated, also received a loan. Shanti started a small shop, and has since expanded to a bigger shop (see image below). She's gone on to buy land in her local area of Bangladesh.



Elizabeth Peters' 2013 Shave for Life

"We, who have plenty, can give to those in need and together we can make a stand for Jesus Christ in the leprosy-affected communities abroad." - Elizabeth Peters.

The Leprosy Mission is honoured, once again, to be the recipient of Elizabeth Peters' fundraising event.

Elizabeth is celebrating her 51st birthday on 30 March and has chosen to celebrate this milestone by holding another 'Shave for Life' event to raise \$3,000 for the Muzaffarpur Leprosy Mission Hospital. Her first 'Shave for Life' event in 2012 raised \$1,000 for Muzaffarpur Hospital.

The hospital is very close to her heart, as Elizabeth says, "about two years ago God gently nudged me to reach out and help leprosy-affected families, while I was reading the Leprosy Mission's *inTouch* magazines".

To support this cause, donate online at www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/shaveforlife/ or call 0800 862 873

OR if you are in the area, please join Elizabeth and her friends at the Heretaunga Street City Centre Fountain in Hastings between 9am and 12 noon on Easter Saturday (30 March).

Every NZ \$1 is worth 45 Indian rupees!

You can read more about the Leprosy Mission's work at Muzaffarpur here: www.leprosymission.org.nz/page/muzaffarpur



The 2012 Running 4 Rights team celebrating after completing their events.

Thanks to our supporters the Leprosy Mission's 30-strong Running 4 Rights team raised over \$18,000 in 2012 - a significant increase from 2011!

Team members of all ages and abilities ran, walked, swam or cycled in local fun runs, marathons or triathlons to help those affected by leprosy in Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, India, Nepal and Papua New Guinea.

They were inspired by Olympian Barry Magee, who won a bronze medal for the marathon in the 1960 Rome Olympics amongst many other accolades. "I try to get across to people that anyone can do extraordinary things," Barry says.

As much about awareness raising as fundraising, many participants have told us about how satisfied they felt knowing what they were doing was making a difference in the world.

"Get involved in Running 4 Rights - it's a great way to raise money and make a major difference in the lives of people affected by leprosy," says Dylan Kimpton (2013 Youth Advocate).

"Margaret Lucas, the mother of 2012 Youth Advocate Nathanael Lucas says, "Nathanael enjoyed his time in Nepal, so my husband and I decided to come and run in the Auckland Half Marathon this year to support the Leprosy Mission. It's a very hard course, it's very hilly but beautiful and actually quite fun doing it with so many people."

See the fun in the 2012 Running 4 Rights Facebook photo album: www.facebook.com/leprosymissionnz

If you would like to join the Running 4 Rights team in 2013, please contact Gillian Whitley on 0800 862 873 or gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz



Brent Morgan, Executive Director, holding one of our moneyboxes with Barry Magee, displaying the bronze medal Barry won in the marathon at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Barry coached Brent in the early 1990s and ran with Brent in his first marathon, the New Plymouth marathon in 1990.

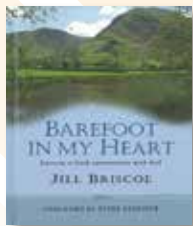
Leprosy Mission Prayer

The Leprosy Mission Australia sent us this inspiring prayer and we liked it so much we wanted to share it with our supporters.

*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 with their families and friends.
And inspire your people with the task set before the Leprosy Mission
That it may never lack either the people 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

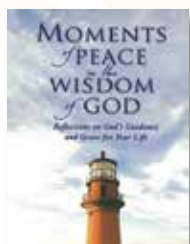
New Books



***Barefoot in my Heart* By Jill Briscoe**

If you have ever found that your Christian life is growing stale this book will give you a new start in your conversation with God.

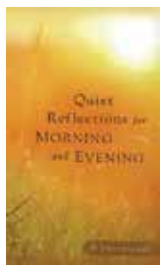
\$23 + P&H



***Moments of Peace in the Wisdom of God* By a Collection of Authors**

Everyone faces moments of bewilderment where we ask ourselves which way we should turn. We need to know that God is near in our moment of need. We need to be willing to ask God as He is the source of wisdom.

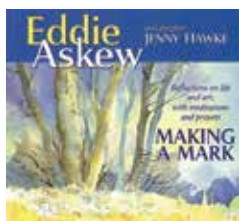
\$23 + P&H



***Quiet Reflections for Morning and Evening* By a Collection of Authors**

This devotional encourages us all to begin and end our day with a quiet moment with God to refresh us and give meaning to our lives. It has scriptures for each day and a closing prayer that will start and finish our day in the right way.

\$23 + P&H



***Making a Mark* By Eddie Askew and daughter Jenny Hawke**

This book is about possibilities. The possibilities of a blank piece of paper, and perhaps more widely, of what we make of our lives, a space that God can use. We all long for significance, and hope we might be remembered, but more deeply, we long to make a difference in someone else's life.

\$23 + P&H

Books for sale

Purchasing books from the Leprosy Mission helps transform the lives of individuals and families affected by leprosy. Whether it is for a birthday, wedding gift or thank you gift, or to encourage someone who is going through a tough time, buying a book from the Leprosy Mission enables us to support many of the world's poorest communities in the countries we work in.

Below you'll find a special selection of books we thought you would be interested in. Others are available from our Auckland office or by going to www.leprosymission.org.nz and ordering from our online bookstore.

Book Clearance

| | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Breaking the Rules</i> by Eddie Askew | \$10 + P&H |
| <i>Dabbling with Ducks</i> by Eddie Askew | \$20 + P&H |
| <i>Encounters</i> by Eddie Askew | \$10 + P&H |
| <i>Chasing the Leaves</i> by Eddie Askew | \$15 + P&H |
| <i>Breaking Through</i> by Eddie Askew | \$10 + P&H |
| <i>Paws and Prayers</i> by Anna Caddy and Judith Merrell | \$20 + P&H |

Postage and handling (P&H): Postage is \$5.50 for orders up to five books and \$11 for orders more than five books.

To order any of these books please visit www.leprosymission.org.nz and order at our online bookstore. Alternatively contact Carolyn Currie on 0800 862 873 or carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz. We look forward to your order.

Donations in Memory of

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Anne Barrington | Auckland |
| Norris Benning | Levin |
| David Collins | Paraparaumu |
| Marie Pack | Waikanae |
| Ellen Reid | Christchurch |
| Bill Sangster | Wellington |
| Nevill Palmer | Taupo |

Bequests

We are extremely grateful to the following supporters who so thoughtfully remembered the Leprosy Mission in their Will.

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Mrs Helen Leslie Lois Easton | Levin |
| Mr Rayner Vincent Dixon | Palmerston North |
| Kathleen Davison | Auckland |
| Miss Margaret Doris Crocker | Auckland |
| Mr Austin Buckle Miller | Auckland |
| Mrs Joyce Sylvia Spencer | Hamilton |
| Mrs Patricia Robin Gee | Wellington |
| Miss Dorothy Lord | Wellington |
| Miss Shirley Winifred June Rowe | Hastings |
| Miss Gwenyth Margaret Hughes | Kaipoi |
| Mrs Sophia Davousaliaris | Wellington |
| Mrs Jennifer May Blakely | Auckland |
| Miss Doris Sarah Heron | Christchurch |
| Margaret Mary Watson | Christchurch |
| Mrs Betty Peters | Auckland |
| Nancy Bennett | Te Awamutu |

Prayer & Praise

We would love you to join us in regular prayer support. Our Prayer & Praise diary is available by post or email. If you are interested please email:

ngaira.lynch@leprosymission.org.nz or call 0800 862 873

Recent changes

PO Box Change

Please note our Post Office Box number has recently changed to:

PO Box 96262
Balmoral
Auckland 1342

Please use our new Box number from now on, but don't worry if you use our old Post Office Box number in error, as it will automatically be redirected to us until December 2013. If you have any questions please call our Supporter Services team on 0800 862 873.

Logo Change

You may have noticed our logo has been modified. The new logo has burgundy and blue colours and was developed by the Leprosy Mission International. The new design enables each Leprosy Mission country to have a similar identity across our international Fellowship, while also incorporating individual country names.



**The Leprosy
Mission**
New Zealand

You can 'stamp' out leprosy

We desperately need your postage stamps to help us stamp out leprosy!

You may not have considered saving and donating the used postage stamps you receive on envelopes, but they do have a life beyond sending mail.

Over the past 10 years the Leprosy Mission's supporters have raised over \$80,000 for leprosy-affected families in Bangladesh by collecting and donating stamps for us to sell on to collectors.

Last year alone we raised \$3,643.91 and in 2013 we'd like to raise \$5,500 to sustain the impact of the Leprosy Mission's outreach in Bangladesh.

Collecting used stamps is a great project for churches, schools and other community groups and we really appreciate every

donation. All of the money raised from selling the stamps you donate goes towards our Chittagong Sustainable Development Project and Chittagong Hill Tracts Programme in Bangladesh.

You can drop off your used, trimmed, stamps in bulk to our office at 591 Dominion Road, Balmoral, Auckland, or you can send them to us by post (see the address below). We would appreciate you paying for the postage of the stamps you send.

Send your stamps in a stamped envelope to:

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand
PO Box 96262
Balmoral
Auckland 1342

For more information, contact Ngaira Lynch on 0800 862 873 or ngaira.lynch@leprosymission.org.nz

“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.



After receiving much needed medical care, Belmati is now happier.

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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