

inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 434 / Autumn 2014



Nutan - Cure One

Supporters Tour
to India

2014 Youth Advocates
in Nepal

Annual Review 2013

Self-sufficiency
in Chittagong

Supporters Corner



The Leprosy
Mission
New Zealand

Contents

- 3 Amazing response on Cure One Hundred Day
Nutan's new life through Cure One
- 4 - 5 2013 Supporters Tour to India: Puppets, "lost sheep" and seeing a legacy in action
- 6 2014 Youth Advocates back from Anandaban
- 7 - 10 Annual Review 2013
- 11 Jasmine lends HANDA a hand in China
- 12 - 13 Shining examples of self-sufficiency in Chittagong
Nigar's initiative takes her from poverty to vocation
- 14 Supporters Corner:
- Dinner Party success
- Harriet's High Tea
- Moneybox
- Generator run
- 15 - Bequests
- In Memory
- Books
- Prayer & Praise
- Auckland Marathon



Chris Benham with students at Faizabad Vocational Training Centre, India. Read more about Chirs' trip to India on page 4 and 5.

Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn edition of *inTouch* Magazine!

In February I travelled with our 2014 Youth Advocates to Nepal. It was inspiring once again to see our field ministry first-hand and to see people affected by leprosy being cured, cared for and restored. The love demonstrated by our field staff to those they serve was truly exceptional.

It also inspired me to be travelling with such a committed group of Youth Advocates and to see them experience the developing world, Christian ministry and the work of the Leprosy Mission. My real hope is that my generation, and most definitely theirs, will see the global eradication of leprosy – this really excites me! Read more about our Youth Advocates Nepalese trip on page 6.

You will also find our 2013 Annual Review in this edition of *inTouch*. By God's grace, our 2013 income was significantly up on the previous year. This has enabled us to send more to field ministry to cure, care for and restore those affected by leprosy.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support over the past twelve months.

I trust that you will enjoy reading Autumn *inTouch*.

In Christ,

Brent Morgan
Exective Director



Brent and Curtis Morgan who ran together in the Auckland Marathon, pictured in Kathmandu, Nepal

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.

CONTACT US

For all enquiries, please contact:
The Leprosy Mission New Zealand
PO Box 96262, Balmoral,
Auckland 1342, New Zealand
Freephone: 0800 862 873
Email: enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz
Website: www.leprosymission.org.nz
Facebook.com/leprosymissionnz
Twitter: @LeprosyNZ

Cure One *Hundred* Day ... Thank you

Amazing response on Cure One Hundred Day

On one special day last year we were deeply moved to witness a wonderful outpouring of support by Kiwis towards people with leprosy around the world.

The Leprosy Mission, in partnership with Radio Rhema, ran a Cure One Hundred Day on Thursday 17 October.

Radio Rhema announcers encouraged their listeners to give \$432 to cure, care for and restore one person affected by leprosy. The goal was to find 100 people willing to make the \$432 commitment, either by one-off donation or by monthly pledge over one or two years.

In a show of outstanding support and connection with the cause, the first 100 people had signed up as Cure One supporters before the breakfast show was over! The high level of interest continued throughout the day, and by the end of the 11-hour appeal, enough was raised to Cure, Care for and restore 250 people affected by leprosy.

"I was both thrilled and incredibly humbled by the way that hundreds of everyday Kiwis listening to Radio Rhema responded to this special appeal – thank you all so much and God bless you," says Brent Morgan.



Brent says he is also very grateful to Rhema Media. "I'd like to thank CEO Mike Brewer and his talented team for partnering with us to create this special fundraising event. I really appreciated the way they shared their passion for our cause with their listeners."

To become a Cure One supporter please visit cureone.org.nz, email kiri.debeer@leprosymission.org.nz or call 0800 862 873.

Nutan's new Life through Cure One

All our new **Cure One** supporters have made a wonderful commitment to completely **cure**, **care for** and **restore** someone affected by leprosy like Nutan.

Nutan's family spent all they had trying to set her free from leprosy. They bonded their land and sold their income-producing animals, but to no avail. Her hand became clawed and her foot developed such a bad ulcer she was barred from school and considered cursed by her community.

Thanks to **Cure One**, Nutan is now doing extremely well.

As well as being medically **cured** of leprosy, Nutan has received extensive hospital **care**, including two reconstructive hand surgeries and physiotherapy. Now she can grasp again! She has also received special footwear that allows her to walk without pain, while protecting her ulcerated foot.

At the same time, Nutan and her family are being **restored** financially and in the eyes of their community. Nutan is back

learning, with financial help for her school fees and equipment. Plus her family now have a buffalo and calf, so neighbours can buy pure, fresh milk.

This is what you will be able to see and do as a **Cure One** supporter. You will experience the joy of setting someone like Nutan free from the disease, disability and stigma of leprosy.



2013 Supporters tour to India

Puppets, “lost sheep” and seeing a legacy in action

Last year seven New Zealand supporters travelled to India and Nepal with the Leprosy Mission to witness the impact of their support with leprosy-affected people and the community.

We're happy to share the impressions three of our supporters had about the trip.

Images capture special moments

“Hi, I'm Chris Benham. I have been a supporter and prayer-partner of the Leprosy Mission for over 30 years now. I'm also in Puppet Vision, a Christian Puppet ministry. For the last 12 years we have been involved at Parachute and it is wonderful to have an opportunity to visit the Leprosy Mission's site to catch up with new faces. Brent encouraged me to enter the competition last year and to my surprise, I won!

The tour meant Sue (my wife) and I could meet the people we had been praying for. Every day brought a new highlight, such as meeting Nutan (see page 3), filming her and her family and seeing the amazing impact of the self-help groups at village level. The reduction in stigma against leprosy-affected families is amazing.

The work being done with 18 – 25 year old students in the Vocational Training Centre we visited was of an exceptionally high standard. There was a wonderfully happy, productive atmosphere and with quality results being shown.

We were privileged to see the hospital wards, and to meet people of all ages affected by leprosy and the dedicated hard-working staff. An added bonus was being invited to watch a tendon-transfer operation being performed to restore a leprosy-affected man's eye-lid function.

I was also honoured to share music (English and Hindi songs), balloon animals and puppetry performances. I ran a puppetry workshop for a small group of interested staff at Anandaban Hospital, and I was later able to gift the resources to them.

I wish to thank the Leprosy Mission for this amazing opportunity.”



The group comprised of Board treasurer Grant Pollock (back left); 2013 Parachute Music Festival Supporter Tour Winner Chris Benham (back right); from left to right: retired surgical nurse Nerida Galley, ex-veterinarian and Reverend at St James Union Parish in Thames, Jan Fogg, community nurse Sue Benham, hand therapist Sarah Waldin and Donor Development Manager, Gillian Whitley (not in photo: hand surgeon Dr Bruce Peat).

Compassion for “lost sheep”

Rev. Jan Fogg wrote about her experiences for *Touchstone* magazine in November 2013. With their kind permission we share parts of her story called *Lost Sheep – a parable about leprosy today*.

“In September, I travelled to India and Nepal with the Leprosy Mission NZ. What a humbling but inspiring experience.

During the trip I was asked to do short sermons for translation. I took a cue from Chris to tell the story of the lost sheep from Luke 15.

The parable of the lost sheep is often interpreted to mean that if we have gone astray through our sin, then God will look for us to draw us back into the fold. But in India I found the parable speaking in a different way.

In all societies, the beautiful, the strong, the smart, and the healthy are the ones who take up places of regard. The kingdom principles Jesus shared turned that upside down: each and every person belongs and has value in God's family.

Many of the leprosy sufferers we visited were crying out to be drawn back into the life of the community.



We visited a rest home one evening (where leprosy-affected people live), and listened to the elderly male residents as they emerged from their rooms. Through the Leprosy Mission they knew belonging, care and - surprisingly to us - a sense of joy in God's love. They were singing their own song.

It seemed to me that these 'lost sheep', were being restored through the compassionate love of Jesus. This was evident in the lives and work of those who are called to work with the Leprosy Mission."

To read the full article, go to:

www.methodist.org.nz/touchstone and select November 2013.

The next Supporter Tour is coming up in early October 2014. You have an opportunity to join us and Radio Rhema presenter Cathy Jenke in witnessing our work with leprosy-affected people in Northern India. The tour will encompass some of the most impoverished regions of India, while experiencing the country's rich culture and history.

Please contact Gillian Whitley, Donor Development Manager, for more information 0800 862 873 or gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

Seeing the legacy of Paul Brand

For hand therapist Sarah Waldin, the trip was a journey of new experiences. Like Chris, she was impressed with the students at the Leprosy Mission Faizabad Vocational Training Centre.

"I was inspired by the students' enthusiasm and the staff's love, which was practical, tangible and so powerful. It was love in action, it was God's hands and feet at work, it was God's eyes at work and I was very blessed to have experienced this."

More crucially Sarah was thrilled to see the legacy of her hero, Dr Paul Brand, in action. "He was a complete genius in his time and his founding principles still underpin everything I do as a hand therapist. His work is still referred to in virtually every medical journal article on tendons that is written today.

"The work being done in tendon transfers, to reconstruct hands that are lacking motor capacity is exemplary," she says. "Resources are low and costs are kept down but the outcomes appear to be brilliant. It allows leprosy-affected patients to regain function in their hands, which is incredibly important to their ongoing success in life."

Sarah notes that meeting the personalities within severely compromised bodies was humbling and enriching. Two of the people she met were sisters Supria and Purnima who featured in the latest World Leprosy Day Appeal. She was troubled by their father's apparent neglect until she listened to his story.

"It was clear that he loves his daughters. Hiding them was the best way he knew to try to protect them from the inevitable marginalisation from their community. A challenging moment in my head and heart!



"Educating rural communities about leprosy is needed to prevent the devastating consequences that can occur, seen so evidently in these beautiful sisters. It is the ultimate model for healthcare used throughout the world and the Leprosy Mission is achieving very high standards within this model.

"Nothing compares to seeing with your own eyes and I would warmly encourage anyone to go and see the Leprosy Mission work if the opportunity arises," she says.

2014 Youth Advocates back from Anandaban

The Leprosy Mission's Youth Advocates programme creates an opportunity for students to become advocates for leprosy-affected people and help defeat leprosy in their lifetime. The specially selected team travel to Nepal and witness how the Leprosy Mission cure, care for and restore people affected by leprosy back to their community.

This year's Youth Advocates are Natalie Downes, Sarah Farmer, Rita Johnson, Peter Sim, Gina Wilson, Hannah Smith and Jared Campbell. The Youth Advocates were joined by Holly Wiseman, a presenter with Life FM, who provided live radio updates during the trip.

While in Nepal they saw the need for reliable transport for staff, patients and medical supplies - especially between Anandaban Hospital and their outreach, Patan Clinic. The seven advocates

have taken up the challenge to raise \$25,000 towards a new transit bus for Anandaban Hospital where they stayed.

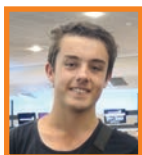
Why fundraise for a bus? The Youth Advocates noticed the inadequacy of Anandaban Hospital's transport while they were away.

"We would be thrown out of our van seats because of pot-holes and rough terrain on the unsealed road to the hospital," Gina Wilson says. "We realised for patients in pain, for sensitive and expensive medical equipment and for staff, who may have to do this trip several times a day, the issues of transport are immense.

"Staff didn't ask for gifts. What they asked for is to be able to provide better care for leprosy-affected people. The heart behind the request inspires me to fundraise for a bus because the people asking for it are so committed to bringing healing and relief to the unwell."

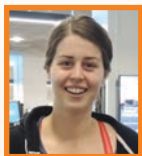
You can help the Youth Advocates achieve their fundraising goal by donating online:

www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/youthads2014



Peter Sim (from Wellington)

Studying: Bachelor of Arts, Victoria University.
Anandaban was such a welcoming place and the doctors and workers were the nicest people I have met. Their love for their patients and their love for the work they do, really shows.



Sarah Farmer (from Hamilton)

Studying: Bachelor of Pharmacy, University of Auckland.
Anandaban Hospital is a source of light and hope, especially for those affected by leprosy. I love the visitor's message as you drive up to the hospital. "We are not doing them a favour by serving them. They are giving us an opportunity to do so; service to them is our purpose of work". This selfless love and humility makes Anandaban one of the most powerful places.



Gina Wilson (from Wellington)

Studying: Bachelor of Medicine, University of Otago.
I found it surprising and heart-breaking that other medical staff still do not want to treat leprosy-affected people at the general hospitals. I assumed that they would somehow "know better" and not be swayed by social stigma. It made me realise how lucky we are that the NZ health system is largely non-judgemental.



Natalie Downes (from Blenheim)

Studying: Bachelor of Medicine, University of Otago.
The magnitude and breadth of the social stigma I saw was astounding - impacting on anyone living within proximity of those affected by leprosy. Growing up in a leprosy village sets entirely unaffected children on a path where they will find barriers erected throughout their entire lives. Fear is still rampant, even among medical professionals.



Rita Johnson (from Whangarei)

Studying: Bachelor of Education, University of Auckland.
I found it hard leaving Kathmandu knowing how easy it is for any of us to go back and see the people that we met, yet it is so difficult for those that we met there to be able to come and see us. The cost of everything in Nepal, compared to New Zealand, is challenging. When we bought a soccer ball to play soccer with some children in a local village - for us it was a couple of dollars, but for a Nepali family it was a whole day's wages.



Hannah Smith (from Wellington)

Studying: Bachelor of Law and Arts, University of Otago.
One thing that really impressed me was how the Leprosy Mission covered all bases. On the day we visited the Patan clinic in Kathmandu the Leprosy Mission staff not only diagnosed and treated people with leprosy, but also made shoes, taught people how to help themselves, organised loans and scholarships and set up community groups.



Jared Campbell (from Queenstown)

Studying: Bachelor of Medicine, University of Otago.
Some of the greatest challenges to do with leprosy that I saw was the permanent disability and social stigma that is so strongly held in the Nepalese culture. Meeting people who had been excluded from their communities and left to fend for themselves at very young ages, really hit home to me that this disease is so much more than a medical problem.

Applications are now open for the next Youth Advocates trip in February 2015. For more information please contact Gillian Whitley on 0800 862 873 or email gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

Annual Review 2013

1st January - 31st December 2013



The Leprosy
Mission
New Zealand

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

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

Our loyal supporters continue to be outstanding in their generosity and we have been able to commit \$4,347,487 to overseas ministry, surpassing 2012 by just over \$1,000,000. We cannot thank you enough for joining us on our vital mission and making our life-changing work possible.

Throughout 2013 our projects brought essential services and support to leprosy-affected individuals, their families and their communities. We are extremely grateful to our partners in the field, such as HANDA and ENAPAL for their devotion and determination. Below is a summary of some of our achievements for 2013.



BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh New Zealand supporters fund two projects: one in and around Chittagong city and the other in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

With your support, in 2013:

- The leprosy prevalence rate in the Chittagong Hill Tracts fell to less than 6 per 100,000 people from almost 10 per 100,000 two years earlier
- 15,413 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 the Chittagong Hill Tracts to treat people with leprosy and for those experiencing leprosy reaction
- More than 67,000 people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were reached in leprosy awareness raising activities such as radio advertisements
- 1,439 protective or other assistive devices were provided to people affected by leprosy disability
- 328 leaders of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) received training in leadership, group management and basic book-keeping skills
- 419 SHG members received training and support in technical or business skills to assist them in starting or improving their business or trade
- 693 small loans were issued to SHG members to run small businesses and help them generate a sustainable income
- 1,901 SHG members received education about their rights as people and as people affected by leprosy or disability



CHINA

In China LMNZ works with HANDA, an association of people affected by leprosy, which provides support to leprosy-affected people in Southern China. LMNZ supports HANDA's work in three provinces: Yunnan, Guangdong and Guangxi.

Many of the individuals and families HANDA works with have spent their entire lives living in remote leprosy villages, excluded from mainstream society by their disabilities and the stigma imposed on them by surrounding communities.

With your support, in 2013:

- HANDA ran 71 publicity campaigns and public events to raise awareness and educate the public about the causes and consequences of leprosy, reaching more than 30,000 people
- 550 volunteers made 91 visits to villages for social activities
- 238 leprosy-affected people made city visits to see the changes in the outside world and build their self-confidence
- 60 people affected by leprosy started new income generation activities after receiving technical skills and management training
- HANDA social workers helped to set up 14 mutual support groups within the villages to help improve community connectedness and assist people to overcome their problems together
- 2,627 leprosy-affected people received protective shoes to make walking easier and safer
- 166 new prosthetic limbs were fitted to provide mobility for people with leprosy disability
- 189 leprosy-affected people received eye surgery which enhanced their sight



ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia LMNZ 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.

With your support, in 2013:

- Two grain mills (with five milling machines each) are now up and running in Enjibara and Fagita Lakoma in the Amhara Region, enhancing income for local associations and creating employment for leprosy affected people
- 12 leaders and 10 employees were provided with training in financial management/record keeping, leadership and management
- 20 women affected by leprosy in the Dessie local branch association received financial and business training and a revolving loan (seed money), so they can engage in income generation activities
- Electric power has been supplied to 24 houses for leprosy-affected people in Dessie
- The 15th World Leprosy Day was celebrated in Oromiya region in Shashemene town
- ENAPAL started working with the Federation of National Associations of Persons with Disabilities and with ALERT hospital, expanding the impact of their work
- 26 leprosy radio programmes were broadcast on National Radio
- 265 children were educated (and have been provided with 4770 exercise books, 2121 pens and 1060 pencils)

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 LMNZ funds two community projects with our partner TLM India: one is empowering communities to address their own issues in Andhra Pradesh and the other is empowering village women in rural Uttar Pradesh.

With your support, in 2013:

- Project staff and 21 volunteers were trained on early intervention and leprosy management
- Organised rallies take place to promote education among school children and encourage school enrolments. As a result, 93 new admissions were reported
- 31 leadership development programs were conducted and 247 members were trained
- Disability management assistance programs took place for 134 children with disabilities (76 boys & 58 girls)
- 24 people affected by leprosy were referred for treatment
- 28 programs were conducted for women about women's rights, as well as schemes and entitlements available from Government. 1,079 people attended
- 128 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) accessed bank loans
- 510 women attended literacy classes and 316 passed the reading, writing and simple maths exams
- We ran two income generation training sessions and 25 people now have a new income stream – with one SHG making envelopes for the Barabanki Leprosy Hospital



NEPAL

In Nepal LMNZ provides funding for Anandaban Hospital, which is a 110-bed facility with 80 dedicated leprosy beds and 30 general beds. The hospital also operates two clinics in Kathmandu city, as well as satellite clinics and health camps in rural areas.

With your support, in 2013:

- Anandaban Hospital provided care and treatment for more than 30,000 people through in-patient and out-patient services including:
- 431 surgeries for leprosy affected patients
- 418 treatments for leprosy ulcer management
- 135 treatments for leprosy reactions and other medical management
- Prosthetics and orthotics for 1,544 patients
- Pastoral care and counselling for 808 patients
- 5,430 patients receiving diagnosis and treatment for skin conditions
- Medical consultations for 20,608 outpatients
- The LMNZ 2013 Youth Advocates raised \$32,000 for a new electricity generator to supply fuel efficient, quiet and reliable electricity



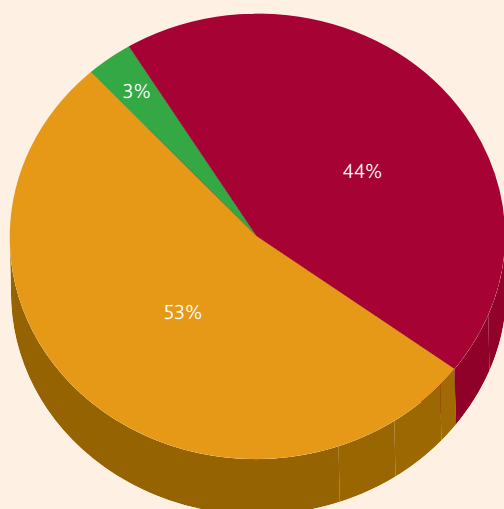
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In Papua New Guinea (PNG) LMNZ funds two projects. The first is 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. The second is the PNG Leprosy Control Partnership, which works with the PNG Division of Health to implement its Leprosy Control Programme across all of PNG.

With your support, in 2013:

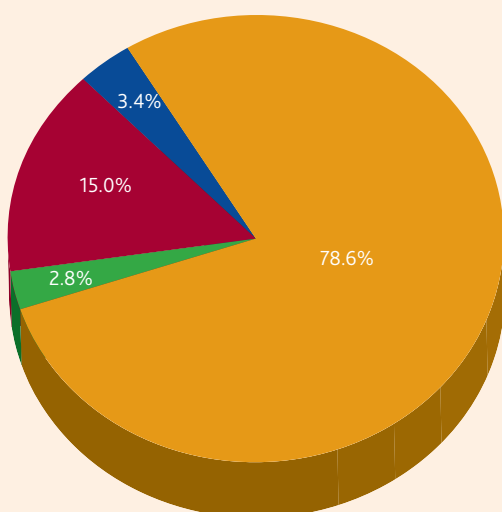
- The PNG Leprosy Control Partnership was formally established and initial activities got underway
- The National Leprosy Elimination Program was reviewed and 40 government staff were trained
- TLM staff and two government dermatologists received international training on leprosy and the prevention of disability
- A national training needs assessment was conducted
- New leprosy training manuals and handbooks were prepared and printed providing all government health staff with a valuable new resource document for leprosy treatment
- BHCP expanded into Buin district and continued to strengthen its operations in the eight most populous of Bougainville's 13 districts
- BHCP trained 181 village health volunteers and 1,002 village leaders, bringing the total number trained to 1,678 village health volunteers and 1,787 leaders
- 12 project district facilitators continued their work with village health volunteers to raise awareness about key leprosy issues, identify the locals who are ill and refer them to health facilities for diagnosis and treatment

Income Received



NZ Government Grants	44%	\$2,286,393
Private Income	53%	\$2,719,702
Interest/Other Income	3%	\$167,301
Total	100%	\$5,173,396

Expenditure



Overseas Ministries	78.6%
Education	2.8%
Marketing Expenses	15.0%
Administration	3.4%
Depreciation	0.2%
Total	100%

The Year in Figures

This financial information summary is for the 12 months from 1st January to 31st December 2013 and is from the fully audited accounts. A full audited Annual Report for 2013 will be available at the Annual General Meeting being held in May 2014. It will also be available on our website.

Thank You

We are sincerely appreciative for the generosity of all of our supporters and their ongoing commitment to our mission. We 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 like to acknowledge our faithful and devoted volunteers. Collectively they have contributed more than 15,000 hours of their time on the Leprosy Mission New Zealand Board, and as Moneybox Collectors, committee members, our prayer partners, ethnic community volunteers, office, stamp and mail out volunteers.

Our 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).

We also offer a special thanks to the compassion of those who so thoughtfully remembered us in their Will.



The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

PO Box 96262, Balmoral, Auckland 1342, New Zealand

591 Dominion Rd, Auckland 1041, New Zealand

FP 0800 862 873 P +64 9 630 2818 F +64 9 623 1865

E enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz W www.leprosymission.org.nz

Facebook www.facebook.com/leprosymissionnz Twitter @LeprosyNZ



Jasmine lends HANDA a hand in China

Auckland childcare teacher Jasmine Ye has recently returned from an eye-opening trip to her old hometown of Guangzhou in Southern China.

As an ethnic community volunteer for the Leprosy Mission in New Zealand, she used her time in China to participate in activities with HANDA, who are Leprosy Mission NZ's partner in China, and visited Sian village where many people affected by leprosy live. She shares her experience with *inTouch* readers.

HANDA's work in Southern China raises money and support

"Before I volunteered for the Leprosy Mission, I had never heard of HANDA, even though I come from the same city. I was pretty amazed at how they support the leprosy villages.



HANDA and the villagers planted the Longan trees 20 years ago to create a new source of income for the village and encourage villagers to live independently.

HANDA not only gives direct financial support, but also helps villagers to earn an independent living. Some of their projects include planting fruit trees in the leprosy villages and teaching villagers how to keep bees.

I became involved in one of HANDA's diverse fundraising events when I volunteered for their Longan (a popular fruit tree in Asia) charity auction. Successful bidders had the opportunity to pick Longans from the Longan trees in Sian leprosy village.

On picking day, families and company groups had fun picking up Longans, and also visited people with leprosy to give them warm greetings and presents. Everyone enjoyed and benefited from this event, including myself."

A villager who is blind recites the Bible

"I'd never met people affected by leprosy before, so it was a very special experience for me. One 70 year-old man was blind because of leprosy. Every day he listens to bible lessons read to him by staff and other patients. He is able to recite several verses of Psalms and many other chapters of the Holy Bible.



He told me how, because of leprosy, his family had abandoned him when he was young. However, he didn't complain. He said he was satisfied with his life in Sian and is so grateful to God for bringing Christian carers to look after him.

He is also thankful for support from HANDA and other organisations and very happy for every visit from volunteers like me. I was amazed by his gratitude and positive attitude towards life. His story was so inspiring that I shared it with my church (Greenlane Presbyterian Church) when I came back to New Zealand."

Revisiting the work of HANDA

"It was incredible to meet the HANDA team in the city I am from – Guangzhou - participate in their charity activities and visit Sian village. I learnt a lot and I'm looking forward to volunteering more for the Leprosy Mission and HANDA. I believe every little bit you are able to give to a charity makes a big difference."





Shining examples of self-sufficiency in Chittagong

Matt Halsey has worked as a Programmes Manager for the Leprosy Mission for four-and-a-half years. He is responsible for projects in Bangladesh, China and Bougainville in Papua New Guinea.

Late last year Matt visited Chittagong in Bangladesh to work with the local Leprosy Mission project team as well as leaders from the Chittagong Association of self-help groups.

The reason for his visit was to discuss the Chittagong project's progress and successes to date, and to plan another five years of support to the Association of self-help groups, so that their situation will continue to improve.

Leprosy Mission Bangladesh country leader Rev. Matthew Halder and around 18 of his staff attended the planning meeting. The Association's 18 board members attended too, including Muhammad Kamal Uddin (President), Muhammad Jahirul Islam (Treasurer) and Nigar Sultana (Assistant Secretary).

"We held a three-day planning workshop with Association leaders and the Leprosy Mission Bangladesh staff to work on the new project design, which involves them relying less on the Leprosy Mission project workers, and doing more for themselves" he says.

"A key feature of the new project will be the Association taking over running its own operations. It will employ its own staff using the profits of the self-help groups' savings and loans scheme," says Matt. "Running things themselves is incredibly empowering for the group members - and of course Leprosy Mission staff will be there to help out and offer advice and support while they are getting the hang of it."

The Leprosy Mission will continue to provide specialist support for leprosy care, disability care and prosthesis, as well as training on new jobs and business opportunities.

The Leprosy Mission has been working successfully in the Chittagong Region, Bangladesh for the past 20 years. Support is divided between two projects - one in and around Chittagong city and one in the remote Chittagong Hill Tracts.



Highlights from the trip

ONE: "Spending time with the Association leaders. Most have recovered from leprosy and are inspiring, enthusiastic and motivated people. They have a strong belief in their duty to help other group members lift themselves out of poverty. Treasurer, Muhammad Jahirul Islam, for example, is a successful small businessman who is keen to pass on his knowledge and help others succeed."





TWO: "Seeing the strong relationship between the local Leprosy Mission staff and the Association leaders, being part of the Association's dream of self-sufficiency and planning how to make it real."

THREE: "Taking in the sights and sounds of Chittagong city again, including rickshaw rides through the crazy traffic and eating plenty of curry."

FOUR: "Spending one and a half hours in a barbers shop on a Saturday afternoon. It was a truly entertaining experience for me, and for the barbers! First they suggested that I dye my hair and beard black. Then when I said 'no' they suggested I try orange, as it's the most fashionable hair colour for older Bangladeshi men. I was plied with coffee and ended up with a new beard style!"

Profile: Nigar's initiative takes her from poverty to vocation



Twenty-year-old Nigar Sultana was only eight years old when she was diagnosed with leprosy by a Leprosy Mission staff member in 2002. She received six months of treatment in Chittagong, which cured her body of leprosy.

Nigar is the second eldest in her family. She has six brothers and her father is a rickshaw driver/puller. As her father was the only one earning, the family lived hand to mouth. To help out, her two eldest brothers stopped going to school and looked for work.

Determined to be educated Nigar continued her study, supporting herself by tutoring other children and working as an occasional community surveyor for the government.

She didn't stop there. In 2009, she joined a Chittagong self-help group, and by 2011 had become their Chairperson. From there she was nominated to the Federation committee, and in 2013 was nominated to the Association, where she has become the Assistant Secretary.

2013 was also the year that Nigar passed the Higher Secondary School Certificate (year 12) and this year is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts. Just recently, the dynamic young Bangladeshi has been offered a paid role working for the Association under the new five-year project.

Compassion inspires dinner party support

I originally intended to send my first donation of \$210. Then my husband came home and told me he had invited 12 people for dinner - all the "guns" that he goes shooting with and their wives - to celebrate the last shoot of the season.

So off I went to the supermarket and the specialty food shop and thoroughly enjoyed myself making a gourmet dinner (I did run a cooking business some years ago, so I was having fun, and, yes, showing off a bit too!). But when I looked at the receipts for all the food, I thought, WELL! If you can spend all that money just to give your friends a good evening, and not turn a hair about it, you can certainly send the same amount to help some poor person whose hands don't work.

I am particularly sympathetic towards people with trouble with their hands, because for various reasons mine have been damaged too and I have had to give up playing my clarinets for that reason.

I would like to say to you and to all the people at the Leprosy Mission how very proud and glad I am to be involved in the work of the Mission. I pray for joy and blessings for you all.

With love, Sue Gross, Taupo

Sue's dinner party raised an additional \$500, which along with her original donation of \$210 totalled \$710 for the Annual Appeal.

Harriet's high tea fundraises in style

Harriet Judd (2013 Youth Advocate) hosted a high tea in Tawa, Wellington, which was a huge success. The Tawa Baptist Church hall was packed and a team of smiling helpers served a delicious afternoon tea.

"The high tea was a lovely afternoon filled with fabulous food, fantastic company and an opportunity to share my incredible trip to Nepal," Harriet says.

Margaret Lucas, who helped to coordinate the event, agrees. "The result exceeded our expectations," she says. "We had people who have been supporters of Leprosy Mission, family and friends of the Youth Advocates and it was great to have the photos from Harriet's trip as a focal point.

"I love Williams Carey's quote "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God" The raising of the money is just that!"

In total the 2013 Youth Advocates have raised \$32,500 to fund a new fuel-efficient, quiet and reliable generator for Anandaban Hospital.



**The Leprosy
Mission
Moneybox**

Are you our next Moneybox collector?

The Leprosy Mission's Moneybox collectors are a dedicated group of people, who every year collect small change from their community.

Whether it is in homes, schools, churches or local businesses, just a few coins can go a long way. Over the past 50 years all that loose change and pocket money has added up to make a big difference to thousands of people affected by leprosy in Bangladesh – and they still need your help.

If you are interested in supporting our Moneybox Programme, would like more information, or would like to order more moneyboxes for your church, please contact Carolyn Currie on 0800 862 873 or email carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz

Generator run puts the 'fun' into fundraising

The Auckland-based 2013 Youth Advocates held a fundraising 'generator run' to raise money for Anandaban Hospital. It involved pushing a generator around Albert Park over a twelve-hour period - much to the astonishment of passers-by. Their team included friends and family from university and church, while a bake sale and sausage sizzle provided well-earned treats and additional funds.

Youth Advocate Dylan Kimpton describes the day, "Seeing people surprised at us pushing a ton of metal around, and talking to them about our passion for the cause of leprosy, made the experience fun, rewarding and memorable."

A special thanks to Hirepool for their generous loan of the generator for the day's event.

Donations in Memory of

Violet Kiwara	Whakatane
Agnes (Nessie) Milliken	Auckland
Mr Barton Penman	Auckland

Bequests

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

Mr Charles Alan Hercus	Levin
Mrs Margaret Jean Field	Te Awamatu
Miss Audrey Elizabeth Warrilow	Whanganui
Mr George Edwin Judge	Tauranga
Mrs Gretta Danielle	Masterton
Mr Henry William Dangerfield	Raumati
Mrs Mabel Rosser	Tauranga
Mrs Pamela Christine Watkins	Auckland
Mr Stanley Kinsford Garlick	Christchurch
Miss Bertha Zurcher	Palmerston North
Mrs Thelma Avery	Palmerston North
Mrs Alexia Margaret Cotching	Hastings
Mrs Marie Joyce Bartlett	Whanganui
Mr Alastair Bruce Ross	Christchurch
Mrs Pamela Hylton Hughes	Taupo
A L D Garrett	Hamilton

New Books



Just to say – Happy Birthday.

Compiled by Judith Merrell.
52 blessings, Bible verses and inspirational quotes, one for each week of the year, all illustrated with stunning photos. **\$16.99 + P&H**



Just to say – Thank you.

Compiled by Angela Allum
Packed with wise words, quotes, verses and inspiring photos for someone who deserves an extra special Thank You! **\$16.99 + P&H**



Just to say – thinking of you.

Compiled by Judith Merrell.
A special compilation of photos, prayers, poems, quotes and Bible verses to comfort those who grieve. **\$16.99 + 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.



Prayer & Praise

We would love you to join us in regular prayer support. Our Prayer & Praise diary is available by post or weekly/monthly emails. If you are interested please email: ngaira.lynch@leprosymission.org.nz or call **0800 862 873**

Your prayer support is valued as the Leprosy Mission was founded on prayer.

2013 Auckland Marathon team



The 2013 Running 4 Rights team celebrating after completing their events.

The Leprosy Mission's 2013 Auckland Marathon team's star performer was hand surgeon Dr Bruce Peat. Bruce completed the full marathon for the first time and received enough support to cure 11 people of leprosy. Executive Director Brent Morgan was not too far behind Bruce, raising enough money to cure 10 people of leprosy.

Bruce says, "The work of Leprosy Mission and its supporters to cure people of leprosy, care for them and restore them back into their communities is truly Christ-like ministering to the least of His people. I am glad I took part in the Auckland Marathon and cured 11 people of leprosy – thank you to everyone who donated as well."

If you would like to join the Leprosy Mission's Auckland Marathon team in 2014, please contact Gillian Whitley on **0800 862 873** or gillian.whitley@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



**The Leprosy
Mission**
New Zealand

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand
PO Box 96262, Balmoral, Auckland 1342, New Zealand
591 Dominion Rd, Auckland 1041, New Zealand
FP 0800 862 873 P +64 9 630 2818 F +64 9 623 1865
E enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz W www.leprosymission.org.nz
Facebook www.facebook.com/leprosymissionnz Twitter @LeprosyNZ

Leprosy Mission New Zealand Incorporated Registered Charity Number CC37638