inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand Issue 433 / Spring 2013

Cure One Launch

Passing the Baton

Radio Rhema:
Cure One Hundred Day

In Praise of
Unsung Heroes

Eye Opening
Supporter Tour

Kiwis in the Field

The Leprosy
Mission
New Zealand

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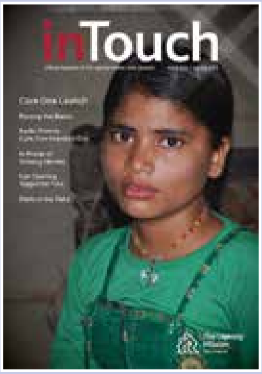

Nutan is the face of Cure One, read more on pages 4 and 5. Cure One today, a world without leprosy tomorrow.

Welcome

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

The global goal of the Leprosy Mission is to eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy. We do this by curing, caring for and restoring people from this ‘ancient grief’.

In this edition of *inTouch* we are pleased to introduce you to Cure One, and how you can cure, care for and restore one person affected by leprosy.

We are also updating you with articles about New Zealanders working with and visiting leprosy-affected people around the globe, including my recent visit to communities in Ethiopia.

I feel privileged to lead The Leprosy Mission New Zealand and to be part of the life-changing work that we do overseas. Thank you for your prayers, generosity and support that make all of this possible.

With blessings,

Brent J. Morgan

Brent Morgan
Exective Director

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

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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Noel Adamson is a supporter who has been involved with the Leprosy Mission for more than 30 years. He shares his interest in curing people affected by leprosy, and how pleased he is to be passing the family baton of supporting the Leprosy Mission's work on to his great-niece Tracey Adamson, the Leprosy Mission's Communications and Marketing Coordinator.

Passing the baton

Like many 90-year-olds, Noel Adamson has led an eventful life. He was born in Paengaroa in the Bay of Plenty on Christmas Day 1923, hence his name, Noel.

Over his nine decades Noel has worked in many different jobs, married his sweetheart - Lela - with whom he had five sons, and has always been keen to get involved in his community and contribute wherever he can.

It was a career change in his twenties that brought him in contact with leprosy for the first time.

"I started working as a Welfare Officer for the Royal Flying Doctor Service," Noel says. "I was posted to Perth, Western Australia for three years, which was like the Wild West – you needed a real sense of humour to work there!"

Noel explains that during that time he ended up on a boat to Darwin, which stopped at a port in Derby. Noel took advantage of the stopover to visit the Derby Leprosarium. The Leprosarium was on the outskirts of town and opened in 1936 with 90 patients. It helped to contain an epidemic of the disease among Aboriginal people and remained open for the next 30 years.

"Up until that point, leprosy was a biblical disease to me, but working for the Flying Doctor Service it also became a very real disease for me," Noel says. "I've had a real heart for leprosy-affected people ever since."

During his lifetime Noel has seen great progress in leprosy treatment with the introduction of multi-drug therapy providing an effective cure.

"However, I'm concerned that despite this progress, people affected by leprosy continue to suffer from its stigma within their communities," he says. "I understand the need for the Leprosy Mission to get involved in raising communities' awareness that there is a cure, and to partner with people affected by leprosy to lift them out of poverty through education and income generation."

During a recent visit, Noel was enthralled as Tracey shared stories of her trip to northern India to witness the mission's work at Faizabad and Muzaffarpur Leprosy Mission Hospitals (see page 14). He was also interested to hear how the self-help groups were coordinated in the villages.

Noel's proud his great-niece Tracey is working for a Christian mission and continuing support for people affected by leprosy. He's impressed with the breadth of the Leprosy Mission's work: "What they achieve is amazing and has such a great impact on individual lives."

The Leprosy Mission
Cure One

Nutan, a young girl in India is the face of the new Cure One.

Cure One person like Nutan

How do you achieve a world without leprosy? One person at a time. The Leprosy Mission is launching Cure One, so you can help someone like Nutan through the whole journey of Cure, Care and Restore.

Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it. *1 Corinthians 12:27*

Nutan is a 14 year old girl from a village in the north of India. The story of Nutan's journey towards freedom from leprosy will be shared with all Cure One supporters, to represent the many people they are helping.

To us, Nutan's plight seems like the desperation of the woman who touched the hem of Jesus Christ's garment and was healed. That woman had spent all she had on doctors, to no avail.

Likewise, Nutan's family has been thrown into absolute poverty in a fruitless attempt to overcome her leprosy. They bonded their plot of village land. They sold the animals that provided their livelihood. They are left with just Dad's wages of less than $2 a day.

For all that, Nutan was not cured. Leprosy damaged her nerves so badly she lost her big toe, her foot became ulcerated and her hand became clawed – showing how vital early detection is.

Now though, the Leprosy Mission has found her and intervened. Without Cure One supporters, Nutan could not be cured, cared for or restored. When you join Cure One, you will get to share in Nutan's inspiring journey, through updates, emails and even video. You will see Nutan receive medicine to **Cure** her; the surgical and physical **Care** she needs; with support for her family to **Restore** their standing in a community that still fears leprosy as a spiritual curse.

As you will see in the next article, the average cost to cure, care for and restore one person is $432. When you become a Cure One supporter you can choose how you want to share this life-giving gift. You can spread the $432 over a year by giving $36 a month. Some will choose two years, giving $18 a month. Others will give $432 in one donation. There is something so joyful about knowing you are completely covering someone's cure, care and restoration from leprosy.

People and groups who are really excited about Cure One can also help more than One, starting with Cure Two for $72 per month and going all the way to events and fundraisers to cure many people – such as our Cure 100 goal with Radio Rhema - read more on page 9.

By following Nutan's progress, you will have the satisfaction of seeing the life-changing difference your support is making for someone like her.

We think you will love Cure One today, for a world without leprosy tomorrow.

"Help one person at a time."

- Mother Teresa

The Cost of Cure One


© Michael Bradley.

How did we work out it costs $432 for you to set someone free from leprosy?

With leprosy, early detection and a medical cure is just the start. Leprosy often causes disabilities and deformities. It still provokes stigma, rejection and isolation. So curing someone from leprosy – as Cure One gives you the chance to do – actually means to Cure, Care and Restore. It turns out that on average this costs $432 for each person like Nutan.

The first part of that $432 is spent helping prevent leprosy in the first place, through public education and early detection.

Next, those people who have already contracted the disease can be cured by taking a combination of medicines for up to a year. The medicine itself is free, but your support is vital to cover the cost of distributing this **Cure** to those who need it.

If someone like Nutan cannot get the medicine they need in time, the nerve damage caused by leprosy can result in deformity, injury and disability. This is the largest part of the $432 average cost. Your Cure One regular gifts will cover the extensive **Care** someone may need, such as surgery, physiotherapy, a lengthy stay in hospital or devices that protect or replace affected limbs.

Almost everyone affected by leprosy needs the Restore part of Cure One. Frightened communities often reject people even when they have been physically cured. We must help restore them.

Restore means bringing encouragement and empowerment. As a Cure One supporter you will make it possible for someone to join a group of people receiving support from the Leprosy Mission. They regain lost confidence through fellowship with people who face the same struggles. Your Cure One gifts will also help them find ways to generate a sustainable income. Being able to contribute to community life is key to setting aside the rejection and stigma of leprosy.

This is what it means to Cure One: to Cure, Care for and Restore one person in poverty who is affected by leprosy. When the Leprosy Mission office in Canada carefully examined the work of our international teams in Nigeria, India and Bangladesh, the cost came to just NZ$432 per person, on average – or $36 per month for one year when you become a Cure One supporter and set someone like Nutan free from leprosy.

Cure One today

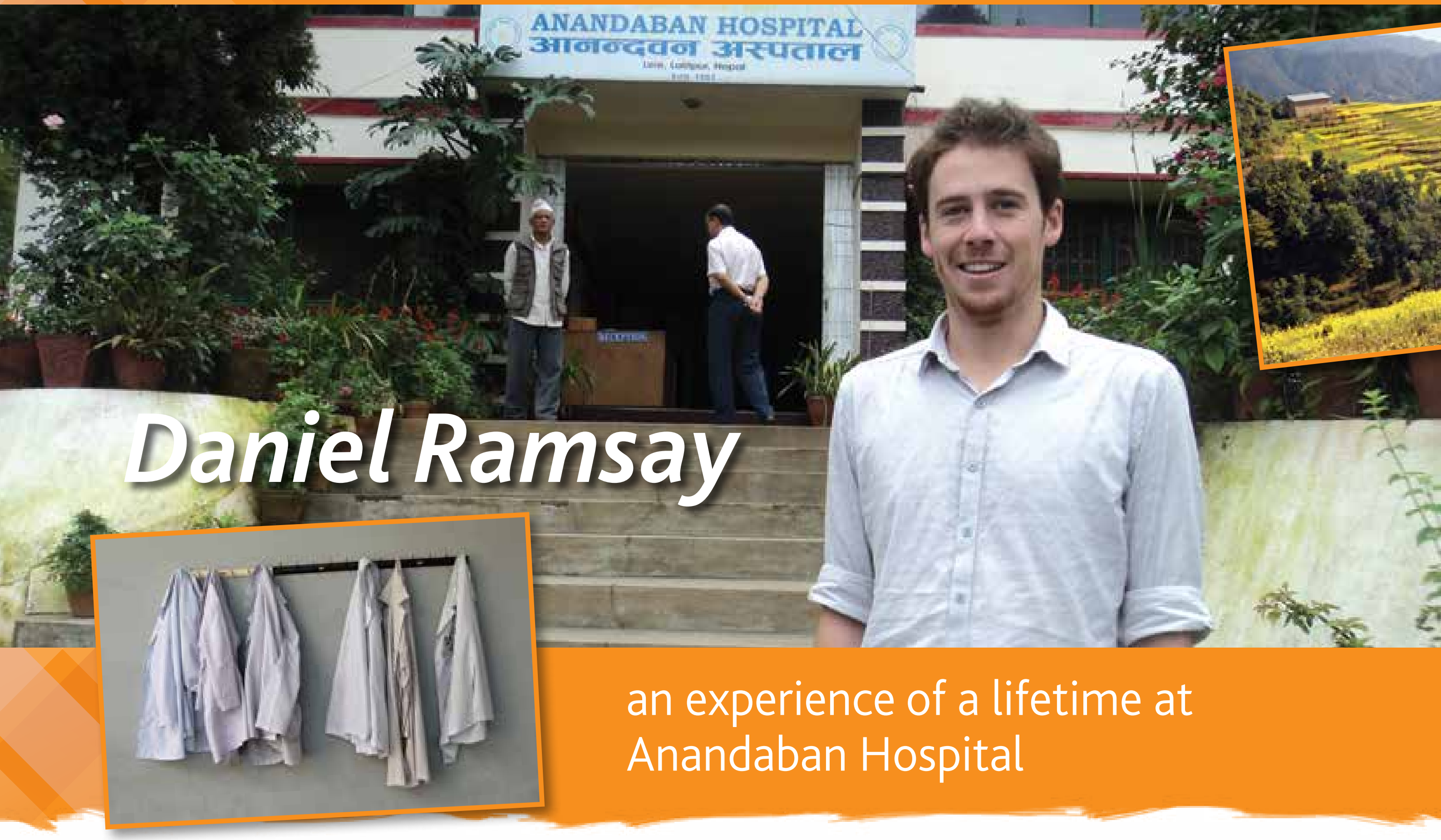
for a world without leprosy tomorrow.

Call **0800 862 873**

Or join Cure One at

cureone.org.nz

Daniel Ramsay



an experience of a lifetime at Anandaban Hospital

Daniel Ramsay is a sixth-year medical student at Otago University who spent his overseas externship at Anandaban Leprosy Mission Hospital, in Nepal. Daniel is the first medical elective in many years to be placed at one of the projects the Leprosy Mission NZ supports. He shares his insights and experiences with us…

Finding a mission

"When I needed to pick my medical elective for my final year of medical school, I spoke with family friends who are Leprosy Mission supporters and they suggested Anandaban Leprosy Mission Hospital in Nepal. This gelled with me as I was looking for somewhere in Nepal to go, so I got in contact with the Leprosy Mission and it all happened from there.

A broad education in leprosy care

When I arrived in Anandaban, the staff were very friendly and I got involved in many different areas of the hospital. I spent time with Dr Indra Napit, who is the Medical Director and senior surgeon. I also spent time in the outpatient and inpatient clinics, as well as counselling, dermatology, surgery and the Patan Clinic. There was a lot of variety in the disciplines I was exposed to, which meant that every day was different.

Outpatient clinic

Spending time in the outpatient clinic meant I saw diseases that I wouldn't have seen in New Zealand – tuberculosis cases were a lot higher, for example. It was interesting to see how they do things in Nepal, but I wish I spoke Nepali better so I could have understood the patients' histories, which fortunately were translated by staff.

Dermatology

I met and spent time with Dr Deanna Hagge – a well-known American dermatologist. She knows the culture and language so well.

I discovered that privacy isn't a huge issue in Nepal as people live in close proximity in the villages and know a lot about each other's lives. I had to examine patients' skin with the door open, in front of others. That is very different to New Zealand where privacy is essential.

Visiting health camps

I spent five days at two health camps, where locals come to see medical staff to whom they wouldn't normally have access in their village. Eleven people travel to these health camps once a month from Anandaban including doctors, nurses, dermatologists and administration staff.

The first camp was in Butwal, which is quite a big city similar to Kathmandu. The second camp was in a small town in the Terai Region. It was so isolated and the locals didn't speak Nepali. They spoke a local dialect. The food and culture was very different too and our accommodation was mud houses with thatched roofs. It was a very different experience to Anandaban due to the remote location.

Surgery was a highlight of my trip

One of the highlights of my trip was watching the different types of reconstructive surgeries – hand, foot and eye - for leprosy-affected patients. I learnt the slight variations surgeons do at Anandaban, because they don't have the newest equipment. They do a fantastic job for such small costs.

I was privileged to witness the dramatic change reconstructive hand surgery could bring about. I watched patients progress from pre-operative physiotherapy, to surgery, then post-operative physiotherapy and finally leaving with a functional hand. Amazing!

Joining in the daily devotions

I loved starting each day this way. The prayers were in Nepali but I recognised the music of some hymns and hummed along. I really enjoyed seeing others worship God in a different language. I also attended worship services on Tuesday with staff and patients. The services were fun and I appreciated being a part of it.

Part of something special

Altogether I spent eight weeks at Anandaban, from mid-June to mid-August, and really loved it – I would go back again in a heartbeat.

Being at Anandaban Leprosy Mission Hospital enabled me to see what makes leprosy different – it's more than a physical disease, it's a social disease.

I was amazed at how many different people come through the hospital from so many different backgrounds, such as Leprosy Mission Programme Staff from supporting countries and other elective medical students from America. It was great to feel like I was part of this.

I would highly recommend a Leprosy Mission project as an elective for other Kiwi medical students, as they will never see anything like it in New Zealand."

Support the 2013 Youth Advocates' bid to buy a generator for Anandaban Hospital

Rachel, Dylan, Ivan, Harriet, Cameron and Kit – the Leprosy Mission's 2013 Youth Advocates – have set themselves the challenging goal of raising $21,000 to go towards a new generator for Anandaban Leprosy Mission Hospital in Kathmandu.

In a bid to raise these funds, they will be holding a 'generator run' in Albert Park, Auckland on 27 September from 6.30am until midday.

What's a 'generator run' you ask? Well, the six advocates along with their friends will be taking turns running laps of Albert Park carrying a generator on a trolley!

The new generator they are buying for Anandaban Hospital will have an auto-start switch and will solve the problem with the existing much older generator which cuts out – often when there is an operation going on, or when x-rays are being taken.

They need all the support they can get so please donate online at www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/youthadvocates2013 and if you can, join them in Albert Park in September!

Save the date for *Harriet's High Tea* *in Wellington*

2013 Youth Advocate, Harriet Judd, is hosting a high tea in November to also raise money to go towards the new generator for Anandaban Leprosy Mission Hospital.

"It will be a delightful way to spend a Sunday afternoon and everyone is welcome to attend," she says." I am looking forward to sharing my stories and photos with our guests."

Time: 3.30pm
Date: Sunday 24 November
Venue: Tawa Baptist Church Hall, 225 Main Road, Tawa, Wellington
Tickets: $20

Bookings are essential.
Contact Margaret Lucas on: email mm.lucas@xtra.co.nz
or Harriet on 021 0453 670 to RSVP.

A GRAIN MILL HAS TRANSFORMED A COMMUNITY

In early June, Executive Director Brent Morgan, travelled to Ethiopia to observe first-hand the Leprosy Mission's support in action. Brent's destination was the Amhara region of Ethiopia where there are two new grain mills that New Zealanders have helped to fund.

The first grain mill is in Enjibara, which is about 450km from the capital, Addis Ababa, where the original mill was established five years ago. The second grain mill is in a town called Fagita Lakoma about 15km from Enjibara.

Both are run by the local ENAPAL (Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy) who are the Leprosy Mission's project partners in Ethiopia. ENAPAL has 15,000 members and 63 associations nationally, with 70 members in Enjibara and 121 members in Fagita Lakoma.

The funding from New Zealand helps pay for the construction of the buildings, electricity, the mill equipment and ongoing training and mentorship for the employees and local ENAPAL members.

"These grain mill sites are very near completion," Brent says. "The machinery has been fitted, the electric transformers are almost installed and exterior painting was being done at Fagita Lakoma while I was visiting, and had recently been completed at Enjibara.

"It's a big operation, with five individual mills on each site, which will grind cereals, spices, wheat, fermenting crops and injera bread mix – the staple food in Ethiopia," he continues. "The focus is on generating an income with all the profit going back into ENAPAL to benefit people affected by leprosy and their families.

"Another key benefit is improving the standing of leprosy-affected people within their communities. We know that when others see how self-reliant they are, and how they are producing a valuable product that the wider community want to buy, the stigma of the disease will reduce."

Brent says it's been exciting to hear that locals are already asking when the grain mills will be operational.

"The Fagita Lakoma mill's location is excellent – adjacent to the town market place - and although the Enjibara mill is located a little further out from the centre of the town, interest is still high. Local ENAPAL members are happy and proud of their achievements so far."

He explains that the plan going forward is to take what they learn at Enjibara and Fagita Lakoma, and gradually establish more mills on viable sites.

"A key part of future success will involve local ENAPAL associations developing strong relationships with the community and district government as part of the planning process," he says. "I saw how effective that can be on my trip when district government staff visited both sites with us and hosted us for lunch.

"We had two very moving celebration ceremonies on consecutive days, and both the district government and the local ENAPAL associations were incredibly thankful for the support in getting the grain mills up and near to operating in their district."

Brent concludes, "The Leprosy Mission New Zealand has been supporting ENAPAL for more than 10 years now, and with 200,000 leprosy-affected people in Ethiopia, we're expecting that this relationship will continue to grow over the years."

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand would like to extend a special thanks to Bill and Gill Wright, who are cornerstone sponsors for these grain mill projects in Ethiopia.

For more information about the grain mill project:

leprosymission.org.nz/page/grain-mills

NEW ZEALAND'S
RHEMA

One Day to **Cure One** *Hundred*

... with Radio Rhema on October 17

The Leprosy Mission
Cure One Hundred

We are calling it Cure One Hundred Day. From 6am to 7pm Radio Rhema will host an amazing day asking listeners across New Zealand to join in supporting the Leprosy Mission.

Their goal is to raise enough in donations and pledges to cure, care for and restore one hundred people like Nutan, through the Leprosy Mission's Cure One programme.

"As an organisation, Rhema Media is right behind the work of the Leprosy Mission, and is proud to be supporting the Cure One campaign. I love the idea of one person being able to completely change the life of another for the better. This campaign will give our listeners the chance to be the hands and feet of Christ and cure a person of leprosy". *Mike Brewer, CEO Rhema Media*

To build awareness of the leprosy issue and Cure One, Rhema has agreed to run informational adverts on Cure One Hundred Day. They will feature Leprosy Mission's Brent Morgan, talking about the history of leprosy all the way back to biblical times.

Brent has often spoken on Radio Rhema and can't wait to see a whole day devoted to Cure One Hundred. "Our new approach to Cure One is all about one supporter being very involved in helping another human being. It is so personal," Brent enthuses. "Cure One Hundred Day will give listeners that same sense of being personally involved in changing a life like Nutan's. It will be Cure One, one hundred times over."

As you will know from the letter that came with this edition of *inTouch* we are inviting you to become a Cure One supporter now.

By the time our Radio Rhema day happens, we hope to have many stories about how much you are enjoying the Cure One experience of being closely connected to someone like Nutan on their journey to freedom from leprosy. Please don't wait until Cure One Hundred Day. Become a Cure One supporter right now at cureone.org.nz.

We know that many of our supporters are already fans of Radio Rhema, but if you are not a regular listener, we have included a list of national frequencies below. When October 17th comes, please add your ears and your prayers to this special day of compassion and generosity, as we seek to Cure One Hundred people like Nutan.

Radio Rhema frequencies:

• Alexandra 92.7AM • Auckland 1251AM • Balclutha 107FM • Bay of Plenty 540AM • Christchurch 612AM • Clinton 88.5FM
• Cromwell 89.5FM • Dunedin 621AM • Eastland 549AM • Greymouth 92.3FM • Hamilton 855AM • Hawke's Bay 99.1FM
• Invercargill 1404AM • Kaikohe/Bay of Islands 90.4FM • Kaitaia 549AM • Manawatu 91.4FM • Masterton 91.3FM
• Nelson 801AM • Opunake 93FM • Queenstown 94.4FM • Raetihi 95FM • Rotorua 93.5FM • Tapanui 99.6FM
• Taranaki 540AM • Taumarunui 91.5FM • Taupo 95.1FM • Te Anau 94.3FM • Timaru 594AM • Tokoroa 99.6FM
• Wanganui 594AM • Wellington 972AM • Westport 94.9FM

Economy Class
boarding pass
HARDING/ANDREWM
Flight No
AI 452
Etk:0982106915554C1
VTZ

In praise of unsung heroes:

a photo essay by Andrew Harding

Andrew Harding has been a Programmes Manager at the Leprosy Mission for seven years. His role takes him around the world to support the Leprosy Mission's work in India, Ethiopia, Nepal and Papua New Guinea.

AIR INDIA
HARDING/ANDREW
VISHAKHAPATNAM
AI 451 16JUN VTZ

Recently Andrew spent some time with the volunteers and staff of the Leprosy Mission Trust India looking at the history of a project in Uttar Pradesh. He shares his experience in a photo essay.

"You might be wondering why we have a colour picture of a childhood game. In reality this is the first step in designing a project to eradicate leprosy in a community. The villagers, who are illiterate, are mapping out their village and highlighting the important factors, such as where new cases of leprosy have been found, those diagnosed with leprosy, the houses of those people who know about leprosy and the town health centres.

For a grassroots project to work and be sustainable, community participation from the beginning is paramount. A community needs to lead the work so that they own it and can be responsible for their own health care – thus ensuring health knowledge remains within the community.

The villagers spend time discussing broad issues focused around education, health, water and sanitation. This process is very important as it brings the community closer together and is the first stage of empowerment. Consensus has to be reached through constructive dialogue and the most marginalised have to be included and be given a voice.

Once there is a general agreement, then the project proposal is written up and shared again for final approval. When funding is found the wider community appoints some of the villagers as volunteers. The Leprosy Mission staff and I remain in the background as facilitators.

The project I have been describing started four years ago. Initially I visited a couple of times in relatively quick succession to establish a strong foundation for the project. In my experience there is more likelihood of success if it is done properly from the beginning.

My last visit was in June this year. I came for a monitoring visit and to discuss the successes, the obstacles and how the work could grow into new areas in the future.

It is a privilege to have this job because I get to meet very interesting people from all walks of life and from all around the world. This can only happen because of the generous support from New Zealanders and our community volunteers."

"Our supporters and those implementing our projects are the real heroes of curing, caring for and restoring leprosy-affected people to their communities. However, for people to come forward and seek treatment for leprosy they need to be aware of the disease and that it is curable. That is where many of our programmes begin." Andrew Harding

Uma Devi – a humble heroine

"My role as Programme Manager allows me to witness people's lives being changed by the projects I manage. Some of these people, such as Uma Devi, I have known for a long time.

Uma volunteers as Cluster Coordinator for the Women's Empowerment Project in Uttar Pradesh. She supervises 10 villages and provides leprosy awareness and educates women affected by leprosy, people with disabilities and other marginalised women.

I feel I have a real connection with Uma. This humble Indian woman is a very different person to the one I first met.

Uma told me that she felt embarrassed that nobody in her village would help look after those less fortunate. So Uma took the initiative and helped identify 10 active cases of leprosy and referred them to Primary Health Centres.

She continues to care for those affected, by helping to clean ulcers, providing a friendly face, ensuring that medicines are taken properly and giving reassurance. She also actively supports women in obtaining their social entitlements from the government and helping them open bank accounts.

After talking to Uma, I realised that her self-worth and confidence has grown over the years.

She is now a dynamic person who will continue her good work for the sake of leprosy-affected people and other less fortunate members of her community. She seems fulfilled and getting on with her good deeds without expecting anything in return.

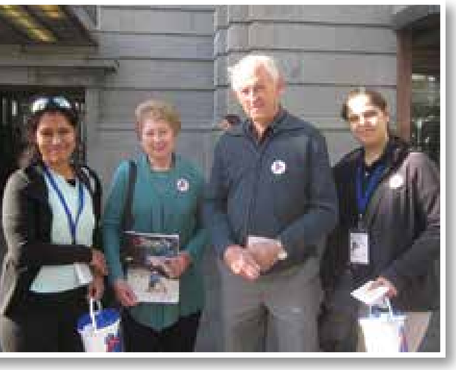
After seeing Uma's energy, I could see that with a little help from New Zealand an opportunity has arisen for her and her community to change for the better."

For a world without leprosy
The Leprosy Mission
Thank You
ANNUAL APPEAL
www.leprosymission.org.nz
0800 862 873

Leprosy Mission street appeal a success

A big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who pitched in for our Auckland street appeal on the 30th of July.

The volunteers went out to 20 different locations around the Auckland CBD, Mt Eden and Newmarket shopping precincts, to raise awareness and collect donations for the Leprosy Mission.



"We are extremely grateful for the support we received for our first street appeal in many years," says Executive Director Brent Morgan. "It was an opportunity to raise funds, but more importantly awareness about our work with leprosy-affected people and their communities. "By engaging with everyday New Zealanders during our Annual Appeal, we hope to encourage them to support our mission and remind them that the need to provide care for those affected by the disease is far from over."

"I learned a lot about leprosy and the people it affects in different parts of the world. The great effort made by the Leprosy Mission to eradicate leprosy is amazing. I am glad I could be a part of it." says Mehak, one of our street appeal volunteers.

Watch Ethnic Communities Ambassador, Michael Sheppard, being interviewed by Chinese TV www.tv9.co.nz/?p=6815 (the segment starts at the five minute point).

If you would like to volunteer and join us at next year's appeal throughout the country, please contact Gillian Whitley, Donor Development Manager, on **0800 862 873** or **gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz**

[shift]

Christian rock-band partners with the Leprosy Mission

"The Leprosy Mission is pleased to announce that [shift] - an Auckland-based Christian rock band - is partnering with us to raise money for our new Cure One programme," says Brent Morgan, Executive Director.

Danny Doyle (bass), Peter Hall (guitar), Myke Wilson (drums) and Sam Burrows (lead singer) formed [shift] in 2008.

The band has played at the Parachute Music Festival for the past two years, and has shared the stage with J. Williams, The Earlybirds, State of Mind, The Black Dahlias, Sons of Zion, and others. At this year's Parachute Festival, they came to the Leprosy Mission's stand to support our campaign.

"[shift] are passionate about our cause and excited to help us eradicate leprosy worldwide," Brent says. "Not only have they donated one of their hit songs 'Jerusalem' as the music for our Cure One fundraising video – which played on the main stage at the 2013 Parachute Music Festival - but they will also be taking part in Live Below the Line. It's great to have these young people involved in our mission!"

[shift] are currently performing at venues throughout Auckland with their unique blend of blues, pop, and alternative rock.

"We love being associated with an organisation that is so passionate about making a difference in the world, it's exciting to think that leprosy can be cured in our lifetime, so to be a small part of that means a lot to us!" says shift.

Read more about Live Below the Line and Cure One on page 18.

Bringing back the latest news on reconstructive hand surgery

Bruce Peat and Sarah Waldin

Brent Morgan is winging his way to Faizabad and Naini Hospitals in India this month on a very special trip to see the latest techniques in reconstructive hand surgery for leprosy-affected people.

At his side will be two Leprosy Mission supporters, hand surgeon Dr Bruce Peat and hand physiotherapist Sarah Waldin.

The group will be viewing the work of Dr Premal Das, who has followed in the footsteps of Dr Paul Brand (see below), and with the assistance of the Leprosy Mission Trust India, media staff will take video footage of tendon transfer procedures.

"We believe that the footage will be of interest to hand surgeons in NZ and internationally, because of Dr Das's recognised expertise – which he has perfected through a high number of surgeries," says Brent. "With that in mind Bruce and Sarah will present what they have observed to their professional networks and any other interested supporters when they return."

"We're hoping that once the hand surgery and physiotherapy community see the work and understand the need for reconstructive hand surgery and ongoing care for leprosy-affected people, they will share this with their colleagues". A Cure 200 campaign will be then be launched within the medical community with the objective of curing, caring for and restoring 200 leprosy-affected people in India.

Leprosy Mission New Zealand Board Member, Odele Stuart, also a hand therapist, has planned a hand therapy seminar event in late November where Sarah will share her stories from the trip. Sarah will also be presenting on her India experience at the Australasian Hand Therapy conference in Melbourne.

Who is Dr Premal Das?

Dr Premal Das is an acclaimed reconstructive surgeon and Superintendent at Naini Hospital in Allahabad, India. Under the leadership of Dr Das, Naini Hospital has become one of the model institutions in the Leprosy Mission. He is admired for his tireless commitment to leprosy-affected people and has carved a niche in the field of leprosy care.

Who is Dr Paul Brand?

Dr Paul Wilson Brand (1914 – 2003) was a pioneer in developing tendon transfer techniques for use in the hands of those with leprosy. He was the first physician to appreciate that leprosy did not cause the rotting away of tissues, but that it was the loss of the sensation of pain which made sufferers susceptible to injury. He has contributed extensively to the fields of hand surgery and hand therapy.

Leprosy Mission's work an eye-opener for supporter Tom Appleby

Tom Appleby, a 50-year-old businessman from East Auckland, won The Leprosy Mission New Zealand's supporter tour competition (at the Parachute Music Festival 2012) to see their work at two hospitals in India. He had been to India before with his church (visiting remote parts of southern India to share his faith with people), but this trip was different. Tom tells us why.

Sights and sounds

"Visiting India wasn't new or unfamiliar for me. When I am in India I feel like I am in the place I want to be. I 'get' the place and enjoy meeting the people.

But travelling with Brent Morgan and Tracey Adamson from the Leprosy Mission to northern India was certainly a change. Where we went, the communities were a bit 'gloomier' and a bit poorer than I've seen in southern India. I looked around and thought, 'this is a bit different from what I'm used to'.

I had seen people with leprosy before, but I'd never seen people receive treatment for the disease. Watching first-hand the caring nature of the work of the Leprosy Mission, I was blown away by their support to patients.

A new perspective on leprosy

Meeting the people affected by leprosy at Muzaffapur and Faizabad Leprosy Mission Hospitals I could see how the focus of the Leprosy Mission's work is on curing, caring for and restoring people back into their families and their communities.

The approach to care is very holistic. You see people of all ages - from 13 or 14 year old girls to the very old with no hands and feet - getting treatment, even if it is just comfort. It was a revelation.

"The people we met talked about how leprosy affects them physically and socially. I had never considered their lives outside of their disease – their jobs and their families – I saw things with fresh eyes."

Everyone we spoke to had stories to tell about how their families have disowned them because of this disease and how the hospital was the only place they could stay.

They were so grateful and delighted to see us. Things got a bit teary when one of the women mentioned how her village had treated her. We were all upset for her. It was quite an intimate moment. That is the sort of thing you remember.

Seema's story

Another story that really touched Tracey and me was Seema's. Seema is a 15 year-old-girl whom Brent first met on a trip to Muzaffapur hospital last year.

Seema lives in a very remote village and at home, people believed her leprosy meant she was cursed. She came to Muzaffapur to receive reconstructive hand surgery that would correct the damage leprosy had caused.

Brent was keen to find out how Seema was getting on, so we all travelled to her village to see her. We arrived the day she was getting married and were greeted by villagers who had never seen a foreign person before.

We found a delightful girl who, with her now straightened hand, was considered 'normal' again. She was no longer 'cursed'.

That would never have happened without the surgery and I think it is really important for people to know how much can be achieved for such a minimal cost.

It does not end there - "I'll be back!"

I'd like to thank the Leprosy Mission for this opportunity. The trip with Brent and Tracey was amazing.

Until I saw the stand at Parachute Festival, I didn't know that there was a Leprosy Mission in New Zealand. Now I tell other people about it and will be out there endorsing them!

I've set up a regular payment of $100 a month and I'm happy to support in other ways - so watch this space, as I'm sure that I will go back!"

2013 Parachute Music Festival Supporter Tour Winner

Sue Benham, Chris Benham, Grant Pollock, Nerida Galley, Jan Fogg

The Leprosy Mission is delighted to announce the 2013 winner of the Parachute Music Festival Supporter Tour - Chris Benham.

Chris Benham is the lucky recipient of a trip to Asia, where he will spend time travelling to leprosy hospitals in India, followed by four days in Nepal. However, Chris will not be travelling on his own – his wife, Sue, and other supporters are also taking the opportunity to witness the work of the Leprosy Mission.

As an added bonus, Chris is a puppeteer and intends taking his puppets with him to share with audiences along the way.

Read more about Chris's experiences in the Autumn 2014 issue of *inTouch*.

Dr David Friend

KIWIS IN THE FIELD

We first met Dr David Friend, a Kiwi medical missionary working in Zambia, in the March 2011 issue of *inTouch*. David is one of three medical missionaries the Leprosy Mission NZ has helped to support for the past three years. He works for SIM (Serving in Mission) – one of the Leprosy Mission's missionary partners – and recently returned home to fundraise and share stories about his life in Zambia.

When David first arrived in Zambia in 2007 and started working at the busy, 200-bed Mukinge Hospital, he had no idea how to get to the nearby Kikonkomene leprosy village. "I could not find anyone who had visited the village and, on one occasion, got thoroughly lost trying to locate it," he says.

When he eventually got there, the variety and combination of severe disabilities was unexpected. "Whilst most of the older residents have leprosy, officially it is a 'disability village' and so there were some who were just blind, and others, such as one man who was deaf and mute (from other causes) with disfigurement from leprosy and a wooden leg," David says.

There are over 30 people who have a disability living in the village. David says, "I visit every two weeks, check people's health and provide them with supplies. I'll treat any illnesses while I'm there and if anyone gets really sick, they send me a message and I pick them up in my vehicle and take them to the hospital.

"When people affected by leprosy are admitted to hospital, they are in the main wards without any isolation and no one seems to mind. In fact, some patients in the eye ward were once disappointed when one resident went home, as he entertained them with so many stories!"

Much of the care David provides is social and he says the villagers enjoy having someone come and visit, as many are confined to the area around their houses.

Once a year, David takes a group of student nurses to the village, to sing and pray with the villagers. During the year, students collect all their spare shoes and clothing and these are handed out.

"I always enjoy visiting the villagers," David says. "Their cheerful personas and willingness to have a laugh about something in the face of severe disability, puts our own lives into perspective. Their strong Christian faith is inspiring and yet humbling. When they say that they pray for me, I hardly know what to say, apart from 'thank you'.

It is David's prayer that the donations he receives from his generous supporters will allow:

- Mukinge Hospital to offer a really good standard of care to patients with a wide range of conditions and be a training ground for short-term missionaries who may be looking at long-term service somewhere.
- Kikonkomene leprosy village to remain as a lifeline for those whose families cannot support them.
- The local Kemsempa state prison (where SIM spent two years building a chapel) to be strengthened in terms of standard of living, education and vocational training.

And "that the glory of God can be reflected in all these institutions," David says.

For more information check out the Leprosy Mission website **www.leprosymission.org.nz**

The support David receives provides Kikonkomene leprosy -affected villagers with…

- Seven 50kg sacks of maize each, every year
- Supplies of sugar, salt, soap and cooking oil
- Blankets and a mattress
- Soft plastic sandals to protect vulnerable feet

Some individuals are provided with firewood, torches and batteries, cultivating tools, seeds, cooking pots, second hand clothing and special thread for mending shoes.

Past building maintenance includes:

- Installing door and window lintels for structural support and security.
- Replacing broken concrete floors, broken doors and shutters for added security.
- Installing storm water drains around the houses and down the length of the compound to protect the village from flooding.

Ethnic Community update

TVNZ's TV programme 'Neighbourhood' recently interviewed Baibing Yu, a young Ethnic Community Volunteer for the Leprosy Mission, about the work that he does.

For Howick–based Baibing Yu, charity does really start at home.

Since his arrival in New Zealand in 2008 to reunite with his family, Baibing has become involved in supporting the Leprosy Mission's work in China by devoting his time to raise money and awareness for the cause.

His goal is to engage with the Chinese ethnic community in New Zealand, encouraging them to contribute to leprosy care in their homeland.

"I distribute the moneyboxes to Chinese restaurants and Chinese shops in Auckland," he says. "We get funding from their small change, however it's this small change that can change the big world. "

Baibing thinks it is important for Chinese to help other Chinese regardless of politics or ideology. "Even with different ideology or languages, we can still be kind to one other. It's simple."

Michael Sheppard, the Ethnic Communities Ambassador says the Leprosy Mission has about 20 Chinese volunteers including Baibing.

"They volunteer throughout the year by having stands at multi-cultural events and at Chinese New Year events to raise awareness for our charity," he says. "They've also designed posters for us in Chinese and we have 21 shops in the Balmoral area and four in Howick who have the Chinese moneyboxes.

"I don't know of a charity in the world, that is engaging Chinese students to do this sort of work – helping people in their homeland by supporting a charity in their new country. That helps with integration, so that everyone becomes good neighbours and good friends and they become part of the Kiwi way of life."

Watch Baibing's full interview (at 16 minutes point) on TVNZ On Demand www.tvnz.co.nz/neighbourhood Series 2, episode 17 'Howick'

The Leprosy Mission
Running 4 Rights

The Leprosy Mission's Running 4 Rights team, which first formed in 2008, is looking for people to join them and tackle the challenge of any event in the adidas Auckland Marathon - being held on Sunday 3rd November (www.aucklandmarathon.co.nz). Registrations are still open for the 5km and 10km events.

For the fifth consecutive year Executive Director Brent Morgan will be participating in the event, running the half-marathon with his son Curtis.

"We had 30 runners in 2012 and are expecting even more this year," he says. "I'm aiming to raise $4,320 to cure, care for and restore 10 people affected by leprosy. I'm challenging all other participants to raise at least $432 to support one person affected by leprosy, as part of our new 'Cure One' focus.


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

"I'm also delighted that Olympian Barry Magee has agreed to be our Running 4 Rights ambassador again this year and is returning to inspire our 2013 team at a special morning tea being held before the event."

You can support Brent here **www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/BrentMorganR4R13**

OR join the Running 4 Rights team here **www.leprosymission.org.nz/page/running-4-rights**

$2.25

LIVE BELOW THE LINE

Have you ever tried to live below the poverty line? Well, for five days between 23rd and 27th September, Leprosy Mission staff, Christian rock band [shift] and other supporters are part of a global awareness and fundraising campaign to do just that.

They'll be living on just $2.25 a day for food over five days so they can experience living on the extreme edge of poverty while fundraising for people affected by leprosy.

Brent Morgan encourages supporters to get involved: *"We'd love your support, so please donate to this worthwhile cause and help us to Cure One today."*

Read more: www.leprosymission.org.nz/page/livebelowtheline

Live Below the Line [shift] page **www.livebelowtheline.com/me/shift**

ONESOUND festival and [shift]

The inaugural winter Christian music festival, OneSound, took place on June 15th in Waikanae (half-way between Palmerston North and Wellington). The event mainly attracts Christian university students who, for just $40, are treated to 50 bands over 12 hours (10am – 10pm).

New Leprosy Mission partners [shift] played at OneSound and the Leprosy Mission's new Cure One video also featured on the main stage. "It was a good way to raise awareness of our mission and the Cure One programme," Brent Morgan says.

[shift] adds, "We absolutely loved every moment of OneSound. The organisers looked after every band and always kept us in the loop. There were no egos between bands, which meant we could all enjoy each other's company. The whole experience was very uplifting and for a great cause. We would play there again in a heartbeat."

In Memory of

Vallean Adolph	New Plymouth
Mrs Betsy Conway	Auckland
Mrs Alexia Cotching	Havelock North
Dr Pamela Hughes	Taupo
John Hume	Auckland
Miss Margaret Lanigan	Gisborne
Mrs Elizabeth McClelland	Christchurch

Bequests

This year we were asked by Leprosy Mission International if we could provide additional funding support for a number of Leprosy Mission hospitals in India. We were only able to do this because of the many very generous bequest donations we receive. If you would like to include a bequest pledge in your will, please contact gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz or call Gillian on 0800 862 873.

Our heartfelt thanks go out for bequests given by

Miss Muriel Emerson Smart	Palmerston North
Mrs Margaret Joan Bee	Warkworth
Mr Neville Reginald Palmer	Rotorua
Mrs Nancy Woodhouse	Napier
Mr David John Collyns	Waikanae
Mrs Maria Pansier	Whakatane
Elizabeth I Poole	Christchurch
Miss Lalla Mary Price	Nelson
Mr Noel Wharton	Coromandel
Mrs Violet May Jones	Wellington
Mr Thomas Gwyndaf Ellis	Ashburton
Gladys A Lydster	Auckland
Eric Lionel Hayward	Whangarei
Mr Nevil Kingson Higgins	Auckland
Miss Dulcie Beatrice Routhan	Carterton
Mrs Lillian Constance Brebner	Auckland
Mrs Rosetta Knox Hills	Invercargill
Mr James Baird	Wellington
Miss Doreen Harper	Pukekohe
Mrs Rona Maud Mackenzie	Takapuna
Mr Arthur J Templeton	Dunedin
Mrs Ruth Henrietta Smith	Auckland
Mr Maurice & Mrs June Butt	Palmerston North

Prayer & Praise

We would love you to join us in regular prayer support. Our Prayer & Praise diary is available by post or as weekly or monthly emails. Your prayer support is valued as the Leprosy Mission was founded on the healing power of prayer.

If you are interested please call **0800 862 873** or email: **ngaira.lynch@leprosymission.org.nz**

Supporters Corner

Leprosy Mission supporters all over New Zealand are raising awareness and funds for our overseas projects. We share some of their endeavours below – and encourage others to think about organising your own fundraising events to support the work of the Leprosy Mission.
Email **tracey.adamson@leprosymission.org.nz**
to share your news.

Colleen Church's toys and jam reaps rewards for the Leprosy Mission

Colleen Church has been working hard on our behalf in Christchurch. Not only has she been busy selling soft toys and homemade jam at a garage sale, she also donates the profits from the stamps she collects and sells, and she is one of our fabulous Moneybox Collectors.

Her efforts resulted in a recent donation of over $500
- thanks Colleen!

The Leprosy Mission
Moneybox

Offering from Christchurch

One of our Moneybox Collectors in Christchurch has taken their support one step further by organising a special offering at their church.

The supporter says they had just taken over as a Moneybox Collector for St James Spreydon Presbyterian Church and raised just over $1000 for the Leprosy Mission.

If you are interested in our Moneybox Programme, please contact Carolyn Currie, on **0800 862 873** or email **carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz**

Cure One today

© Michael Bradley

A world without leprosy tomorrow

With a monthly gift of $36 for one year, you will cure, care for and restore one person in poverty affected by leprosy.

Call **0800 862 873**

Or join Cure One at
cureone.org.nz

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The Leprosy Mission
Cure One