

intouch

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE LEPROSY MISSION NEW ZEALAND ISSUE 426 SEPT 2010



Government Funding Cuts
What Do They Mean for Our Mission?

Healing Bodies and Minds in China

Leprosy Mission Moneyboxes
Creating Big Change from
Your Small Change

Youth Advocate Scholarships
Your Chance to Visit Nepal in 2011

Annual Review
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Focus on the Pacific
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**moneybox
competition**

Leprosy
MISSION NZ

100 years of families helping families

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From the Director

The last few months have not been easy for us here at the Leprosy Mission New Zealand. In case you haven't heard, the government recently introduced some significant changes to funding for overseas aid, and as a result we are faced with a funding shortfall of over one million dollars.

Despite this news, we are determined to keep our vital projects up and running, and in July we launched an Urgent Appeal to help bridge the funding gap. Over the last few weeks I have been blown away by the response, and have been reminded once again just how generous and loyal our supporters really are. Thank you. You can read more about the changes to government funding on page 3.

In this spring edition of *inTouch* you will also find a copy of our Annual Review which highlights our achievements over the past 12 months – achievements that would not have been possible without your support. It is a timely reminder of the importance of our mission, and how we must do everything in our power to ensure the survival of our projects around the world.

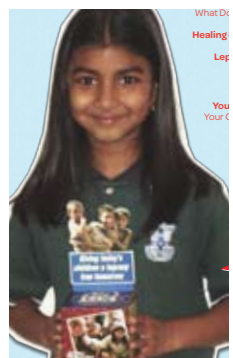
I have every faith that with your support, and God's grace, we can continue to serve the individuals and families who need us most, and continue on our journey towards a world free from leprosy.

Thank you once again for your tremendous generosity and support.

With God's blessing,

Brent J Morgan
Executive Director

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On the Cover:

Zephora Rao with her Leprosy Mission moneybox. Read more about our Moneybox Programme and Moneybox Rocks competition on page 10.

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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.



Government Funding Cuts: What Do They Mean For Our Mission?

by Brent Morgan

‘The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged.’ Deuteronomy 31v8

Thank you for your overwhelming response to our recent Urgent Appeal to Protect Our Overseas Projects. Government funding cuts have left us with a one million dollar shortfall, and we are deeply concerned about the impact this will have on our ability to provide vital support and services to individuals and families affected by leprosy. Together we have raised \$250,000 so far, which is an enormous step towards bridging this potentially devastating funding gap. Your generosity is allowing us to plan more confidently with our overseas partners, and commit to more of the essential services that our projects provide. On behalf of leprosy-affected individuals and families, we are extremely grateful for your commitment and ongoing support. Over the past couple of weeks, I have had many conversations with concerned supporters about the funding cuts, and thought I would share some of the most commonly asked questions with you.

1. How has government funding for overseas aid changed?

Until recently, NZAID (the New Zealand Government’s International Aid and Development Agency) was a semi-autonomous government agency. Their focus was on eradicating poverty in developing countries, with a special emphasis on providing support to our Pacific neighbours. New Zealand organisations working in overseas development, like the Leprosy Mission, were able to apply for funding to support their projects around the world from a contestable fund called KOHA.

NZAID has now become part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their focus has shifted to sustainable economic development as a means to reduce poverty, with an increased emphasis on the Pacific region. Organisations working in international development have been asked to primarily focus their efforts in the Pacific, and give priority to projects that will help achieve sustainable economic development. KOHA has been replaced with the Sustainable Development Fund, and funding will be given to organisations that can meet the above criteria.

2. What is the rationale behind these changes?

The government feels that the best way to reduce poverty in the Pacific is through economic growth, trade and development of the private sector. They are also looking to strengthen links between New Zealand's foreign policy and the aims of its international development funding. New Zealand government funds will now support activities that produce measurable economic and financial benefits for businesses and individuals, by improving infrastructure and related services, and increasing support for the private sector. It is hoped that the resulting economic growth will enable Pacific countries to fund their own social services such as health and education. Government funding to New Zealand organisations is now expected to play a part in achieving these government goals.

3. Can the Leprosy Mission New Zealand apply for funding from the Sustainable Development Fund?

It will be much harder for us to access funding through the new Sustainable Development Fund because we currently only have one project in the Pacific region. This is because leprosy remains most prevalent in Africa, the Americas and Asia, and we exist to serve individuals, families and communities who are most in need. All of our projects take a holistic approach towards helping people affected by leprosy, and although sustainable economic development forms part of our work, it is not the sole focus.

4. How will these changes affect the Leprosy Mission New Zealand's existing overseas projects?

To date, we have lost over one million dollars of KOHA funding, which matched the generous donations from our supporters 4:1. This very significant amount was used to support our projects in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Ethiopia and China where leprosy remains rife among impoverished communities. The funding shortfall we now face could have a severe impact on families living with leprosy, as it may mean drastically cutting our services and reducing the number of staff working on our projects.

Yet we remain firmly committed to our goal of eradicating the disease, and in July launched an Urgent Appeal to help compensate for this devastating funding shortfall. We have been overwhelmed by the response from our supporters and are extremely grateful for your generous donations. We are now much more optimistic about the future of our projects, but your ongoing support is needed more than ever before.

5. Is there still leprosy in the Pacific?

Yes, leprosy is an issue in the Pacific with new cases still being detected in the west of the region. The most affected countries are the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and, increasingly, Papua New Guinea.

6. Do you currently have any projects in the Pacific?

We currently have a very successful community based health project in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, that will continue to receive government funding for

the foreseeable future (read more about this project on page 5). This project was established in 2006 and is planned to run until 2014. We are also currently looking at how we can provide support to countries in the Pacific that are still affected by leprosy. However, setting up new and effective projects is a long process, and it may take us some time to establish a presence in the region. At the moment our focus is on our existing projects around the world, in countries where leprosy prevalence remains high, which is why your support is so important at this time.

7. How will these changes affect your mission and global goal?

We are still one hundred percent committed to our global goal of eradicating the causes and consequences of leprosy. Five million leprosy-affected individuals and their families living outside of the Pacific region still desperately need our support, and we are determined to continue providing them with the programmes and services they need. With your support, we will continue to fund our projects in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and China because our work is making a significant difference in the lives of leprosy-affected people living in these countries.

8. It seems that your projects are focusing less on treating and curing leprosy than they used to. Has the focus of your work changed?

In many leprosy-affected countries, the government is increasingly taking on the role of detection and treatment, and we are able to focus our efforts on the on-going rehabilitation of individuals and families affected by the disease. Disability is often a consequence of leprosy, especially if it is not diagnosed and treated early enough, and many leprosy-affected people need medical care long after their treatment has finished. It is also now widely accepted that the cure of leprosy goes far beyond taking multi-drug therapy. Stigma and social exclusion are often more damaging than the disease itself and our projects are designed to address these issues. However, the Leprosy Mission is still committed to detecting, diagnosing and treating leprosy in countries where local health services are insufficient.

9. How can I help?

The deadline for our Urgent Appeal has now been extended to 30th September, the end of our first financial quarter, so if you have not already donated, giving to this appeal is one of the best ways that you can help us bridge the funding gap. Thank you once again to all of you who have already given so generously – your ongoing support is critical.

PREVIOUS PAGE: A leprosy-affected family from Bangladesh. Fatema (right) took multi-drug therapy for 12 months. She is now cured of leprosy but is visited by Leprosy Mission staff twice a year for a health check.

DONATE NOW

To make a donation to our Urgent Appeal to Protect Our Overseas Projects please complete the enclosed donation form and return it to us at the Leprosy Mission New Zealand, PO Box 10227 Dominion Road, Auckland 1446. You can also donate online at www.leprosymission.org.nz or call us on 0900 900 44 to make an instant \$25 donation.



Focus on the Pacific: Bikes for Bougainville

Earlier this year, Leprosy Mission New Zealand Programme Manager Matt Halsey visited our project in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, to make a very special delivery.

Since 2006, the Leprosy Mission New Zealand has been supporting the development of a successful community health programme in Bougainville. The project is helping to establish health care programmes in local communities so that families can take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing. To date, programmes have been established in five of Bougainville's thirteen districts.

Six district facilitators regularly travel to remote villages where they train and monitor village health volunteers, who are then responsible for providing health education in their communities. Volunteers raise awareness about diseases such as leprosy, identify villagers who are ill, and refer people to district health clinics for diagnosis and treatment. Since the project began more than 746 village health volunteers have been trained – 628 of them are now active in their communities.

"Leprosy is still an issue in Bougainville and it is very important that communities are aware of its causes and consequences," says Matt. "Through the community health programme we are educating families about the signs and symptoms of the disease, and making sure they know where to go to get treatment and support."

But as the project has expanded, travelling to the villages has become a major challenge for the district facilitators. Bougainville is mountainous with dense forests, volcanoes, rivers, waterfalls and impenetrable valleys. Roads are extremely poor or non-existent, public transport is very limited and often the facilitators spend large amounts of their day walking from village to village.

To help overcome this problem, the Leprosy Mission New Zealand provided funding for mountain bikes for the district facilitators, and Matt delivered the first three in February this year. He has been amazed at the difference they have made. District facilitators are now able to travel quickly and easily between villages, leaving them with more time to train and monitor the health volunteers.

The Healthy Communities Programme will be implemented in all thirteen districts of Bougainville by the end of 2014, and will be progressively taken over by the government's health department.

You may remember reading about Ruby Mirinka, the Programme Manager of BHCP, in the March 2009 edition of *inTouch*. Ruby has dedicated her life to helping others, and at the Pride of PNG Awards for Women in 2008 she received the medal for Bravery and Courage for her contribution to Bougainville during the 10 year civil war. We are pleased to announce that Ruby has just been awarded the MBE Honour in the 2010 PNG Queen's Awards for service to health education and administration. Congratulations Ruby! It has been an honour for us at the Leprosy Mission New Zealand to work with such a dedicated partner. Ruby will travel to Port Moresby later in the year to accept her award from the Governor General.

TOP IMAGE: A group of village health volunteers outside a BHCP training session. INSET: Ruby Mirinka, Programme Manager, has been awarded an MBE Honour.



Keeping Our Promises to the Poor: Progress Towards the MDGs

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline, how much progress has been made towards the Millennium Development Goals? Are we on track to halving global poverty?

"We must not fail the billions who look to the international community to fulfil the promise of the Millennium Declaration for a better world. Let us meet in September to keep the promise." – United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

In June this year, the United Nations released the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Progress Report. The report shows, that despite the global economic downturn, significant progress has been made in reducing extreme poverty, getting children in to school, child health, tackling HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and increasing access to clean drinking water. But the report also concludes that overall progress has been too slow, and that countries must step up their efforts if all eight MDGs are to be successfully achieved by their target date of 2015.

The MDGs and Our Global Goal

Our global goal to eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy is inextricably linked to the fight against poverty. If the MDGs are met, millions of families around the world will be able to lift themselves out of poverty, leaving them much less vulnerable to leprosy and its consequences. So just how close are we to halving global poverty by 2015?

MDG One: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Target: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.

- Strong economic growth in the first half of the decade reduced the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2005, while the poverty rate dropped from 46% to 27%.

- The global financial crisis has had an impact on progress, but economic growth in developing countries is strong enough to sustain momentum towards the poverty reduction target.
- The biggest reductions in poverty continue to be recorded in Eastern Asia, especially China and India.

Predicted Outcome: The overall poverty rate is expected to fall to 15% by 2015, meaning that the target should be met. This translates in to around 920 million people living under the international poverty line – half the number in 1990.

Target: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

- The global financial crisis and increased food prices have hindered progress in most regions, and the number of hungry people rose from 842 million in 1990 to 1.02 billion people in 2009.
- Before the onset of the crises, a number of regions were well on their way to meeting the target including South-Eastern Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Eastern Asia. The prevalence of hunger also declined in sub-Saharan Africa, although not at a pace that could keep up with population growth.

Predicted Outcome: Progress is being made, but not fast enough to reach the target by 2015.

The Verdict

The report concludes that the Millennium Development Goals are still attainable if we can pick up the pace. World leaders are gathering at a MDG Summit in New York this month to agree on a concrete plan of action between now and 2015. To find out more visit <http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/>



We have only five years remaining to meet our promises to the poor. Will you take action?

Micah Challenge 10.10.10

New Zealanders can help the world stay on track by taking part in Micah Challenge 10.10.10, a global campaign to focus attention on the MDGs and our promises to the poor. 10.10.10 – or October 10th 2010 – has been chosen as a day of mobilisation because it marks the 10 year anniversary of the MDGs which were agreed upon in 2000.

Micah Challenge has prepared a variety of resources to enable Christians around the globe to get involved on the day. The theme in New Zealand is hands: hands held up in prayer, hands held out in promise, hands held out in support.

The Global Prayer

The global prayer for justice demonstrates our dependence on God as we seek his wisdom and rely on his strength and guidance. The prayer for Micah 2010 echoes the themes of Nehemiah who prayed before he embarked on the mighty task of restoring Jerusalem.

The Big Promise

10.10.10 is a day to recommit ourselves to the pursuit of justice, to be mindful of the poor in the way we live, and to encourage action from our leaders. This promise resonates with Paul's heart: "All they asked

was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do." (Gal. 2:10).

The Big Hand-Over

A collection of handprints from children, youth and adults will remind our leaders that we have only five years remaining to meet our promises. Hands mean worship and are used to demonstrate God's love. The handprints will be delivered to 1,000 politicians in over 20 countries as a symbol of our faith and action.

For more information about the 10.10.10 campaign and to access resources for the Big Prayer, Big Promise and Big Handover visit www.micahchallenge.org.nz.

The Leprosy Mission is a proud member of Micah Challenge, a global campaign to mobilise Christians against poverty and injustice.



Youth Advocate Scholarships

'Defend the cause of the weak and the fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.'
Psalm 82v3

Can you imagine being rejected by your family and friends, or not being able to attend school, just because you are suffering from a curable disease? These are daily realities for thousands of leprosy-affected individuals and families around the world. Now imagine a world free from leprosy, stigma and discrimination. You can make it happen!

We are seeking enthusiastic young adults to become advocates for the vital work we do with leprosy-affected families around the world.

A group of young adults (aged between 17 and 23) from around the country are being selected to visit Nepal in 2011 where they will see the Leprosy Mission's work in action, and learn about the medical, social and psychological impacts of the disease. Participants will visit the Leprosy Mission's biggest hospital in Anandaban, as well as several community based projects, giving them a real insight in to what it is like living with leprosy and its consequences.

Upon their return, participants will become active Youth Advocates in their own communities and will be responsible for: building a network of youth supporters; organising awareness raising events in their local communities; speaking at churches and schools; and campaigning on issues affecting people living with leprosy.

If you are interested in taking part and becoming a Youth Advocate you can apply for a Youth Advocate Scholarship on our website. As part of the application

process you will also be asked to tell us about yourself, your interest in leprosy and poverty, and how you will learn from the trip to Nepal. An assessment day is being held in Auckland in October to bring together all scholarship candidates – this will enable you to find out more about us, and for us to find out more about you!

The itinerary will be confirmed later in the year and will include:

- The leadership of two senior Leprosy Mission managers (one male, one female)
- A visit to Anandaban Hospital in Kathmandu
- A visit to community based projects in rural Nepal
- Time to explore Kathmandu City
- A trek out of Kathmandu

For further information on how to apply, visit www.leprosymission.org.nz or contact Gillian Whitley on (09) 631 1806 or gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

TOP LEFT: Participants will take part in a trek out of Kathmandu. TOP RIGHT: Anil and his friend are both affected by leprosy. This picture was taken at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal.



UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH

In an effort to harness the energy, imagination and initiative of the world's youth in overcoming the challenges facing humankind, from enhancing peace to boosting economic development, the United Nations proclaimed an International Year of Youth starting on 12 August 2010. Find out more at <http://social.un.org/youthyear>

"Youth should be given a chance to take an active part in the decision-making of local, national and global levels." United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



Snoka Lamma

Snoka lives in Vizianagaram, in Andhra Pradesh, India. She was eight when she was diagnosed with leprosy. Now she is 14 and in the 8th grade. Three members of her family have had leprosy – her father, mother and grandmother.

‘When I found out I had leprosy I was afraid. I thought I might become disabled like my father or grandmother. For four or five days I couldn’t sleep.’

Her father and grandfather did not get treatment for their leprosy early enough, and as a result have disfigured arms and legs caused by nerve damage.

Snoka didn’t tell anyone she had leprosy. She kept it a secret from her friends. Only her family knows. She received multi-drug therapy at a Leprosy Mission Hospital and is now cured of the disease.

Her family visits her at her school once a month, but they come more often if she’s not well. Her father works as a driver and her mother is a housewife.

Her favourite subjects at school are science and Telugu (her native language). When she finishes school she would like to train as a nurse and help other people in her community.

MAIN IMAGE: Snoka outside her school. **INSET:** Snoka in class (middle).

Anu Marma



Anu Marma lives in the Khagrachari district of Bangladesh with her father. Her mother passed away a few years ago and she has no brothers or sisters.

A few years ago Anu’s father contracted leprosy, and because he did not get treatment straight away he now has problems

with his hands and feet caused by nerve damage. His disabilities make it hard for him to work, and he sells bananas and turmeric to earn a living. Some days he does not earn much money and finds it hard to put enough food on the table for Anu.

There is no public transport or school bus and it takes Anu two hours to walk to school. The Leprosy Mission has provided her with school stationary and paid her school fees so that she can continue to get a good education. Anu’s favourite teacher is Mangkayo Marma because she gives Anu special care, and she has a best friend called Manu Ching.

After school Anu does the chores and cooking. She studies in the evening between 6 and 10pm. There is no electricity in their village so she uses a kerosene lamp. Sometimes she can’t finish her homework because her father can’t always afford to buy kerosene.

Her father is very happy that she is getting a good education and hopes Anu will get a good job once she finishes school.

MAIN IMAGE: Anu holding her school books.

MONEYBOX

For over 50 years, we have been creating big change from your small change

Since our Moneybox Programme began in the 1960s, our iconic moneyboxes have made their way into countless homes, churches and schools across the country. Hundreds of dedicated Moneybox Collectors have inspired New Zealanders to donate their small change, and together we have raised over \$3 million! This has enabled us to bring about big change for thousands of leprosy-affected families living in Chittagong, Bangladesh, where we have two very successful projects:

Our Sustainable Development Project

is providing vital resources, training and support to families who have lost their livelihoods due to the stigma of leprosy. Over the last year, community members have been learning valuable skills such as small business management and book keeping, giving them the confidence they need to establish income generating activities and support their families.

Our Hill Tracts Project is helping to combat leprosy by ensuring families have access to health services, and are aware of the causes and consequences of the disease. In the last 12 months alone, over 17,000 community members have been educated about leprosy and as a result 210 new cases have been detected and treated.

We are extremely grateful to all of the Moneybox Collectors and Moneybox Holders who have raised funds for these vital projects. **Thank you!**

Every cent counts... especially now...

Changes to government funding (see page 3) mean that the money we raise through our Moneybox Programme is more vital to our work in Bangladesh than ever before. Every cent we can raise counts! If you are interested in becoming a Collector or Holder in your church or community please get in touch – it's simple, fun and rewarding.

We are also pleased to announce that early next year we will be launching a new DVD about our life-changing projects in Bangladesh and inviting our Moneybox Collectors to host special morning teas for their friends and family. If you are interested in hosting a morning tea please contact us.

Name: Rose Drown

Location: Auckland's eastern suburbs

Position: Moneybox Collector at Kohimarama Presbyterian Church



Rose's knowledge of leprosy extends back to her time living in India, where she joined her husband David in missionary work at a hostel for boys, checking for signs of leprosy. Her Moneybox Holders include families with children who are donating from their pocket money – a very worthwhile way to get children involved in the lives of those less fortunate than themselves. Rose actively promotes the Moneybox Programme and has given a presentation about the Leprosy Mission's work at her church. Last year, Rose and her group raised an incredible \$1,119 towards our work, and Rose was named Golden Box Collector for 2009.

If you are interested in supporting our Moneybox Programme please contact our Moneybox Coordinator Carolyn Currie on 09 631 1800 or email her at carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz.



Moneybox Rocks Competition

Are you aged between 5 and 11? If so, we want to put YOUR drawing on our new moneyboxes for 2011.

Our moneyboxes have been around for a few years now, and we think it's time to give them a fun new look. We are inviting all primary-school aged children to send us a picture they think would look good on the side of our moneyboxes. The theme is our 100th birthday which we will be celebrating in 2012. The winning picture will be printed on all of our moneyboxes in 2011 – pretty cool, huh! The only tricky part is that the picture you send must have been drawn by you! So get your thinking caps on and your art supplies out!

To find out more, and to enter now, simply visit our website www.leprosymission.org.nz. Here you will find entry forms and templates so you know how big to make your drawing. There is also an entry form provided with this copy of inTouch.

Moneyboxes are for everyone! No matter how young (or old!) you are, you can have a moneybox at home, or take one to your school or church. It really is such an easy way to do your bit to help people disadvantaged by poverty and leprosy in the developing world.

We are seeking enthusiastic young people to spread the word about our Moneybox Programme in their schools and churches. Moneyboxes are a fun and easy way to help leprosy-affected children and their families living in Bangladesh – a few coins from your pocket money (and your friend's pocket money!) can go a long way! If you would like a moneybox then please let us know by emailing carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz

The Evolution of the Moneybox

A small boy with a big heart started a worldwide movement.

At the turn of the 20th century, Wilbur Chapman, a 10 year old boy with a big heart, started putting coins in a pig-shaped container to help people affected by leprosy.

Wilbur was inspired by William Danner, the secretary of the American Mission to Lepers, who was a family friend and often told Wilbur stories about people affected by leprosy. After one particular visit he gave Wilbur a parting gift of \$3 to spend any way he wanted. Wilbur promised he'd buy a piglet to grow and sell, and give the money to people affected by leprosy – and he kept his word. Pete sold for a whopping \$25, and the money was used to help a child named Ai-Sam who had been affected by leprosy. Inspired by Wilbur's generosity, William Danner published his story in the 'Sunday School Times.' A 'Pete the Pig' movement sprang up across America. 'Pig Ladies' volunteered in churches and brass piggy banks were made and distributed. By 1927, the American Mission to Lepers had raised \$1.4 million through Piggy Banks alone.

Wilbur's compassion lives on today. All around the world people are still putting their small change in Leprosy Mission money boxes to help families affected by leprosy.

We need YOUR help to fill this space for our 2011 special birthday moneyboxes.





Your Gifts of Sight: Appeal Update

In May this year we launched our second Gift of Sight Appeal to help individuals and families affected by leprosy-induced blindness. We had an amazing response, and your generous donations will allow us to help hundreds more leprosy-affected people regain or improve their sight.

You may remember the story of Uncle Lai, who was able to take up photography again after he had surgery to remove cataracts from his eyes. Since then, he has joined HANDA Rehabilitation & Welfare Association's (HANDA) photography group and recently exhibited some of his wonderful photos in the Light of Life Photography Exhibition by People Affected by Leprosy.

Historically, leprosy-affected people in China were separated from their families and loved ones and sent to live in isolated leprosy villages. This had a huge toll on their mental health, and even today, many leprosy-affected people find it difficult to return home because of the stigma that still surrounds the disease. The photography group was set up by HANDA social workers in 2009 to help elderly people from these villages, like Uncle Lai, rebuild their confidence and self-esteem after years of living in isolation. Every member was given a digital camera and encouraged to "express their emotions, pursue their dreams and

enjoy the later years of their life though photography." (Excerpt from HANDA newsletter).

Most of the group had never used a camera before, and for those living with leprosy-related disabilities taking photos was a big challenge. But despite these hurdles, 1000 images were taken over a six month period and 100 were carefully selected for the exhibition which was organised by the photography group and HANDA staff.

'The images reflect lives that are distinct, colourful and natural. They also reflect the inner desires of the photographers. Let us stand beside them, and look forward to a better future.' (Excerpt from HANDA newsletter).

TOP LEFT: Your gifts of sight will help to fund eye-surgery for many more people like Uncle Lai. **MIDDLE:** Mai Jinhua, a member of the photography group, with HANDA volunteers. **TOP RIGHT:** Huang Xiukum (holding camera), a member of the photography group. **BELOW:** The photography group who participated in the Light of Life Photography Exhibition.





Heidi Darcy, Vietnam

Name: Heidi Darcy

Position: Nurse

Location: Ben San Leprosy Hospital in Vietnam

All around the world, selfless Kiwis like Heidi Darcy have willingly dedicated their lives to serving leprosy-affected individuals and their families...

In Heidi's words...

"In April of this year, I travelled with members of the Tauranga Sunrise Rotary Club to the Ben San Leprosy Hospital in Vietnam. As a Registered Nurse working for Comvita, my role was to provide clinical advice for a range of wound dressings and skin creams made with medical grade antibacterial honey.* Wound management at the hospital is an enormous challenge because of the basic conditions, the poor health of the patients and the disabilities arising from their leprosy.

Although the patients may be 'cured' of leprosy, most of them will never leave Ben San because of the fear and stigma that surrounds the disease. They live and die within the walls of the hospital grounds. Once well enough to be released from the hospital, they make their home in little houses or sometimes just shacks in the hospital grounds. Some are lucky enough to have family come and live with them (the family are also shunned by the community). Others may never see their families again. It is this fear of isolation that prevents people from seeking treatment early. Many people hide their leprosy until disabilities are well advanced, and they are forced to go to the hospital for treatment.

I spoke to one lovely old woman who has been at the hospital for 50 years. She was found living in a graveyard as a young woman and brought to the hospital by some Catholic nuns. She has never seen or heard from her family since she was found to have leprosy.

The Leprosy Hospital receives minimal funding and conditions are very basic. The patients receive two simple meals per day and many sleep on a hard metal bed with no mattress. Although they have multi-drug therapy and a very good Orthotics Department (run by a former patient), there is no reconstructive surgery or rehabilitation. I was humbled to see how many of them had such beautiful smiles and seemed to have found joy in the midst of their suffering.

As a teenager I was inspired by Dr Brand's book 'In His Image', written with Phillip Yancey. The hope and restoration that Dr Brand was able to bring to people affected by leprosy was so powerful that I have never forgotten it. It was a great privilege for me to make this journey to Ben San and share a moment of these peoples' lives. People made in the image of God. I pray that one day they also will be able to receive the healing and restoration that the Leprosy Mission has been able to bring to so many people around the world."

*Comvita have a Medihoney™ range of wound dressings and skin creams made with medical grade antibacterial honey. Comvita has been donating supplies of medical honey dressings to the hospital since 2003 to support the Sunrise Rotary Club project there.

MAIN IMAGES: Heidi with a woman who has been affected by leprosy.



Healing Bodies and Minds in China

by Chen Xiu Chang

**Chen Xiu Yang is a nurse and social worker for
HANDA Rehabilitation and Welfare Association in China.**

“I watched as life in the leprosy villages turned a corner. People began to look happier and seemed to be smiling more.” Chen Xiu Chang

In 2003 I joined the HANDA team as a nurse. I visited the elderly members of the leprosy villages to care for their wounds and ulcers. At the time, I felt my main remit was giving – giving care, giving time, giving of myself.

The elderly people also thought I was there to do the giving. Each visit, I found myself confronted with a pair of old legs and a face devoid of emotion. I tried really hard to do a good job, but it was one-sided and exhausting. Ulcers are sometimes unpredictable and some refused to respond to my treatment. The people I was treating lost confidence in me and my morale plummeted. I was doing all I could but it wasn't enough. I didn't realise it at the time but what was really missing was communication between us.

A year later, HANDA introduced social workers in to

the villages. I had no idea what they did. “Help people to help themselves and achieve equality in life,” I was told. But I didn't really know what it meant.

I watched as life in the leprosy villages turned a corner. People began to look happier and seemed to be smiling more. The lives of the villagers were gradually being transformed through recreational activities organised by the social workers that got people talking to each other. The elderly people I had been treating who had been monosyllabic and grumpy now appeared quite cheerful.

I realised then that I had been focusing on the care of wounds and ulcers rather than on the person as a whole. I began to think like a social worker about what the elderly villagers needed and what I could do to help.



“I realised then that I had been focusing on the care of wounds and ulcers rather than on the person as a whole. I began to think like a social worker about what the elderly villagers needed and what I could do to help.”

The same year I took part in a Community Health Education Training Program and learnt words such as ‘encouragement’, ‘equality’ and ‘participation.’ It became obvious to me that all these elements should be incorporated in to my nursing work if I were to be truly successful. I also attended a special nursing course run by Dr Hugh Cross from the American Leprosy Mission. Underpinning the whole training session was the message that in order to heal a person you need their full participation in the process. What this boils down to is communication between the care-giver and the one receiving care.

Influenced by what I had learnt on my courses I began to feel more confident about introducing communication as a healing tool in to my nursing practice. I started to make conversation with the people I was treating, asking them about themselves, their families, things that interested them. I showed I was listening with a nod or a word. Gradually our relationship developed as their wounds began to heal.

Eventually, when our confidence in each other had grown, I was able to show them how to care for themselves. At first they were reluctant because they

had got used to being nursed by me. But soon they began to understand the need to be self-sufficient. It was only then that I understood what Dr Cross meant when he said the key to healing is participation.

Later, my job as a nurse evolved into that of a social worker. I found myself organising village activities, one-day tours to visit nearby cities or tourist sites, and health education training. I decided to stay for a few days at a time in the leprosy villages, chatting to elderly people, getting to know them, and hearing about their lives and families. At the beginning they had known nothing about me. But when I returned to visit them they all recognised me and remembered my name because of the investment I had made in my relationship with them. It was very rewarding.

In 2008 I decided to take a shot at the professional qualification to become a social worker. Unfortunately I failed by two points. I don’t know whether to feel pleased that I failed by only two points or whether to feel disappointed that I didn’t make it. But I can try again next time. They say that with faith and confidence, any goal can be achieved.

PREVIOUS PAGE: Chen Xiu Chang during a visit to a leprosy-affected village. TOP RIGHT: Chen Xiu Chang attending to an ulcer.



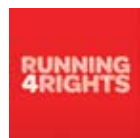
MAIN IMAGE: This woman and her child are from Nepal where a Community House has been built.

Really Good Gifts 4 Families – the Box is Back!



With Christmas fast approaching, we are pleased to once again offer you an exciting range of original and meaningful Really Good Gifts for your family and friends. As well as the addition of some new and exciting gifts, we are bringing back the gift box! Every gift you purchase will be sent to you with a beautiful red gift box, making your Really Good Gift even more special!

The 2010 Really Good Gifts 4 Families catalogue will be launched on October 29th but you can purchase online from mid October at www.leprosymission.org.nz



Running 4 Rights 2010

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand is running 4 the rights of leprosy-affected families, and we want you to join us! Every year, a team of runners and walkers – known as the 'Running 4 Rights' team – participates in the Auckland Marathon to raise awareness and project funding for families affected by leprosy. This year, the marathon is on October 31st, and although the marathon and half marathon are now closed, there is still time to join the team and register for the 10km run or the 5km run and walk.

To sign up now visit our website www.leprosymission.org.nz or contact our Running 4 Rights Team Manager Gillian Whitley on gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

Leprosy Awareness Week: Jan 30th - Feb 5th 2011

Next January we will once again be celebrating World Leprosy Day and Leprosy Awareness Week. If you are interested in receiving resources to raise awareness about leprosy in your church, school or community group, please let us know by emailing us at enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz. In the meantime be sure to mark these important dates in your calendar! World Leprosy Day will be celebrated at the beginning of the week on Sunday 30th.

Join us Online & Sign up for Our E-newsletter

We have recently revamped our Facebook page and would love you to become a fan! We are regularly updating our page with photos, videos, news and information about upcoming events. To find us, simply go to www.facebook.com and search for 'Leprosy Mission New Zealand.' You can also follow us on twitter at <http://twitter.com/NZMission>

We have also recently given our e-newsletters a makeover! You can sign up to receive our e-news at www.leprosymission.org.nz/tlm-newsletter. Every month you will receive an email packed full of stories and information about our vital work with leprosy-affected individuals and their families around the world. We will also inform you about upcoming events and other exciting opportunities to get involved with our work.

Become a Prayer Partner

Your prayer is very important to us and essential to the success of our work. If you wish to receive our Prayer & Praise notes by email or post please contact Ngaira at ngaira.lynch@leprosymission.org.nz

'The Mission has been born and cradled in prayer. It has been brought up on prayer; it has been nourished on prayer; and prayer has been at the bottom of its success since the first moments of its life.' Wellesley Bailey, Founder of the Leprosy Mission



MAIN IMAGE: Anandaban hospital in Nepal.

India Nepal Visits 2011

You may remember that in March *inTouch* we offered you three very exciting opportunities to visit India and Nepal in 2010. We have filled all of the places for this year, but are pleased to announce that we will be running the trips again in 2011 and beyond!

Trek for Treatment in the Midlands of Nepal

Participants will spend time at Anandaban hospital, where they will see first-hand the difference the Leprosy Mission is making. There will be opportunities to participate in a variety of medical and healthcare activities. Following this, participants will take part in a guided trek that provides an interesting blend of culture, incredible mountain scenery and relaxation.

India Awareness Tour

An amazing opportunity to see the Leprosy Mission in action across a diverse range of projects in both urban and rural environments. The itinerary includes the cities of Delhi, Agra and Kolkata (Calcutta) and other centres in West Bengal. Participants will travel to the ancient city of Agra and visit the Taj Mahal.

Everest Base Camp

This 20-day trek to Mt. Everest Base Camp promises to be one of the Leprosy Mission's most rewarding journeys. The trip includes a 2 day visit to the Leprosy Mission hospital in Anandaban, followed by a challenging guided trek in one of the world's most impressive mountain ranges.

Upon their return, participants will be challenged to raise funds for the Leprosy Mission's work. For more information contact our Donor Development Manager Gillian Whitley on (09) 631 1806 or email her at

gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

What past participants have had to say about the trips....

"I was able to see a tendon transplant in the operating theatre, which helps to fix drop foot, one of the effects of leprosy. The resident surgeon was Dr Mark McDonald from New Zealand."

"It was so beautiful up in the forest. Huge rhododendrons and magnolias, they were as big as gum trees. It was just stunning. The butterflies were so big and the colours so vibrant. We looked across the ranges....they were like Tolkien, covered in moss."

"Everyone over 60 had their own personal Sherpa. They carried everything on their backs - tables, chairs, food and extra sleeping bags."

"The daily devotions were excellent in challenging people about their relationship with God."

"Alex (the trek chaplain) challenged people in their commitment endeavours as Christians in areas of service and ministry. We now have two participants who are considering changing their career paths to study nursing, a skill which can be utilised in developing countries."

"Meeting people affected by leprosy was a humbling experience because they seemed very content and happy despite the fact that some did not have much of their foot or left hand. They all had a smile for us and were happy to see us."

Be Inspired by Our New Books...

Here are just a few of the new books we have available for purchase. To see our full selection visit www.leprosymission.org.nz/online-book-shop



You are Special to God *Compiled by Liz Standbrook*

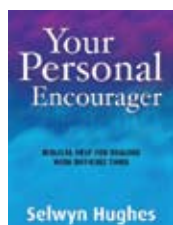
This beautiful gift book includes verses and quotes that affirm our worth and value to God, and reveal just how much He thinks of us. Illustrated with inspiring photos and carefully chosen words, this encouraging book reveals the richness of God's character and His awesome love for us.



Eggs, Fish and Banana Leaves

by Ruth Shakeshaft and Lindy Greaves

This book tells the extraordinary story of Ruth Shakeshaft, a young nurse who was called to be a missionary in Uganda. Working alongside people with leprosy, Ruth offered love and hope. This is a heartbreaking but uplifting story of the love she has for Uganda and its people.



Your Personal Encourager

by Selwyn Hughes

This book will show you how to find strength in God, even in the hardest circumstances. Learn to deal with issues such as fear, loneliness, temptation and bereavement and bring a new confidence to your relationships and attitudes. It will give you biblical support for 40 of life's most common problems along with relevant scriptures.

All of our books are available online and from our Auckland Office. Buy now before our prices go up with GST on October 1st! Call us on 0800 862 873, or email us at enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz.

Congratulations Rev. Fred Baker

Rev. Fred Baker, a long time supporter of the Leprosy Mission and member of our Christchurch Committee, received a Community Services Award in June to recognise 17 years of volunteer work in his local community. Fred has served many organisations and causes including the Papanui Handiscope, the North Canterbury Synod, the Leprosy Mission, the Journeys End Camp Committee, the Bishopdale Genealogy Group and the Methodist Church archives. Fred still conducts Church services and is the Convenor of the Management Committee for the Christchurch North Methodist Parish Budget Boutique (op shop).



Congratulations Fred from all of us here at the Leprosy Mission.

Little Angels Knitwear

Part time co-ordinator needed

A small Christian trust operating a Baby Knitwear business based in Auckland is seeking a special person to take over operations within the next twelve months. This is a sole-charge position requiring a skilled understanding of hand-knitted babywear. Volunteer knitters throughout New Zealand knit garments from wool supplied by the Trust. Garments require quality control, finishing and packaging for a major retail outlet. All profits are donated to the Leprosy Mission. Expressions of interest should be addressed to: Little Angels Knitwear, PO Box 20438, Auckland 0604 or phone/fax Patricia on 09 817 0494.

Bequests

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

Mr Frederick Wells Early – Christchurch
Janet Isabella Allan – Oamaru
Mrs Ruby May Hill – Levin
Mrs Beryl Madge Nichols – Christchurch
Mrs Louise A Eaton – Auckland
Mrs Patricia Bishop Moore – Auckland
Mr Lawrence Sanson – Ashburton
Mrs Myrtle Beatrice Darling – Auckland
Mrs Frances J Reardon – New Plymouth
Masie Jean Grant – Waipawa
Mrs Blanche Berfield Le Marquand – Timaru
Mrs Joyce Bagshaw – Nelson
Miss Grace Young Johnstone – Dunedin
Mrs Bernice Horn – Paraparaumu
Lady Claire Gowan – Christchurch
Mrs Jessie Mander Gray – Otago
Miss Ruth Elizabeth Edmonds – Invercargill
Norma Dawn Verissimo Broad – Auckland
Mrs Emily Margaret Howie – Whangaparaoa
Miss Muriel Enid Livesey – Timaru
Mrs Pauline Eva Mary Watkins – Masterton

Are you interested in leaving a bequest to the Leprosy Mission? If so, please feel free to phone our Donor Development Manager, Gillian Whitley, on 09 631 1806 for a confidential chat. You can also reach her at gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

Donations Received in Memory of

Mr Christopher Abbott – Wellington
Mr Frank & Mrs Doris Bateson – Tauranga
Mrs Kath Davison – Waitakere City
Mrs Margaret Howard – Christchurch
Mrs Elizabeth Ingram – Papatoetoe
Mrs Pat Jenkin – Motueka
Mr Allan McKinney – Whangamata
Mrs Mavis Nunns – Christchurch
Mrs Marigold Poot – Te Awamutu
Mrs Nancy Rich – Christchurch
Mrs Laurel White – Christchurch



Your letters

Here are a few of our favourite letters sent in recently by our loyal supporters.

"There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother." Prov. 18:24

I've found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!
He bled, He died to save me;
And not alone the gift of life,
but His own self He gave me:
Naught that I have my own I call,
I hold it for the Giver:
My heart, my strength, my life, my all,
Are His and His forever.

On 1st June I had my second cataract operation and am now rejoicing in being able to clearly read music again. I want to help people with leprosy protect this precious gift of good eyesight. May God bless the doctors and all the caring hospital staff for the dedicated work they carry out. – **Margaret**

Helping those in need

In reply to your request of 23rd July, please find enclosed an offer towards your projects. It certainly is a major concern that the government is doing away with the 4:1 subsidy for certain projects. My wife and I are heading off to Mukinge Hospital in Zambia for 3 months of volunteer work and hope to also help in a nearby leprosy village.

Wishing you God's blessings in your work and life, **The Reids**

THANK YOU Leprosy Mission New Zealand would not exist without people like you and we are extremely grateful for your ongoing support and prayer. You can send your messages and feedback to us in the post: PO Box 10227, Dominion Road, Auckland 1446 or by email at enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz

BACK COVER © Michael Bradley: A woman and her child, Faizabad, India.

Counting my pennies

Having reread your Leprosy News twice and prayed throughout, I felt moved to count my pennies and share more. My Heavenly Father always being my guide, Tina and Jaikumar will continue to be in my prayers not forgetting Savithiri & their two children. May God be with them evermore.

Sorry for mistakes – eye sight failing.
Something to do with ageing!

Thank you for your many letters, **Shirley**

**To: john.key@parliament.govt.nz;
Phil Goff; russel.norman@parliament.govt.nz;
tariana.turia@parliament.govt.nz;
rodney.hyde@parliament.govt.nz; tony.ryal@parliament.govt.nz;
Robertson, Grant**

Subject: Unconscionable funding cuts for programmes to treat and eradicate LEPROSY

LEPROSY is a biblical disease that continues to afflict humanity mainly in the Third World. In this modern age of relatively inexpensive, broad-spectrum antibiotics it is a devastating disease that can and should be eradicated.

Recently-announced changes to funding for humanitarian aid overseas have cut 75% of the New Zealand government's funding support for cost-effective programmes for leprosy treatment and eradication in impoverished regions where leprosy remains rife, including Nepal. I have personally witnessed Nepal's poverty as an education consultant.

The new focus of New Zealand's aid on the Pacific region, while laudable, will have devastating consequences for leprosy-affected individuals and their families in Nepal and other Third World countries. Sir Edmund Hilary surely would not have approved.

Increased New Zealand aid to the Pacific region, while laudable, must not victimise leprosy-affected individuals elsewhere in the Third World including Nepal. Sir Edmund would surely agree.

As a First World citizen of this planet, I find it unconscionable that the New Zealand government is effectively reducing by 75% the treatment for leprosy-affected people in Nepal and other Third World countries previously provided cost-effectively by the Leprosy Mission.

Shame on you.
– **George**



Leprosy MISSION NZ

100 years of families helping families

Leprosy Mission New Zealand

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