

inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 449 / Spring 2021

Your Global Covid Impact

Cure One Update

Annual Review 2020



The Leprosy
Mission
New Zealand

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Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of *inTouch*!

Whether you are reading this as one of the Leprosy Mission family of supporters; have received it from a friend; or picked it up at your local church it is a blessing to share with you the wonderful life changing stories in this magazine.

Thank you to all those that added their voice to the thousands around the world calling for an end to outdated and discriminatory leprosy laws. Can you imagine 130 laws still remain? They must be repealed. The petition will be presented to members of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in the coming days. I am very proud of the role we in New Zealand played in launching the Global petition and will keep you updated on the response.

Discrimination and stigma is in fact running through many of the stories in this magazine. In June I spoke to a young girl, Rose, in Papua New Guinea on the phone. Rose had suffered terribly from stigma related to leprosy. Her heart-breaking poem was shared in our Annual Appeal but her story is also one of hope. Rose is back at school and has a love of learning which is shown in both her articulate words over the phone and her poem.

Mental health has been in the spotlight in New Zealand and the worldwide pandemic has taken a toll on all of us. I take comfort in my relationship with the Heavenly Father and His grace. In our daily devotions, our team pray for your health and wellness, both physical and mental as we navigate this new world together.

As you read the many life-changing stories in this magazine, please continue to keep close to your heart individuals, their families and communities affected by leprosy.

God bless,

Gillian Whitley
Executive Director



P.S. Save The Date! On the **30th September** listen in to **Radio Rhema** for our annual **Cure One Day**. You can hear a full day of live interviews and updates from our overseas field partners throughout the day.

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand
Incorporated is a Registered Charity
Number CC37638

Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission New Zealand seeks to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

inTouch is published twice a year by The Leprosy Mission New Zealand.

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Facebook.com/leprosymissionnz

Thank you to Bruce Millar, Hannah Davey, Jane Walker, Kate Gent and Prashant Chaudhary for the amazing photos we feature.

Satendra Begins his Cure One Journey

Satendra's leprosy began with itchy patches on his hands and feet, and swollen fingers and toes.

He went to different doctors for check-ups. Unfortunately, Satendra was misdiagnosed and sent away with allergy medications.

Satendra's condition went misdiagnosed for 3 years!

Delayed treatment meant the leprosy bacteria in Satendra's body had damaged his nerve endings and caused his fingers to claw inwards.



The patches on his arms became much, much worse.

Satendra began to lose all the strength in his fingers and feet.

This was terrifying for Satendra.

"I could no longer hold a pen, it is very hard for me to write. So I left school when in 7th grade," said Satendra.

Thankfully, he got referred to Anandaban Hospital where he was diagnosed with leprosy.

Satendra was devastated and couldn't help but wonder what the others would think about him.



"My friends teased me about my leprosy and my skin..." Satendra said in anguish.

We can never imagine what was going through Satendra's mind, despair and depression broke his young heart. He took poison, trying to end his suffering forever. Thanks to God, his family found him in time for a hospital to save his life.

Satendra was put on multi-drug therapy (the cure for leprosy) and is now in the safe hands of the doctors and nurses in Anandaban Hospital.

Cure, Care for and Restore

'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' John 10:10

There is so much that can be achieved through Cure One. Leprosy robbed all that Satendra had, his freedom, his aspiration...

When you become a Cure One supporter, you have the power to completely Cure, Care and Restore one person like Satendra.

Satendra can be cured from this dreadful disease and receive counselling. He will be taught physiotherapy to ease the stiffness in his hands and feet. Satendra will also have his wounds dressed to prevent infection.

Your love and kindness also means Satendra can go back to school, continue his study and be with his friends. He wants to one day own a grocery store to earn a living and to support his family.

We will keep you updated with his progress over the next year.

If you would like to become a Cure One Supporter, please visit cureone.org.nz or contact Janesse on 0800 862 873 or email janesse.mendoza@leprosymission.org.nz



Cover Photo: Image of Rose from PNG who was featured in Annual Appeal 2021.

Ray of Hope amidst the Pandemic

Thank you for showing God's love to some of the most rejected, isolated, poverty-stricken people in Nepal... especially during the pandemic.

Forest of Joy

Tucked away in the forest - Anandaban is Nepali for "forest of joy".

With the global pandemic, this long running hospital has become a focal point not only for leprosy treatment but also for treating coronavirus.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers in this past year!

It has been vital to continue the important work of helping and protecting people affected by leprosy during the pandemic.

Thank you for helping to keep our frontline workers safe from Covid while still providing the vital care so desperately needed to those affected by leprosy.

Your love and kindness means the world to people affected by leprosy – a world of joy, hope and assurance.

Because of wonderful supporters like YOU,

- The Leprosy Mission Nepal has been able to pivot Anandaban Hospital to include services for coronavirus management.
- The Mycobacterial Research Laboratories at Anandaban Hospital is conducting Covid testing.
- The hospital also assigned 20 percent of their beds for isolating Covid patients. Setting up an isolation ward within the emergency room.
- They have been able to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect hospital staff on the frontlines of treating coronavirus in Nepal.
- Running a fever clinic with Rapid Diagnostic Testing (RDT) and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing both available to detect and confirm coronavirus cases as fast as possible.
- Ongoing stocks of sanitiser, masks and disinfecting soap are being distributed to patients and people affected by leprosy living on the grounds of the hospital.
- Anandaban was one of the first hospitals in Nepal to start administering the vaccine for Covid.

Do you remember Saraswati?

Many of us experienced levels of isolation during the pandemic in 2020 but Saraswati knew isolation for years.

But her isolation is different, it was driven by fear, hatred and stigma about leprosy.

Thanks to you, at Anandaban she found a welcoming and safe place. Thank you for remembering the world's most vulnerable people - people like Saraswati.

Your love and compassion means Anandaban Hospital can continue to provide all essential medical services whilst protecting staff and patients from the threat of Covid.

Saraswati is continuing her course of antibiotics to be fully cured of leprosy. She is looking forward to returning to her studies. Her dream is to one day become a police officer.



Thank you for giving Saraswati a hopeful future!

Your Love Reaches Out

As a new wave of coronavirus ravages the country, an opportunity came up and we here in New Zealand, with your support, were able to reach out to local fair trade organisation with support.

As well as medical treatment for people affected by leprosy, your love and compassion help provide training in handicraft skills and sustainable jobs. This is crucial for someone who has been ostracised from their family and community. Even if they've been cured, the stigma and discrimination lingers.

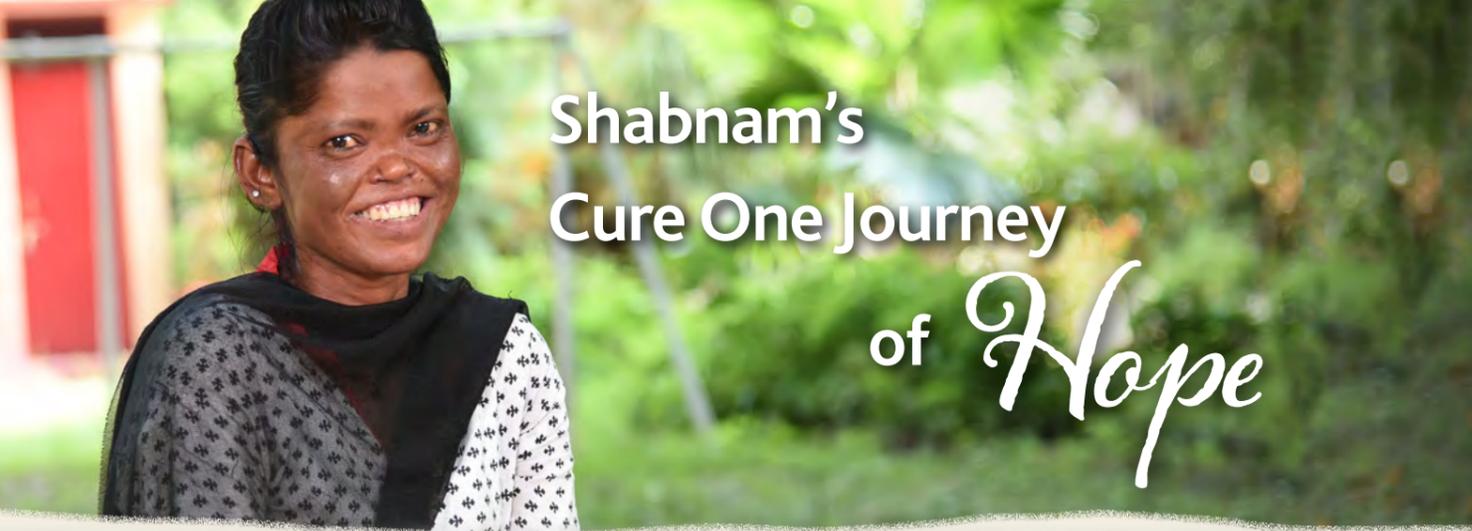
All profits go towards land and homes for workers, healthcare, schooling for children affected by

leprosy, free day care centres and treatment for people affected by leprosy.

Because of people like you, we are able to help contribute to sustainable livelihoods for people affected by leprosy during the Covid pandemic. We commissioned the production of some beautiful handmade paper and felt Christmas decorations for our upcoming Really Good Gifts Christmas appeal.

Stay tuned to see how you can receive these special handicrafts made by people affected by leprosy in Nepal!





Shabnam's Cure One Journey of Hope

Shabnam was a young girl in India who had lost her mother and lived in a poverty stricken neighbourhood. When she was diagnosed with Leprosy her already difficult home life became unbearable as she faced rejection from her own family members.

When you first met Shabnam she was receiving the Cure through Leprosy Mission Shahdara Hospital. We then followed Shabnam as she undertook a residential tailoring course through the Faizabad Vocational Training Centre you support.



Thanks to you, Shabnam could learn how to tailor and sew garments.

However, it has been the most vulnerable that have been hit hardest by Covid.

When students were sent home and the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) was forced to shut down, Shabnam had nowhere to go. She was kindly taken in by the Missionaries of Charity.

Throughout these months that we have been following up with Shabnam, all those past feelings of rejection have come flooding back to her.

We knew we needed to show Shabnam that she is precious to God and there are those that love and care for her.

To do this, we were able to connect with Dr Ruby who you may remember is the Superintendent at Naini Hospital.



Dr Ruby personally met and spoke to Shabnam and encouraged her that she will have a bright future.

Dr Ruby was able to counsel her not to give up and we are making arrangements for Shabnam to go back to complete her tailoring.

Life is not easy for a young woman without family support in India. **Through your good work, Shabnam has been able to be Cured, she is receiving Care through both medical and counselling support and she will receive the training and support to be Restored. Thank you!**

Our commitment to Shabnam is not complete until she has the training needed to get a good job, so she can support herself and have a brighter future.

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

Shabnam's journey will continue to be followed.

Annual Review 2020

Thanks to your ongoing support, The Leprosy Mission New Zealand (LMNZ) remains committed to curing, caring for and restoring people affected by leprosy.

Your kindness and generosity continues to instil in us heartfelt gratitude. The significant impact of your invaluable contributions in the past financial year is underpinned by the \$3,716,177 we could commit to our overseas ministry.

We cannot thank you enough for joining hands with us in the mission share. Thank you for making this life-changing work possible.

Throughout 2020, projects you support brought essential services and support to leprosy-affected individuals, their families and their communities in Bangladesh, Bougainville, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Papua New Guinea.



Cure *Zero Transmission*

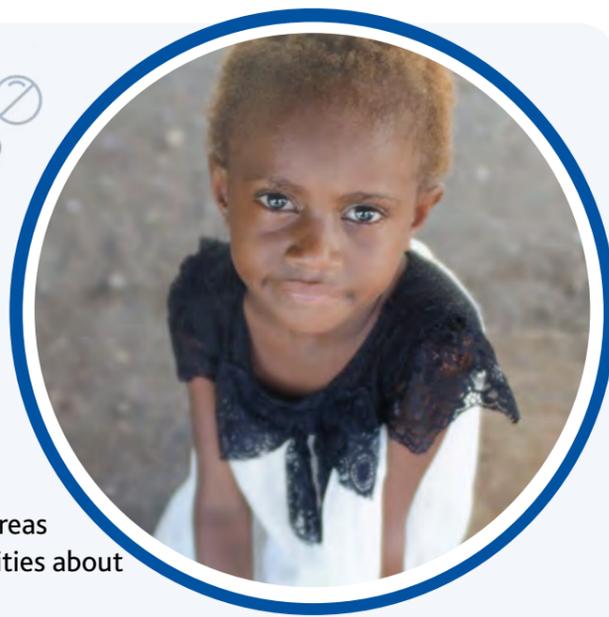


With your support in 2020,

1,664 people affected by leprosy received multi-drug therapy treatment in New Zealand supported projects.

716 new leprosy cases were diagnosed in New Zealand supported projects.

In 2020, **awareness raising programmes** in leprosy-affected areas were undertaken to educate individuals, families and communities about the signs and symptoms of the disease.



Despite Covid restrictions, project staff were able to continue to help **find and diagnose those affected by leprosy**. Using technology and PPE, staff were able to continue to reach and communicate with people affected by leprosy.

Because of the strong community networks in vulnerable communities, our leprosy project partners in India, PNG, Bougainville, Bangladesh and Nepal were also involved in raising community awareness of Covid. We were able to keep the most vulnerable safe and continuing their cure for leprosy.

Care *Zero Disability*



Disability is not an inevitable consequence of leprosy but people continue to be affected by it if not treated early. Thanks to you, we can provide cutting edge healthcare to people affected by leprosy.

Hospitals that you support provide **reconstructive surgery, physiotherapy, counselling and ulcer treatment**. In projects that you support, people affected by leprosy are taught self-care for ulcers to prevent disability and provided with **assistive equipment, crutches and wheelchairs** as well as **prosthetics**.



With your support in 2020,

357 people received ulcer treatment and reconstructive surgery in New Zealand supported projects.

4,251 people were taught about self-care for ulcers in New Zealand supported projects.

1,690 pairs of protective sandals were provided in New Zealand supported projects.

324 people were supplied with assistive devices (prosthetics, crutches and wheel chairs etc) in New Zealand supported projects.



Restore *Zero Discrimination*

In the projects that you support, people affected by leprosy are restored back to their communities and empowered to challenge injustice and self-advocate for their rights and entitlements.

LMNZ supports **livelihoods development** in all its projects. This involves **livelihoods training** and opportunities for **income generating activities**. Through this, people affected by leprosy are able to lift themselves out of poverty and build a better future for themselves and their families.

Together with your support, we will see people affected by leprosy enjoy full participation in public, economic and cultural life.

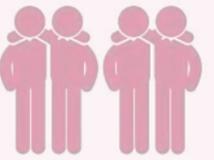
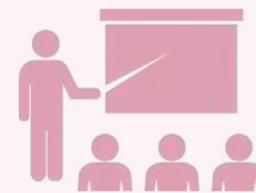


With your support in 2020,

3,917 people were in self-help groups in New Zealand supported projects.

2,838 people were trained in advocacy, leadership and rights in New Zealand supported projects.

1,913 Village Health Volunteers were trained in Health Development in New Zealand supported projects.



The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship is a global federation of 30 Leprosy Mission national organisations.

Together in 2020, the Global Fellowship has achieved many successes including:

254,068,146 people reached by assistance given to government public health programmes.

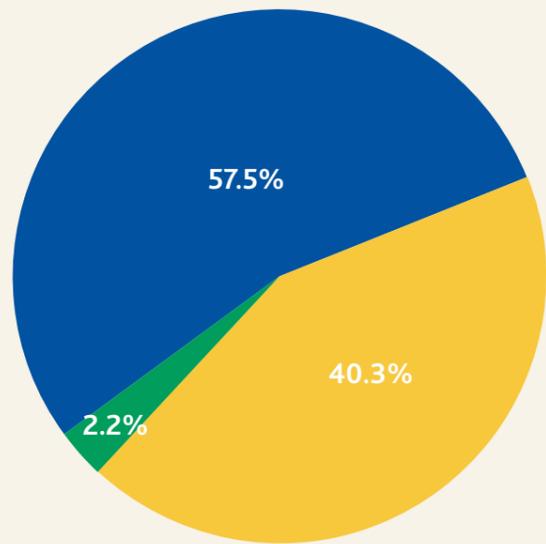
29,812 training days were conducted for doctors, nurses, and aid staff.

23,902 people affected by leprosy and disability participated in self-help groups.

36 projects around the world.

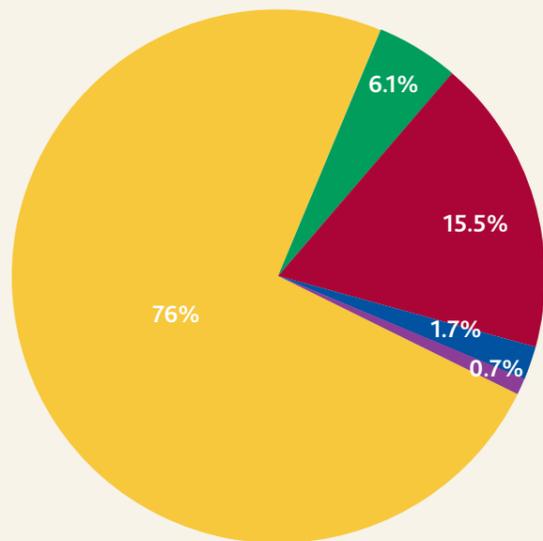


Income Received



NZ Government Grants	40.3%	\$2,314,904
Private Income	57.5%	\$3,292,046
Interest/ Other Income	2.2%	\$127,758
Total	100%	\$5,734,708

Where the money goes



Overseas Ministries	76%
Education	6.1%
Investing in future income and communicating to the NZ public	15.5%
Administration	1.7%
Depreciation	0.7%
Total	100%

The Year in Figures

This financial information summary is for the 12 months from 1 January to 31 December 2020, and is from the fully audited accounts. The Annual Report is available at www.leprosymission.org.nz/AnnualReport20

Thank you for your committed support.

Thank You

On behalf of people and families affected by leprosy we would like to thank every single one of you who have supported us in our mission.

We would like to acknowledge all of our financial supporters, including individual donors, those who have passed away and so thoughtfully remembered us in their Will, The New Zealand Aid Programme (the NZ Government's official aid for developing countries), churches and businesses.

Over the last 12 months our volunteers have given countless hours of their time, and we cannot begin to express just how much of a difference this has made to our work. We would also like to thank our Prayer Partners for continuing to remember our work in their prayers.

We are very thankful for the ongoing commitment of our Committee members, our Society members and our dedicated Board members who give their time and skills and support us so willingly.

Finally, we would like to thank our field partners and The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship staff for all of their hard work and support.



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Your Global Covid Impact

Thank you for not forgetting people affected by leprosy during the pandemic. Thank you for demonstrating God's love in practical ways to the poor and most vulnerable in their time of need.



India says *Thank you*

India has one of the world's highest rates of covid cases. Leprosy Mission hospitals are under immense strain – over 50 staff have been diagnosed with Covid. But with your support, the work continues as they recover.

Thanks to New Zealanders who responded to the emergency appeal we sent out earlier this year, we were able to provide BiPAP and CPAP oxygen machines to Naini hospital. Your support also helped provide assistance to hospitals' community Covid response by providing emergency rations and essential supplies to people affected by leprosy.



Bangladesh says

Thank you

Bangladesh is in a difficult situation due to Covid pandemic and multiple lockdowns. Because of you, our team in Bangladesh are able to respond quickly to the need.

Soap and facemasks were distributed among self-help group members and their communities. Members also had training on personal hygiene and Covid awareness.

With your support, people affected by leprosy like Rima were able to receive an emergency relief grant.



Nepal says *Thank you*

You've helped ensure leprosy diagnosis and treatment continues in Nepal during the pandemic. This is vital to ensure early identification of leprosy cases before complications or disability occurs.

With your support, our team was able to pivot to telemedicine and tele counselling. The hospital staff have worked tirelessly to ensure multi-drug therapy, the cure for leprosy, remains available and accessible.

PNG & Bougainville says *Thank you*

Your love and support means our teams in PNG and Bougainville could effectively support local government Covid response by leveraging their strong community networks and volunteers.

The team on the frontlines were able to continue the much needed work in diagnosing and treating leprosy. They were able to extend their training sessions to include the Covid awareness.

You also help provide crisis supplies for people affected by leprosy who can no longer work due to the pandemic.



These impactful works would be impossible without help like yours!

Youth Advocates' Water Project

Each year, we choose a group of enthusiastic young people to become advocates for the vital work we do with leprosy-affected individuals and their families.

Unfortunately, this year because of the global pandemic, we weren't able to run our Youth Advocates programme. However, we want to take this opportunity to celebrate what our eight amazing 2020 Youth Advocates were able to achieve through their different fundraisers, and your faithful support.

Last year, our eight Youth Advocates from all over New Zealand were able to raise over \$25,000 through events like Movie and Quiz Nights, Bake Sales, church talks and running the Marathon.

With this incredible fundraising effort, they were able to pay for a **new water pipe and pump** which will provide access to a quality, clean, reliable, water supply for Anandaban Hospital.

Water is a fundamental human need. It is essential for drinking, cooking and keeping yourself clean. Polluted water can be deadly, causing sickness and disease. A poor water supply may also dry up in the hot season, causing water shortages, and in monsoon season it becomes even more contaminated with mud and water runoff.



Youth Advocates visiting Anandaban Hospital in Nepal with Gillian Whitley, LMNZ Executive Director.



This new pipe goes down 157 meters into the ground and a pump will push this clean water up the pipe to Anandaban Hospital.

Thank you!

This is absolutely life-changing for the leprosy patients and staff that stay at Anandaban Hospital.

Supporter Spotlight

Last year on the 29th of September, Robert was listening to Radio Rhema when he heard Shabnam's story. That day Robert picked up the phone and made a commitment to Cure, Care and Restore a person like Shabnam of leprosy.

We are delighted to welcome Robert into the Leprosy Mission family of supporters. At 80 years young, Robert has had a full and wonderful life and is continuing to bless those around him through his later years.

A few years ago, God revealed a gift and talent that was already inherent within him. The artist in him was birthed and Robert has since used his art to provide an interest for himself to minister to others.

Robert faces his own health issues but he says this gives him an even greater appreciation for others suffering and a desire to help. Steadfast and resolute, he lives each day to do the Lord's bidding despite his ill health and many setbacks.

He has become a prayer partner for people affected by leprosy and receives our monthly prayer and praise diaries. Robert is also a technologically savvy senior and operates a facebook account



where he sends daily devotionals all over the world - **Robert Benn Daily Prayer.**

"It may not always be easy, but as a person of faith, God calls upon you to serve others and bring His light to them" he said.



Robert inspires us that God works in wonderful and mysterious ways through his people. Please join us in celebrating Robert and all our wonderful supporters like you who show love and care to people affected by leprosy.

He credits God for the amazing acrylic works that have been so artistically created through his hands. **He has generously allowed us to reprint one here to share with you to use as a bookmark. Thank you Robert!**



Save the Date Rhema Cure One Day 30 September

We are delighted to let you know that we are back with Rhema Cure One Day this year!

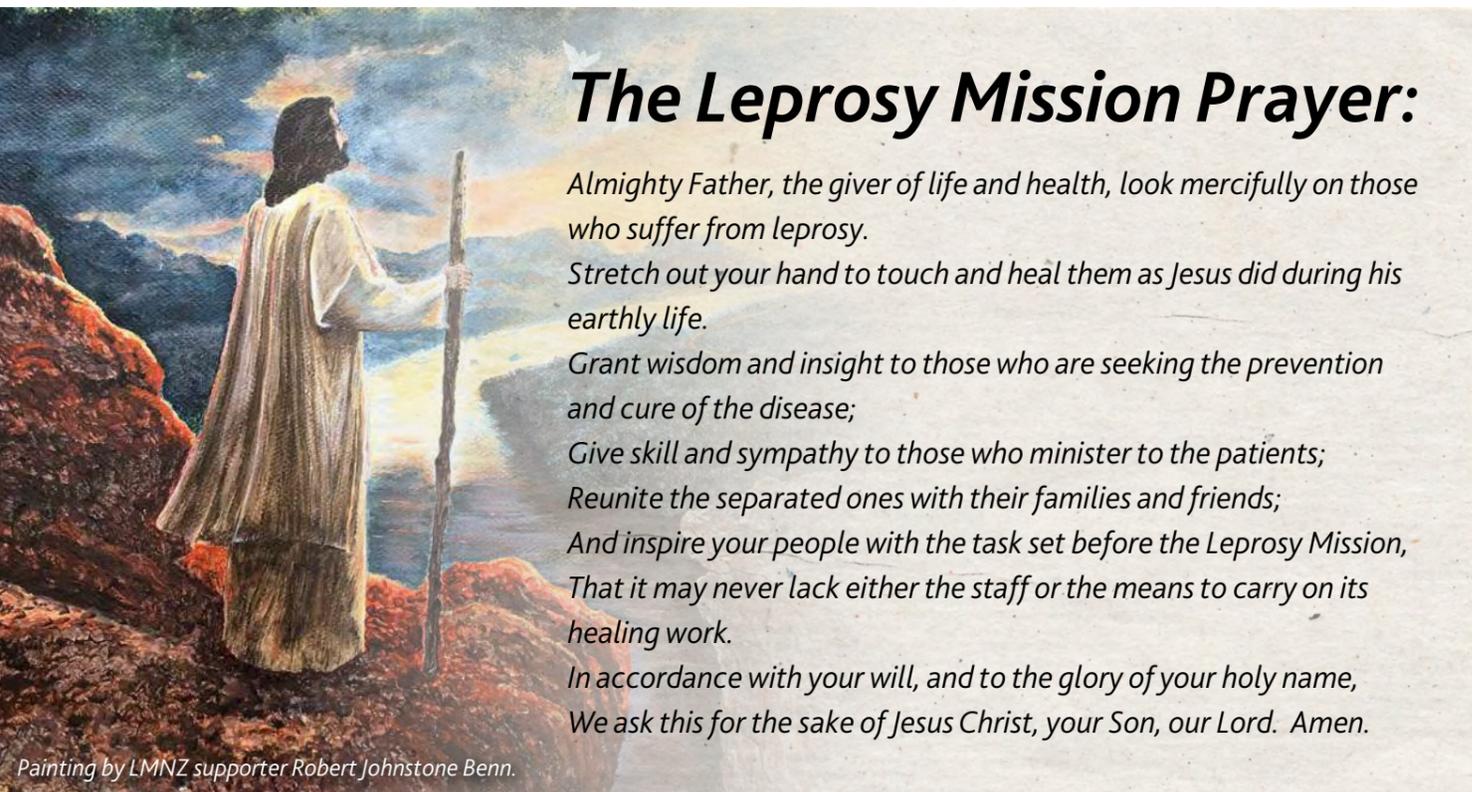
In partnership with Radio Rhema, Life FM and Star, we are able to share stories of people affected by leprosy like Satendra, and spread the heartfelt message of *No Child with leprosy by 2035* nationwide.

You are invited to be part of this amazing journey as we continue in our mission to defeat leprosy and transform lives.

Please pray for and listen in to this special day of compassion and generosity of heart, and learn how you can Cure, Care for and Restore the life of One Person affected by leprosy.

What a wonderful way to achieve a world a world where leprosy is defeated and lives are transformed!

Your support brings hope and a brighter future for someone affected by leprosy, like Satendra.



The Leprosy Mission Prayer:

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy.

Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life.

Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease;

Give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients;

Reunite the separated ones with their families and friends;

And inspire your people with the task set before the Leprosy Mission,

That it may never lack either the staff or the means to carry on its healing work.

In accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name,

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Thank you so much for standing with us in prayer.

Every morning at 9:00am, the Leprosy Mission NZ team get together in prayer for all the needs of the Leprosy Mission family. We would love to pray for you also, so if you have any prayer needs please let us know. May God bless you!

If you wish to receive Prayer & Praise diaries or if you have any prayer requests, please contact Denise on 0800 862 873, or denise.herd@leprosymission.org.nz

KEEPING YOUR GIFTS SAFE AND SECURE

With the removal of cheques and changing technology, we all want to know that our personal information and methods of giving are safe and secure.

First and foremost, we commit to keep your personal information secure, use it only to communicate with you, and will not provide it to any third parties without your prior consent.

Here are some ways that Leprosy Mission ensures the safety and security of your donations:

Credit or Debit Card



Talk to us direct at the Leprosy Mission office in Auckland on the free phone number **0800 862 873** and you can make a secure debit/ credit card donation payment over the phone. Or fill in your details on your appeal letter response.

Safety and Security: To keep your information secure we will never ask you for your CVC number. **Registered organisations do not need CVC numbers to process a donation.** When calling the Leprosy Mission office, remember to save us to your contacts so you will know when we call.

Bank Deposit



The Leprosy Mission NZ BNZ bank account is: **02 0264 0029018 05**
In the reference field, please enter your name and phone number (or supporter number if you know it).

Safety and security: we are a **registered biller** and you can look us up by name (Leprosy Mission NZ) on online banking and by saving us as a saved payee this will make it easier for you next time.

One-off Direct Debit Authority Form



You decide the amount and when you want to give by filling out the appeal response form. This information is held securely as we are the **registered initiator** of the **direct debit that you authorise.**

Safety and security: This is one of the more easy and secure ways. After you signed the one-off Direct Debit Authority Form, only the Leprosy Mission can take the money out from your bank account, and **only as and when you authorise each time** you fill out your appeal response form.

Leprosy Mission Website



You can make a secure payment direct on the Leprosy Mission website using a Credit or Debit card or POLi (bank account to bank account provider) at leprosymission.org.nz/donate

Safety and security: please type leprosymission.org.nz directly into your web browser to ensure you are going to the right website.



A padlock icon will appear at the top of the webpage. This ensures your personal information is secure.

Cure One today

A world without leprosy tomorrow



"I am willing," He said. "Be clean!"

Jesus cured leprosy in his lifetime, we are called to end it in ours.

Being a Cure One supporter gives you the chance to walk with one person, like Satendra, on their journey to freedom from leprosy.

With a monthly gift you will cure, care for and restore one person affected by leprosy each year.

Call 0800 862 873

Join Cure One at cureone.org.nz

Or for more information please fill out the response below and post back to us.



The Leprosy
Mission
Cure One



Cut along dotted line

If you would like to find out more, please cut out this response and send to:
Cure One Enquiry, The Leprosy Mission New Zealand, PO Box 96262, Balmoral, Auckland 1342



I would like to find out more about becoming a regular supporter with Cure One

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments: _____
