

# inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 451 / Spring 2022

Cure One Update

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Annual Review 2021



The Leprosy  
Mission  
New Zealand

Te Mihana Tūwhenua o Aotearoa

## Contents

3	Maya begins her Cure One journey
4-5	Miracle Ulcer Treatment
6	Restored by You
7-10	Annual Review 2021
11	Contact Tracing
12	Found and Cured
13	The Joy of Giving
14	Rhema Cure One Day
15	Prayer and Praise, Books

# Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of *inTouch*!

Inside you will find wonderfully uplifting stories of lives that have been changed forever thanks to your kind support.

2022 is a special year in the life of the Leprosy Mission – this year we celebrate 110 years in New Zealand. Time has flown by so quickly and I am blessed and humbled to be able to journey with wonderful supporters like you to continue our fight against leprosy.

In my role, I see how each of your gifts are channelled into creating a new life for people affected by leprosy, like 19 year old Satendra in Nepal and 12 year old Charlie in Papua New Guinea.

This year we have secured government funding to implement new projects in PNG, Timor Leste and, potentially, Kiribati. Also, we can commit funds to support research projects in Bangladesh and preventative programmes in Dr Congo, Nepal and Indonesia. These projects will enable us to break through barriers in reaching our goal of No Child with Leprosy by 2035.

Praise God for the open doors and please remember these new endeavours in your thoughts and prayers.

As you sit down and enjoy reading the stories in this magazine, please know that they are wonderful outcomes that simply could not happen without your prayers, love, and support.

God bless,

Gillian Whitley  
Executive Director



**P.S. Save The Date!** On Thursday 22nd September please tune into Rhema for our annual Cure One Day. You can hear a full day of live interviews and updates from our overseas field partners.

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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Thank you to Bishal Ghimire, Bruce Millar, Daniel Christians, Hannah Davey, Kate Gent for the amazing photos we feature.

# Maya begins her Cure One Journey

Maya is a 7 year old girl from Nepal.

She is our new Cure One ambassador who represents children whose lives are still being destroyed by leprosy today.

Maya's leprosy began as small wounds on her skin. Festering and oozing, they scarred her face. A local clinic said it was just a rash, but when Maya's hands seized up and bent like claws her mother knew it was leprosy.

Leprosy-panic swept through their village. Maya lost all her friends, and she was pressured into stopping school.

The social stigma at its worst, tragedy stuck this family again as they were left homeless as their house was destroyed by floods.

## Light in the Darkness

Thankfully, Maya was referred to a Leprosy Mission clinic nearby where she was diagnosed with leprosy and was put on the much needed multi-drug therapy to cure her leprosy.

Maya's diagnosis broke her mum's heart. This family had been through so much already as leprosy weakened her father so badly he died of tuberculosis.

**"When these bad things happened, we worried we may not afford treatment for Maya's leprosy," says Maya's mother.**

Maya needs to take daily antibiotics to cure her leprosy.



**"I want to go to school," says Maya.**

Thanks to kind supporters like you, children like Maya can be cured of leprosy and have a new lease of life.

## Cure, Care for and Restore

Maya's story is full of sadness, but it doesn't have to be this way.

There's so much that can be achieved through Cure One. Maya can complete her full course of leprosy medication, and she will be able to learn to take care of her wounds to prevent infections.

Your love and compassion mean Maya can be restored to her community and go back to school.

**You have the power to Cure One, like Maya today.**

We will share her progress over the next year.



If you would like to become a Cure One Supporter, please visit [www.cureone.org.nz](http://www.cureone.org.nz) or phone 0800 862 873 or email [cureone@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:cureone@leprosymission.org.nz)



Cover Photo: Image of our Cure One ambassador Satendra from Nepal.

# Miracle Ulcer Treatment

**"It is a real joy to see the happiness in the faces of leprosy patients,"**

**Dr Indra says.**

Dr. Indra Napit is an Orthopaedic and Reconstructive Surgeon at the Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Nepal.

He works tirelessly with the team to ensure leprosy patients receive top quality leprosy and orthopaedic services.

He is pioneering a brand new life-changing treatment. It heals deep ulcers and cuts down healing time significantly for leprosy patients. It's called the Leukocyte & Platelet Rich Fibrin (L-PRF) procedure.

Doctors take a sample of the patient's own blood, spin it in centrifuge to extract the plasma and red cells, then allow it to clot before flattening it into a thin "patch". This is then applied to the surface of the ulcer. Staff then bandage the patient's ulcer, and the process is repeated weekly.

## 1 in 5 leprosy affected by leprosy develop ulcers

People affected by leprosy have frequent hospital stays to cure ulcers, which can take many months or even years to heal.

Wonderfully, with this new pioneering treatment, hospital admission time is reduced drastically from six to eight months to only 7 weeks!

It also means Anandaban Hospital can have greater capacity to treat more leprosy patients and continue to offer a lifeline to people affected by leprosy.

**Praise God - and thank you for your kindness and support for Anandaban Hospital.**

**A ground-breaking development made possible because of you!**

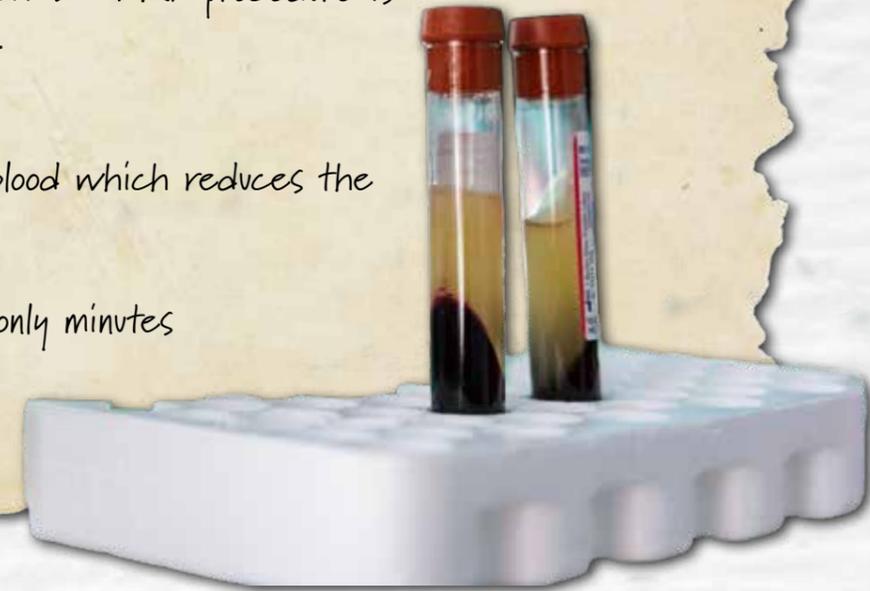


## Facts about new ulcer treatment:

- Causing no discomfort to the patient
- Chronic ulcers typically require hospital treatment ranging from days to years. But the new L-PRF procedure is quick, simple, and painless.

## Advantages include:

- Using the patient's own blood which reduces the chance of infection
- A procedure that takes only minutes



## New Hope for Urmila

*"There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." Psalm 23:18*

Faster healing times are life-changing for patients like Urmila, who made a 16-hour bus journey to The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital for the new treatment.

The last 25 years have been tough for Urmila and Anandaban has become her second home.

She has spent much of her life at the hospital where she was first diagnosed and treated for leprosy when she was only 11.

Urmila has a particularly persistent ulcer on her foot that has not healed even after years of treatment. She walks with crutches and rarely leaves the house.

However, after receiving L-RPF treatment, the severe wound on Urmila's foot is finally healing. She will be discharged after a few weeks with a specially designed protective shoe to prevent further injury.

Urmila's wide smiles shows the hope and determination she now has for her future.

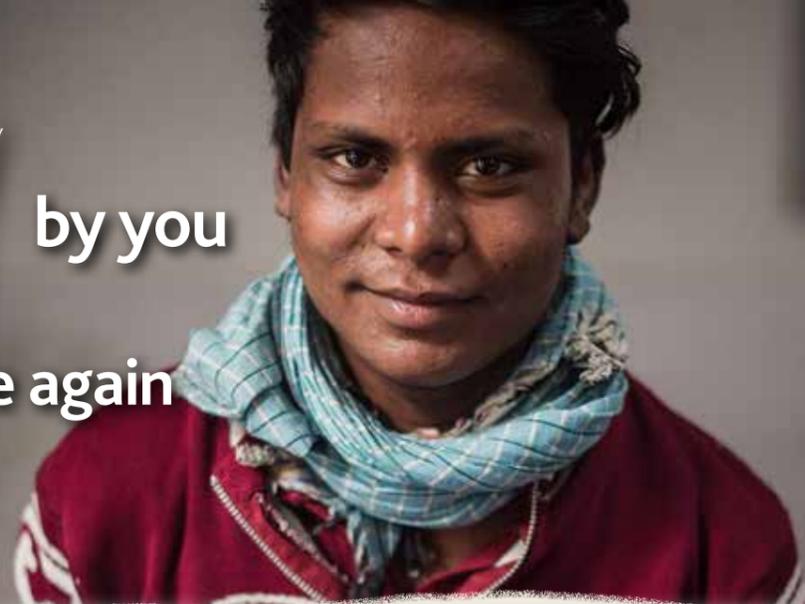


She said excitedly:

***"If my leg is better then I will learn weaving and open a shop selling shawls and clothes."***

# Restored by you

## Satendra can hope again



For almost a year we have shared Satendra's story with you. Thanks to the commitment and prayers from our wonderful Cure One supporters, Satendra's life has been completely transformed.

When Satendra was barely entering his teens, his fingers and toes became itchy and swollen. Doctors could give him no answers to this mystery illness – so for years, from childhood through his teens, leprosy had free rein to damage Satendra's body and devastate his young life.

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

The next few months were a challenge for Satendra as he experienced teasing from his friends and community. Despair and depression broke his young heart. Satendra took poison, trying to end his suffering forever.

Thankfully, his family found him in time to save his life.

### Satendra restored

Because of kind supporters like you, Satendra received the much-needed cure and care in Anandaban Hospital. He is now cured of leprosy!

While he was in hospital, Satendra was taught self-care practices and daily physiotherapy. He also received counselling. It was vital to rebuild his confidence and spirit.

Your support also means Satendra is preparing and planning for his future small business journey with support from the Leprosy Mission Nepal team.

As part of the healing process you have enabled Satendra to fulfil his dream of setting up his own grocery shop. This will be the first grocery shop in his village of a growing community of more than 150 houses.

Leprosy could have robbed everything from this bright young man, but because of people like you, Satendra has been cured, cared for and restored.



*"Thank you for giving me a new life! Thank you for caring for me and my family," Satendra rejoices.*

Words cannot express how much that means to him.

**Your love and compassion have made it possible for Satendra to hope again and flourish in life.**

# Annual Review 2021

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, generosity and faith continues to instil in us heartfelt gratitude. The significant impact of your invaluable contributions in the past financial year is underpinned by the \$3,717,026 we could commit to our overseas ministry.

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

Throughout 2021, projects you support brought essential services and support to leprosy-affected individuals, their families and their communities in Bangladesh, Bougainville, DR Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Papua New Guinea.



# Cure *Zero Transmission*



## Indonesia

Indonesia has the third highest number of new leprosy cases in the world. Leprosy Mission New Zealand is a supporting partner of Netherlands Leprosy Relief - Indonesia to support the PEPCOM project in Indonesia.

## Bougainville

LMNZ through its supporters and in partnership with the NZ Government's Aid Programme\*, supports the Bougainville Healthy Community Programme which strengthens communities, helping them to be healthy and leprosy free.

### With your support in 2021,



**1,103** people affected by leprosy received multi-drug therapy treatment in New Zealand supported projects.

**1,188** new leprosy cases were diagnosed in New Zealand supported projects.



# Care *Zero Disability*



## Nepal

LMNZ is a supporting partner of the Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Kathmandu. The hospital's goal is to provide comprehensive quality care for leprosy patients and medical services to the local community.

## India

LMNZ has been supporting Muzaffarpur Hospital over an extended period of time and are delighted that the hospital is now fully sustainable for their everyday operational costs. Financial support has transferred to the Leprosy Mission's Salur Hospital in Andhra Pradesh (south-east India) aiming to partner with them towards sustainability.

### With your support in 2021,

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

**5,616** people received physiotherapy in NZ supported projects.

**1,860** pairs of protective sandals were provided in New Zealand supported projects.

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



# Restore *Zero Discrimination*

## Papua New Guinea

Communities received training on income generation, gender issues, health and managing micro-credit through The Sustainable Livelihoods Development Programme. 93 Community Facilitators raised awareness of leprosy in 50 communities and referred patients to health clinics.

## Bangladesh

The Chattagram People-Led Development programme gives people affected by leprosy and disability the skills and support they need to become fully self-reliant and active members of their communities.

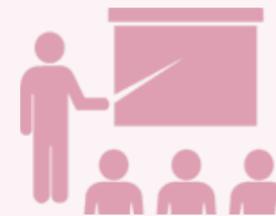
## Ethiopia

LMNZ continues to provide educational support grants for children affected by leprosy in Ethiopia.



### With your support in 2021,

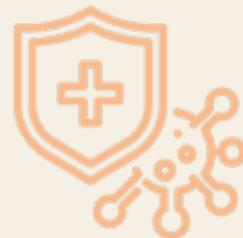
**3,824** people were in self-help groups in New Zealand supported projects.



**6,068** people were trained in advocacy, leadership and rights in New Zealand supported projects.

**1,152** Village Health Volunteers were trained in Health Development in New Zealand supported projects.

# Your Urgent Covid Response



## India

107,075 Personal Protective Equipment (Gloves, Masks, Face shields, PPE Gowns) provided.

680 people affected by leprosy received comprehensive COVID Care (COVID tests, vaccination, medicine).

## Myanmar

Emergency Food parcels and cash to people affected by leprosy as part of their Covid -19 emergency response.

5 laptops were donated to the Leprosy Mission Myanmar staff team as staff were working from home due to Covid lockdown and political situations.

## Bougainville

The Leprosy Mission played a significant part in the Autonomous Bougainville Government's Covid response; by providing Covid awareness in field-based training and awareness activities on behalf of the Department of Health (DoH).

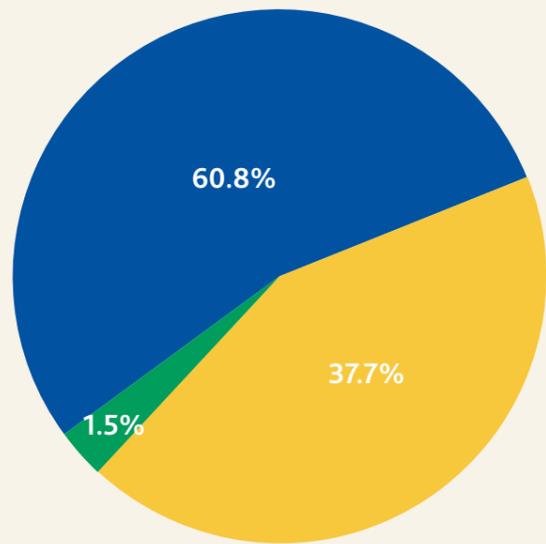
## Nepal

The Mycobacterial Research Laboratories at Anandaban Hospital received permission to conduct Covid testing. The hospital also assigned 20 percent of their beds for isolating Covid patients.

The team pivoted to telemedicine and telecounselling, and ensured multi-drug therapy, remained available and accessible.

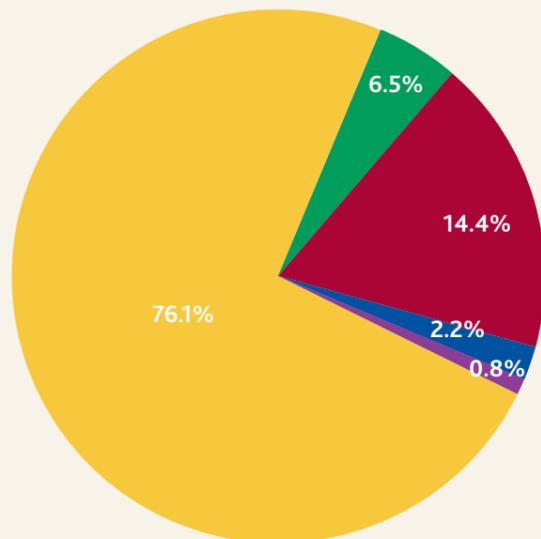
\*The New Zealand Aid Programme is the New Zealand Government's official aid for developing countries.

## Income Received



Private Income	60.8%	\$3,627,702
NZ Government Grants	37.7%	\$2,246,158
Interest/ Other Income	1.5%	\$91,660
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$5,965,520</b>

## Where the money goes



Overseas Ministries	76.1%
Education	6.5%
Investing in future income and communicating to the NZ public	14.4%
Administration	2.2%
Depreciation	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## The Year in Figures

This financial information summary is for the 12 months from 1 January to 31 December 2021, and is from the fully audited accounts. The Annual Report is available at [www.leprosymission.org.nz/AnnualReport21](http://www.leprosymission.org.nz/AnnualReport21)

**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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# Contact Tracing

## is crucial to stopping leprosy

In recent years we have heard about contract tracing in relation to stopping the spread of Covid-19. The same is true for leprosy. If we are to end the transmission of leprosy by 2035, contact tracing will be a key tactic to find undiagnosed leprosy and reduce the risk of contacts to develop leprosy.

With your faithful support funding is provided to support contact tracing preventative programmes in Bangladesh, D.R. Congo, Indonesia, and Nepal. These are called 'PEP' projects as they target households and communities with Post-Exposure to leprosy and administer a Prophylaxis treatment to prevent the disease.

The people most likely to develop leprosy are those who are living with, or close to, an untreated infectious person. Mobile health clinics and skin camps are facilitated to seek out undiagnosed leprosy along with community awareness programmes in high leprosy endemic communities.

When we diagnose a person affected by leprosy, we work with them to create a list of their household and community contacts who can then be screened for symptoms of leprosy. Contacts who are not diagnosed with leprosy can receive a single dose of preventative medicine in the form of an antibiotic, rifampicin.

**Studies have shown that PEP treatment using single-dose-rifampicin can significantly reduce new cases of leprosy. Further clinical trials are being developed for testing other antibiotic treatments for improved effectiveness.**

**Thanks to you, in NZ supported projects during 2021, there were 4,870 people identified as contacts of people diagnosed with leprosy and they received the single-dose rifampicin treatment.**

You may remember the recent story about Abish from Bangladesh shared with you earlier this year. Abish contracted leprosy at a very young age and thankfully was diagnosed and received treatment through a Leprosy Mission mobile health clinic in his village. Contact tracing, diagnosis and treatment of leprosy or provision of preventative treatment in his community will further support reducing transmission towards the ultimate goal of **No Child with Leprosy by 2035.**



**2035  
NO CHILD  
WITH LEPROSY**

# Found and Cured

- because of you!



*"I am amazed by how planes fly, and I want to become a pilot when I grow up."*

We wrote to you about Charlie from Papua New Guinea in July, a young boy whose life has been ravaged by leprosy.

Charlie's first symptom of leprosy was the tell-tale patches of numb skin on his back. His friends started to tease him.

Devastated, Charlie stopped playing his beloved sport and going to school altogether.

**Because of you, Charlie will be able to go back to school, play with his friends and dream again.**

## Aroha from Aotearoa

Thank you for your prayers and support, especially all those who sent a heartfelt message to Charlie to show him how much you care about him.

Amongst the many uplifting messages, we also received a beautiful drawing from 6 year old Iris – a drawing for Charlie.



**Thank you for filling Charlie's heart with hope and joy.**

Your support has helped train village health volunteers in Papua New Guinea to find hidden leprosy cases like Charlie's. Just like you, they are working to end leprosy and the heartache surrounding it. Each day they walk hand in hand with someone like Charlie on the journey to being cured.

*"When Nana read me Charlie's story, I wanted to help send him a card to get better, so I drew a picture of a plane because I know he wants to fly planes," says Iris.*



*His smile says it all!*

A few members of our team at the Leprosy Mission were in Papua New Guinea recently and had the opportunity to give your cards and Iris' drawing to Charlie.



You can share the joy of *Giving* like Vesper



*"If I can help by being a part of the Cure One programme, then I become part of the solution too."*

Vesper has been donating to the Leprosy Mission for over 20 years and has recently decided to join the CURE ONE regular giving programme.

This means that Vesper will follow Maya's journey of Cure, Care and Restore for the next 12 months.

We rung Vesper recently and asked her what motivated or inspired her to join Cure One...

*"Well, it blows my mind away to know that the Leprosy Mission has set a goal of No child with leprosy by 2035 – no new transmissions and if I can help by being a part of the Cure One regular giving programme, then I become part of the solution too and this just warms my heart," Vesper responded.*

It's because of the kind support of people like Vesper that the Leprosy Mission exists today.

Being a Cure One supporter like Vesper gives you the chance to walk with one person affected by leprosy, like 7 year old Maya.

Many of our supporters tell us that they feel very connected to one person, and they love watching their journey. A very real connection is formed by following the Cure One person with leprosy for the next 12 months through their journey of Cure, Care and Restore.

What a wonderful way to see a world without leprosy by 2035. One person at a time.

**When you are giving a leprosy cure, you experience the joy of giving and the joy of knowing you're transforming the life of someone like Maya... just like Vesper does!**



If you would like to become a Cure One regular giver, please visit [www.cureone.org.nz](http://www.cureone.org.nz) or phone 0800 862 873 or email [cureone@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:cureone@leprosymission.org.nz) for more information.



# Save the Date Rhema Cure One Day 22 September

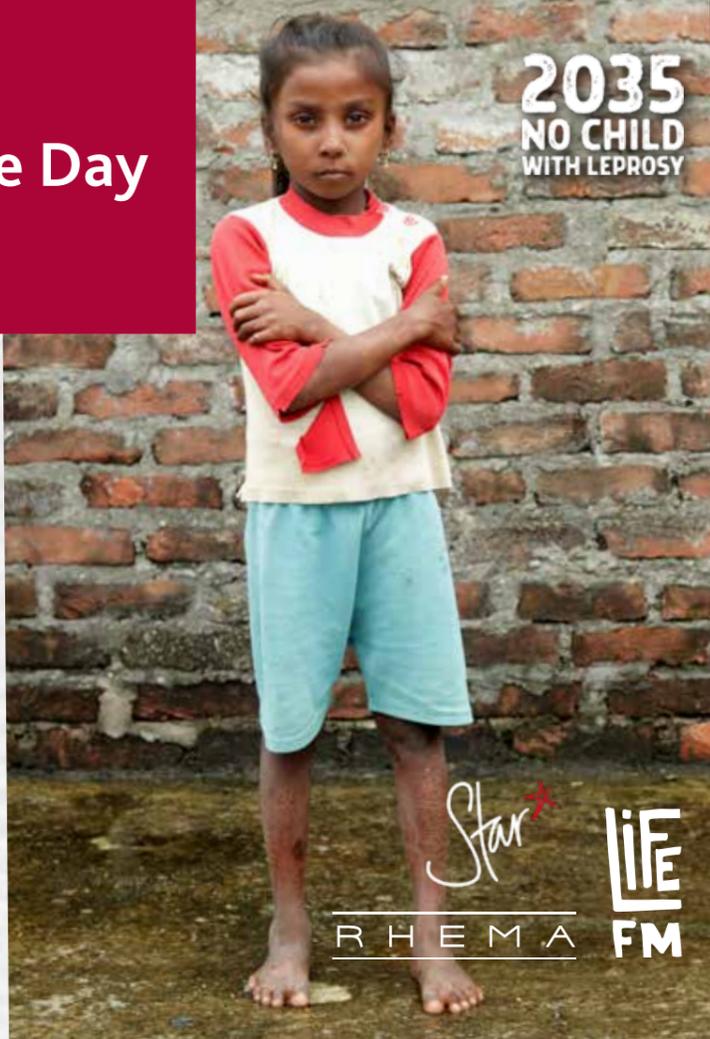
The ancient disease of leprosy has been destroying lives since biblical times, but we have the chance to end leprosy forever.

Rhema is back to host another amazing day where listeners across New Zealand can tune in to hear about the work of the Mission and you will also hear the voice of 7 year old Maya from Nepal.

We will be on-air all day with Rhema, Life FM, and Star, sharing stories of people affected by leprosy like Maya, and spread the heartfelt message of *No Child with Leprosy by 2035*.

Please help us by sharing with your family, friends, and church this special Cure One event on Rhema.

Please pray for and listen in to this special day of compassion and generosity of heart, and learn how you can help cure one person at a time through our Cure One programme.



## 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;*

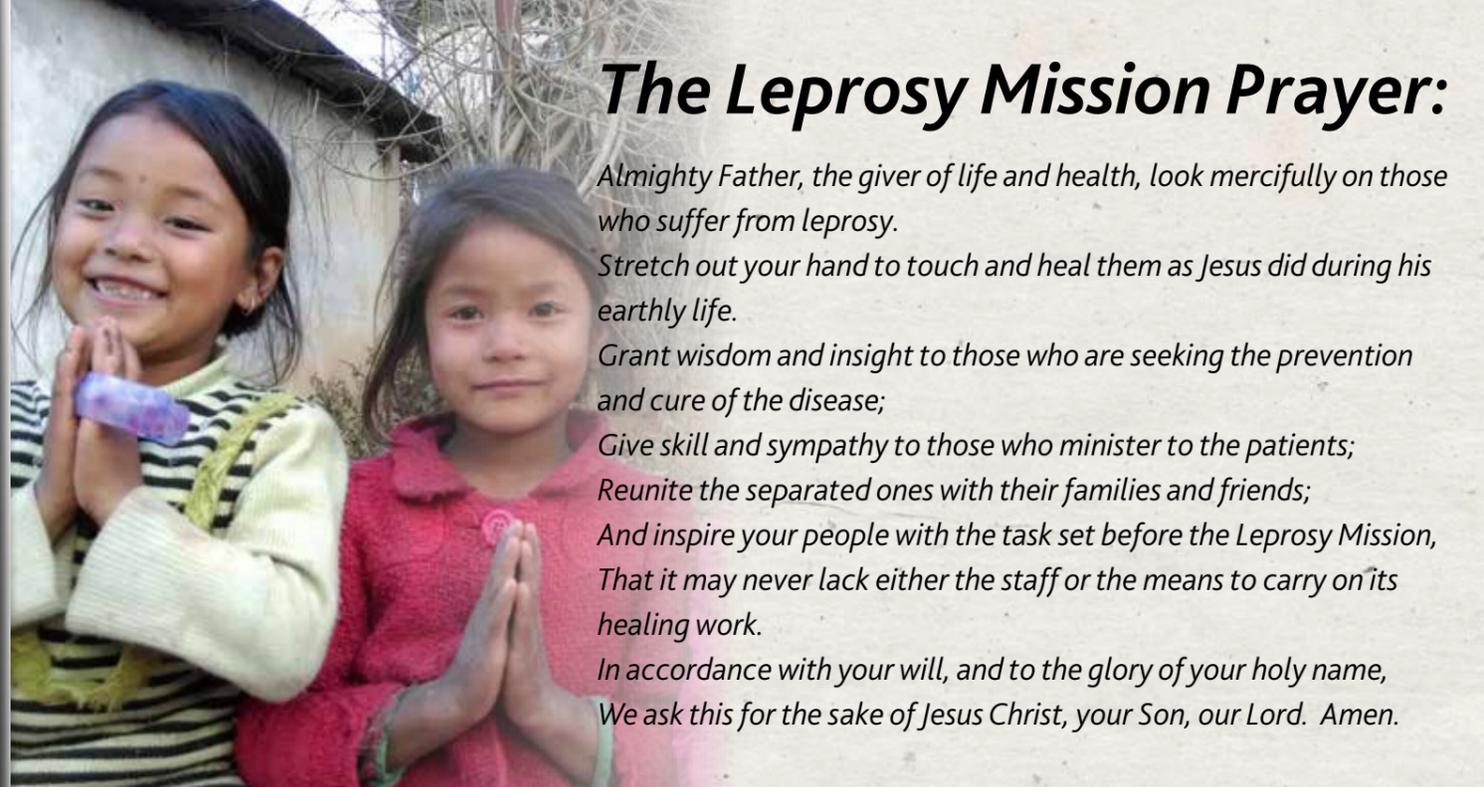
*Give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients;*

*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](mailto:denise.herd@leprosymission.org.nz)

## Celebrating 110 years in New Zealand

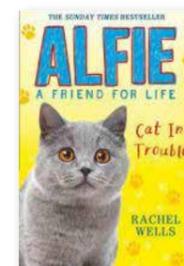
The Leprosy Mission New Zealand is very grateful to Rhema Media for the ongoing support and partnership in raising awareness for people affected by leprosy and the Mission's work.

In May, Rhema Media hosted a celebratory event to commemorate the Leprosy Mission NZ's 110th anniversary. It was a very special afternoon.



*"For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."  
Psalm 100:5*

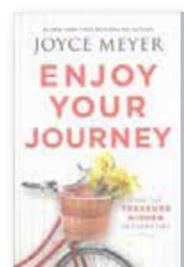
## Books



### Alfie - A Friend for Life

Alfie the Doorstep Cat - is back in brand new ALFIE story for a younger readership. Alfie is everyone's favourite cat. A big ball of grey fur who changes the lives of every family he meets. Alfie is firm friends with the Clover family - especially eight-year-old Stanley Clover and his sister Viola.

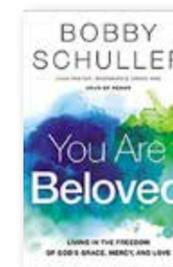
\$30 includes P&H



### Enjoy your Journey

Are you enjoying every day of your life? Or do you tell yourself and others that you will find happiness once you have achieved a specific goal or position? Jesus came so that you might have and enjoy life (John 10:10). In this compact abridgment, Joyce Meyer combines biblical principles with personal experiences to explain how you can enjoy every day on your journey through life.

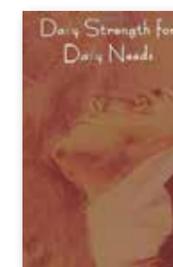
\$30 includes P&H



### You Are Beloved

Bobby Schuller shows you how to let go of these fears and put your trust in the One who sees you for who you really are. Here is an easy to follow, proven path to personal dignity for all those who think they are not good enough.

\$35 includes P&H



### Daily Strength for Daily Needs

A selection of prose and verse, with accompanying texts of Scripture, is intended for a daily companion and counsellor. It is hoped it may help to strengthen the reader to perform the duties and to bear the burdens of each day with cheerfulness and courage.

\$35 includes P&H

### Buy a book and help end leprosy

The above are only a sample of the books available for purchase.

To view all books, please visit [www.leprosymission.org.nz/book-store](http://www.leprosymission.org.nz/book-store) Alternatively, contact Carolyn Currie on 0800 862 873 or [carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz](mailto:carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz) Free postage throughout New Zealand.

# Become a Cure One supporter by giving a regular gift today

*"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 Maya, 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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_