

inTouch

Official Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Issue 447 / Spring 2020

Coronavirus Update

Cure One Update

Annual Review 2019



The Leprosy
Mission
New Zealand

Contents

Welcome

'There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...' 1 John 4:18

Welcome to the Spring edition of inTouch! I would like to start by saying you have all been in my prayers and thoughts as the world is navigating its way through such unsettling times with the Covid-19 pandemic.

I want to say a heartfelt thank you for the love and kindness you have shown during this time. I am blessed and humbled to be able to journey with incredible supporters like you and our partners around the world to serve people affected by leprosy and continue our fight against this age-old disease.

During the Covid-19 lockdown I was reminded that it is love and kindness that conquers fear and stigma. When reading the NZ Herald I was deeply saddened to see that the Herald had chosen to sensationalise a hurtful term for people affected by leprosy in their front page headline when talking about Covid-19 stigma. In response to that, the Leprosy Mission NZ set up an online petition to call on the NZ herald and all politicians, newspapers, and anyone else, to add that horrible term that stigmatises people affected by leprosy to the collection of terms that have become unprintable. Since then, over 2,200 people like you from all over the world have signed the petition to show their support for people affected by leprosy.

Thank you for standing with people affected by leprosy and against stigma and discrimination and the messages of love and support. We have since then received an official apology from the NZ Herald and the Herald online version has been edited.

If we can practice love and kindness to ourselves and kindness to those around us, we will drive out fear and bring forward the day when stigma and discrimination are ended for good.

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

God bless,



Gillian Whitley
Executive Director

P.S. Save The Date! On 1st October, we will be in Radio Rhema studios for Rhema Cure One Day. Please join us by listening in to live interviews and updates from the field 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.

CONTACT US

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

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

Shabnam Begins her Cure One Journey

India has the highest number of people affected by leprosy and it accounts for 60% of all new leprosy cases in the world.

Devastatingly, India also has the world's highest rates of new Covid-19 cases. The pandemic there makes life doubly hard for people with leprosy.

Shabnam is our new Cure One ambassador who represents people who lives are still being affected by this dreadful disease today.

Shabnam was only 16 years old when she was frightened to see her hands swelling up and discoloured patches appeared on her face. Soon, she had no feeling in her hands at all.

She was terrified.

Shabnam's leprosy began to destroy her face and her body, the patches spread across her face. Then, the bridge of her nose completely collapsed.

'At first my nose began to bleed a lot and I didn't know why. But now I understand that my condition with my collapsed nasal ridge is as a result of being leprosy affected,' says Shabnam.

She broke down in tears as she talked about how frightened she was.

"But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the Lord..."
Jeremiah 30:17

Immediately, her family took her to the Mission's Shahadra Hospital in Delhi where she was diagnosed with leprosy.

Shabnam was put on multi-drug therapy, the cure for leprosy. She needs to take daily antibiotics for 24 months to cure her leprosy.



Shabnam was very insecure about the telltale signs of leprosy on her face, but what broke her heart most of all was being rejected by members from her own family because of her leprosy. She dropped out of school and she felt isolated and alone.

As part of her Cure One journey, Shabnam will receive medical care and counselling. Shabnam will learn to overcome the pain of rejection she feels and she could rebuild her confidence.

Cure, Care for and Restore

Shabnam's story is full of sadness, however because of our incredible Cure One regular giving supporters, her life can be completely transformed.

Shabnam can be cured of leprosy. She will also be taught physiotherapy to ease the stiffness in her hands.

Your kindness also means Shabnam will attend the Mission's Faizabad Vocational Training Centre. She will be able to learn a skill and be supported into employment or to start her own small business.

You have the power to Cure One, like Shabnam.
We will keep you updated with her progress over the next year.



Cover Photo: Image of our Cure One ambassador Kanti from India.

The Healing Power of Kindness

The world is consumed with a new virus, but thank you for remembering the ancient illness of leprosy that still threatens the world's most vulnerable people.

During this time, we have received a lot of messages of love, care and support. We are humbled by your acts of kindness that even as many of you feel vulnerable, you have still reached out with words of encouragement and upholding each other in prayers.

We are thankful that we did not hear any of our supporters who had been personally affected by Covid-19 and we continue to pray for your health and wellbeing.

Thank you! Because of you, Leprosy Mission Hospital Heroes around the world are safe from the coronavirus while still providing the vital care so desperately needed for leprosy patients.



You can use your smartphone to scan this code to watch a video about Hospital Heroes around the world.



"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12

In response to Covid-19,

We are doing what we can to ensure that multi-drug therapy remains available across the areas in which we work, including giving registered patients more than one blister pack to ensure they continue their treatment even if clinics cannot run monthly, as usual.

In Nepal, the Mycobacterial Research Laboratories at Anandaban Hospital have received permission to conduct Covid-19 testing. The hospital has also assigned 20 percent of their beds for isolating Covid-19 patients.

With bans on gatherings of groups of people and lockdowns, contact tracing, self-help groups, outreach clinics, and other such activities have become more difficult. Staff are finding innovative methods to continue to support people affected by leprosy and are using networks such as self-help groups to educate through accurate WHO Covid-19 messaging and distribute personal hygiene items and emergency relief packages in vulnerable communities.



Masks are distributed and social distancing taught to leprosy-affected communities.

There is a rising number of Covid-19 cases in countries like India and Papua New Guinea. With such a large population, India was always at risk of having a large number of cases, but there are fears about the spread of the disease into poor rural areas, where leprosy can quite often be found. With a limited healthcare infrastructure in PNG there are fears that PNG will be overwhelmed if the virus spreads much further.

Please continue to keep the vital Mission work and people affected by leprosy in your thoughts and prayers. Pray also for God's protection and covering for the many Leprosy Mission staff who are on the front lines.



You are helping to provide Covid-19 relief in communities in India.

Santosh can walk again *because of you!*

With your help, the Leprosy Mission's Hospital Heroes around the world can continue to face the front lines with courage and carry your love to those who need it the most, people like Santosh.

Twenty year old Santosh first showed signs of leprosy when he was just four but, tragically, he was not diagnosed until many years later. Due to serious infection, Santosh had to have both of his lower legs amputated – the only way to save his life.

Because of your kindness and compassion, Santosh has now been fitted with prosthetics – he can walk again! You and I may take it for granted, **but for Santosh, it means a whole new life.**

New Zealanders have been supporting Anandaban Hospital for many years. Youth advocates in the past were able to raise funds for new equipment for the prosthetics department and through this year's Hospital Heroes appeal we are able to continue to support Anandaban Hospital during the pandemic.

For Santosh this meant he could receive medication to heal his body, along with surgery, prosthetics, physiotherapy and counselling to deal with the tragic effects of leprosy - all without charge. **Thank you!**



Here's Santosh after receiving his prosthetic legs. He can walk again thanks to people like you!



Santosh's new hope

From despair to smiles and a new future as a walking, moving, independent young man! Now Santosh has plans to start a small business with his mother.

He also hopes to build a house for his family in the future. That would have been impossible without his prosthetics and your support.

Thank you for bringing about such incredible transformation for people affected by leprosy like Santosh!

Restored by you

Kanti can dance again

Over the last year we have kept you up to date with Kanti, who has been our Cure One ambassador. Thanks to the commitment and prayers from our wonderful Cure One supporters, Kanti's life has been completely transformed.

13 year old Kanti's leprosy started with some discoloured patches all over her little body and a penetrating ulcer on the sole of her right foot, which soon turned into full-blown drop foot. It is saddening to see a young girl have her life disrupted by such horrible disease.

Kanti restored

Thanks to incredible people like you, and the doctors and nurses at the Mission's Shadhadra Hospital, Kanti has completed the full course of multi-drug therapy and is **now cured of leprosy**.



While Kanti was in the hospital, she enjoyed playing Ludo with other patients.

"Earlier I couldn't walk normally. I could not lift my foot and I had to walk slowly. I could not run and play with my friends," says Kanti.

Your support means Kanti had the opportunity to receive reconstructive surgery to correct her drop foot. She was also taught to do regular physio exercises which help Kanti to **walk freely again without any assistance.**



Kanti loves playing with her best friend Pooja.

Kanti is now back at home and back at school.

"I stopped going to school because of my leprosy. I'm so happy to be going back at school! My favourite subject is English!" Kanti declares.

"My dream is to be a police officer one day." Kanti smiles.

Kanti says the Leprosy Mission has played a huge part in her life. She is so thankful for people like you who care about her. Because of you, Kanti has been cured, cared for and restored. Thank you!

Annual Review 2019

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 \$3,465,932 we could commit to our overseas ministry.

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

Throughout 2019, 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*



Indonesia

Indonesia has the third highest number of new leprosy cases in the world. LMNZ has entered into a funding partnership with NLR - Indonesia to support a new project in the high leprosy endemic region of West Java.

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 2019,



1,683

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

1,754

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-affected patients and basic 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 2019,

824

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

4,705

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

3,564

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

2,179

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



Restore *Zero Discrimination*

Papua New Guinea

The Sustainable Livelihoods Development Programme's goal is: Sustainable livelihoods and health for individuals, families and communities affected by leprosy and disability in PNG.

Bangladesh

The Chittagong 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 2019,

3,824

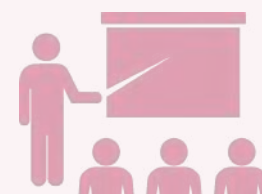
people were in self-help groups in New Zealand supported projects.

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.



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

Together in 2019, the Global Fellowship has achieved many successes including:

200

projects around the world.

52,222

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

5,825

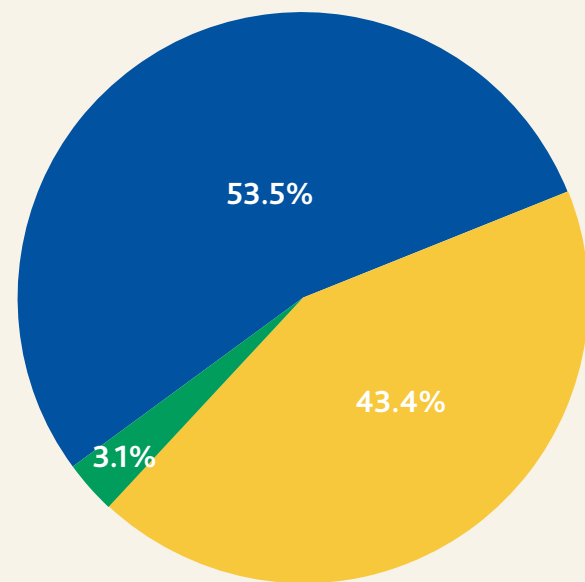
churches across the world partner with the work of the Leprosy Mission.

23,604

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

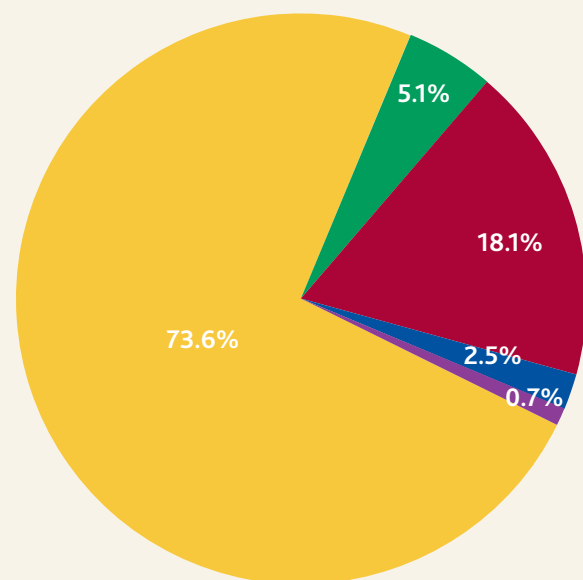


Income Received



NZ Government Grants	43.4%	\$2,256,748
Private Income	53.5%	\$2,781,246
Interest/ Other Income	3.1%	\$159,386
Total	100.0%	\$5,197,380

Where the money goes



Overseas Ministries	73.6%
Education	5.1%
Investing in future income and communicating to the NZ public	18.1%
Administration	2.5%
Depreciation	0.7%
Total	100%

The Year in Figures

This financial information summary is for the 12 months from 1 January to 31 December 2019, and is from the fully audited accounts. The Annual Report is available at www.leprosymission.org.nz/AnnualReport19

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.



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

Youth Advocates 2020

Earlier this year, eight amazing young people joined us to visit communities affected by leprosy and witness our work in Nepal.

Their goal this year is to raise funds to pay for a water pipe which will go 157 meters into the ground and a pump which will provide access to a quality, clean, reliable, water support for Anandaban Hospital.

Some of the Youth Advocates share their thoughts and experiences with you.

Mehi Akauola

'I feel like God has really put those who are vulnerable and rejected in society on my heart. Having the opportunity to relate my faith, social justice passion and medical interests all in one was incredible! It was always something I had looked into doing. Also, when I mentioned leprosy to my friends and family, they had no idea what it was. Everyone thinks it's an old disease in the bible that doesn't exist anymore, and this made me realise that this is something I wanted to advocate for.'

Jos Williams

'Out of everything, my favourite part of the trip was probably going down to the village by Anandaban Hospital and playing with the children who are living there. Being able to connect with the kids through something like football, and seeing their faces light up when we played with them was a very special experience. I especially appreciated being able to talk with them about their lives and how they view Anandaban and leprosy.'

Shelley Huggins

'The most memorable part of the trip was definitely hearing stories of how people were rejected and stigmatised because of their leprosy. It was made so much more real when I touched their hands, looking into their eyes and seeing the pain and rejection. It was so hard. Yet I will also never forget how incredible, loving, community based and servant hearted the staff at Anandaban Hospital were. They carry so much light and hope, no wonder it's called "forest of joy."'



Applications for 2021 are open now!

For more information, and to apply, please go to leprosymission.org.nz/youth-advocates or contact Hannah on youthadvocates@leprosymission.org.nz or call 0800 862 873.

Cheques are leaving us but your support remains a blessing

In the office it is always a delight to receive letters and messages from supporters like you. As well as messages of encouragement for people affected by leprosy and staff, we also receive feedback that improves our processes and communications.

One letter we received last year did just that. As many of you are aware most banks are removing cheque facilities by the end of next year and Kiwibank actually stopped in issuing and processing cheques in February this year.

Just prior to the changes, we received a lovely note from Peter in Thames. Peter and his wife Elizabeth have been supporters for many years and have a heart for the work of the Mission.

On their donation response form Peter had circled the **bank deposit** option and let us know that he was *'trying this bank deposit method for the first time with some trepidation'*. On calling Peter and letting him know we had received his donation, he had some important insights to share with us.

Firstly by circling the bank transfer method and sending the form back to us, he was able to let us know that the donation had been made and we could then let him know it was received. We have now updated our donation response forms with a tick box so if any supporter prefers to donate this way, they can. Peter also identified a way to make bank transfers easier for supporters by only having to put in your supporter number as a reference - we promptly updated our form.

We then went on to discuss what would be the easiest methods of giving when cheques are removed, **Peter suggested supporters like him would be more inclined to give through phone banking as this was a technology that people were comfortable with.** Since then we have talked to a number of supporters who have been successfully trying this method.

It is heartening to know that supporters are actively looking at ways they can continue to support this



Give us a call if you have any questions about alternate ways to give. We are here to help!

important mission and we are grateful to all of you.

Betty from Wellington is a young 92. She decided to get a Debit Visa Card from her bank now that Cheques are no longer available. Using her Debit card she can call the Leprosy Mission office or fill out the response form when she is ready to give. As Fiona, 77, said **'a debit card means she is spending money she already has and allows her to fulfill her sense of giving and helping the less fortunate'**.

If you are a supporter that gives by cheque, I encourage you to give our friendly team a call on 0800 862 873, we are more than happy to hear from you and help you with alternatives to giving by cheque.

Note: During this time we have been working with charity and eldercare networks to advocate on your behalf and try to stop the removal of cheque facilities, however we have been unsuccessful. We know that internet alternatives are not suitable for everyone so we are now focussing on finding viable alternatives please contact us to find out more.

Other Secure Ways to Give

We really value your support, and we want to make it easy for you to continue your vital donations to help people affected by leprosy. So here are some easy and secure giving options you might want to consider:

Telephone



Talk to us directly 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.

You can **set up phone banking by calling your bank**. Payments are easily made with a phone call and you can make Leprosy Mission one of our your options to make your gift.

Visit Your Local Branch



You can make a donation during your regular visit to the bank. The Leprosy Mission NZ bank account is: **02 0264 0029018 05**. In reference field, please put your name and phone number (or supporter number if you know it).

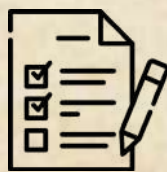
Online Banking



If you have set up online banking with your bank, we are a **registered biller** so you can look us up by name (Leprosy Mission NZ) to make a donation that way.

You can also make a secure payment direct on our **website** with a debit/ credit card at leprosymission.org.nz/donate

Donation Form



You can make a secure payment by **filling out the donation form** in the posted appeal using your debit/credit card details. You can also **set up a regular payment** through an automatic payment or direct debit authority tick the form and we will send you the details.

My Record Book

Some banks in New Zealand are stopping the issuing and processing of cheques. This removes not only an easy way for you to give but also a handy recording place for your support.

The Leprosy Mission has come up with 'My Record Book'. A handy booklet that can be used to **record who you are making a payment to, how you gave and the amount.** And best of all it's **free** to our supporters.

The inside of My Record Book

Feel free to contact us on 0800 862 873 to request your free copy of 'My Record Book', and if you have any questions about how to make a donation - we are more than happy to help.

SUPPORTERS CORNER

COVID-19 knows no borders, race, status or class. It has changed daily life beyond recognition across the globe, cruelly robbing too many of life itself. We pray that we may continue to love one another through this most extraordinary time in our history.

During this time, we have received a lot of messages of love, care and support. We are humbled by your acts of kindness that even as many of you feel vulnerable, you have still reached out with words of encouragement and upholding each other in prayers. Thank you!

There were many heart-warming comments from wonderful supporters, so we just had to share a few -

Elaine: 'The LORD will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.' Psalm 121: 7-8
May the Lord bless you and your team and prosper the work of the Leprosy Mission.

Albert and Elizabeth: God is truly good to us and we are grateful. We pray that your lovely dedicated team will be blessed and the work will continue even if it is behind doors. They are no problem to our Father in heaven.
Shalom and Blessings for you all!
Keep Hope, Faith and Love at the forefront!

Kay: I am glad to help in what I see is a vital need and I thank all those that contribute towards this important cause. Bless you all.

Anne: I read Romans 15:13 & Philippians 4:6-7 every day. Like all those concerned about the Leprosy Mission, we pray for the end of this terrible disease by 2035.

Christina: Your lives are transforming ours as well by the love you live.

Barry and Jacquie:
Please pray that God will guide our leaders at this time and that New Zealanders will realise that God is sovereign and lots of kiwis will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

May the Lord bless you and keep you!



Save the Date
Rhema Cure One Day
1 October

We will be back in the studio with Radio Rhema for Rhema Cure One Day on 1st October.

You are invited to be part of this amazing journey as we continue in our mission to defeat leprosy. We need your help to reach those who are afflicted by leprosy.

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 without leprosy, one person at a time.

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

The lasting legacy of Bequests

We are extremely grateful to the following supporters who remembered the work of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand in their Will.

Nanette G Taylor	Omaru
Alex J Williamson	Rotorua
Hazel Margaret Christie	Invercargill
Pauline M Boyes	Auckland
Valarie G Lowe	Te Kuiti
Doreen F James	New Plymouth
Esther Scarlet	Christchurch
Clive Timothy Kaye	Auckland
Anne Warren	Taupo

Books



In Her Words

Patricia St John was a master storyteller, her books continue to captivate readers today. It is full of adventure, larger-than-life characters and exotic destinations - central to her story is the work of God in her life and in the lives of those she met.

\$35 includes P&H



Blessings for all Seasons

Each image is paired with a well-loved Bible verse, carefully selected to offer encouragement and inspiration throughout the year. This splendid gift book offers seasonal reminders of God's love, illustrated by wonderful images of the world he created for us.

\$20 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 Alternatively, contact Carolyn Currie on 0800 862 873 or carolyn.currie@leprosymission.org.nz

Free postage throughout New Zealand.

2035
NO CHILD
WITH LEPROSY



Through the power of your Will, you can help cure leprosy and make lives whole again. If you would like to receive information about leaving a gift in your Will, contact Gillian either on the phone or, even better, over a friendly cup of tea.

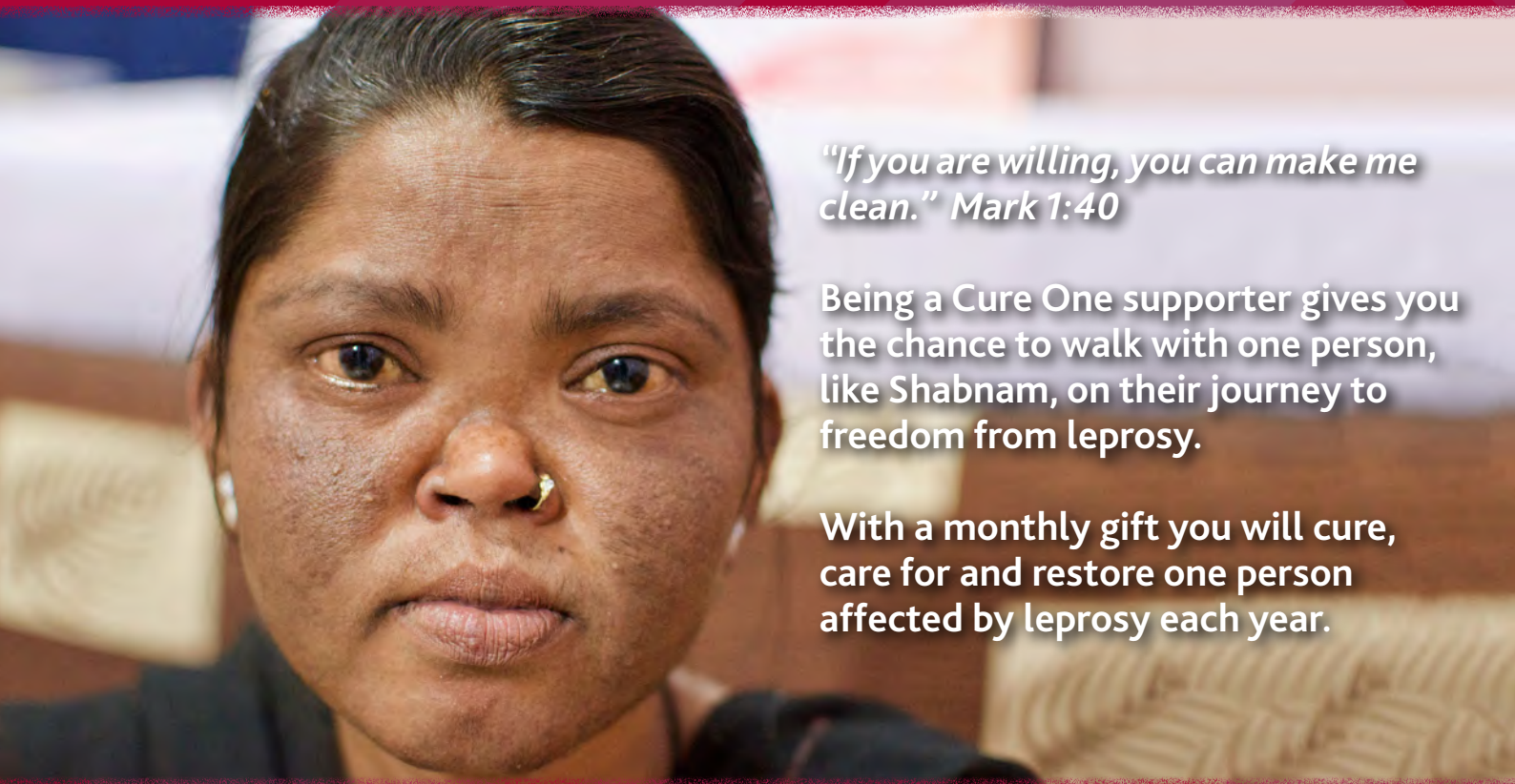
She will send you a booklet about the power of bequests it tells a beautiful story of how a lasting gift like yours can restore hope to those affected by leprosy.

Call Gillian now on 0800 862 873 or email gillian.whitley@leprosymission.org.nz

We are also in the process of renewing our popular Departure Time booklet. Please contact us on 0800 862 873 and you can be the first to get a copy.

Cure One today

A world without leprosy tomorrow



"If you are willing, you can make me clean." Mark 1:40

Being a Cure One supporter gives you the chance to walk with one person, like Shabnam, 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 form below and post back to us.



Cut along dotted line



The Leprosy
Mission
Cure One

If you would like to find out more, please cut out this form 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: _____
