



Each year The Leprosy Mission supports thousands of children, like Ritu (centre), to access a good education Photo: Georgina Cranston

Why we work

The Leprosy Mission is motivated by the love Jesus demonstrated to those most marginalised by society. People affected by leprosy are often rejected and excluded because of the disease, and we are passionate about our work because we know God has a deep and particular concern for them.

Jesus said, 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10: 10). Our aim is for the people we work with to regain good health and become active members of their communities, empowered to access their rights to social interaction, education and employment.

Maintaining the priority of leprosy

The Leprosy Mission is one of the few Christian charities to focus specifically on leprosy. Internationally we offer specialist expertise that would otherwise not be available, including performing reconstructive surgery, treating leprosy complications and addressing stigma.

Although officially recorded figures for leprosy are declining, many people suffer in silence with leprosy because they are too ashamed to seek help or simply do not know where to get help. The apparent reduction in new cases has led to a decline in priority of national leprosy programmes and some governments have now stopped actively seeking new cases altogether. It is therefore vital that The Leprosy Mission remains focused on addressing the problems of this disease.

Partnering The Leprosy Mission

Our work is founded on prayer and maintaining prayer support for our work is vital. If you would like to partner us in this please use the form below to request prayer bulletins.

The Leprosy Mission's work is only possible because of the generous donations and fundraising work of individuals. If you would like to donate you can do this over the phone on 01733 370505, or visit our website at www.leprosymission.org.uk If you would like to give regularly please contact us for a Direct Debit form. If you would like more information on volunteering, sponsored events or overseas opportunities please also use the form below.

You can also support someone affected by leprosy with a specific gift – from the gift of surgery to a new house. Phone us and ask about Gifts for Life or see our website for details.



Above: Sumeet, Vic, Simi and Sunny, from Southall Church of God, ran the London 10k to raise money for The Leprosy Mission

Below: Leprosy Mission volunteers at work at a church luncheon



I would like to receive (please tick)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer bulletins (four times a year) <small>09TLMGL02</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Information on volunteering <small>09TLMGL05</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Updates about The Leprosy Mission's work <small>09TLMGL03</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Information on sponsored events <small>09TLMGL06</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emails about The Leprosy Mission's work <small>09TLMGL04</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Information on overseas opportunities <small>09TLMGL07</small> |

My email address (if applicable) is:

Title: First name: Surname:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone:

If you do **not** wish to receive communications from other related charities please tick here

09TLMGL01

Please return to the address below ...



The Leprosy Mission England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man
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Registered charity no. 1050327

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What is The Leprosy Mission?



Everything you want to know about **who** we are and **what** we do



Who we are

The Leprosy Mission is an international Christian development organisation, transforming and empowering the lives of people affected by leprosy. Our goal is to eradicate the causes and consequences of this disease.

Where we work

The Leprosy Mission works in around 30 countries across Africa, South Asia and East Asia.



■ = where The Leprosy Mission works



The Leprosy Mission supports many people, like Gonesh, Sunita and their family in India, by providing low-cost housing

What we do

Our work includes:

- treating leprosy and providing general health care and health awareness training
- training national health staff to diagnose and treat leprosy and prevent disability
- providing surgery and physiotherapy
- training people affected by leprosy in self-care (caring for areas of the body desensitised by leprosy to prevent injury and disability)
- providing education and vocational training
- providing housing support
- providing small business loans and training to enable people affected by leprosy to escape poverty and become independent
- empowering people affected by leprosy and disabilities to lobby governments and employers for equal rights

How we help

Prevention of disability

Leprosy can be treated with a six or 12-month course of multidrug therapy, a very effective cure developed in 1982. However, even after people are free of the leprosy bacteria, feeling may never return to areas of their bodies where leprosy has damaged the nerves. They therefore risk injuring themselves in daily activities because they do not feel pain and repeated injury can result in serious infection and even shortening of fingers and toes.

The Leprosy Mission trains people within communities to lead self-care groups, which greatly minimise this risk. Group members inspect each other for injuries, encourage each other to treat their wounds and also share social and emotional support.



Above: group leader Below: inspecting feet at a self-care group in Nigeria



Treatment and training

When Yousef, from India, was diagnosed with leprosy he had already developed a 'clawed hand', caused by paralysis. However, surgery at The Leprosy Mission's Belgaum hospital restored full movement to his fingers and reduced the appearance of deformity so he is less likely to experience social exclusion.

He was then recommended for a course in desktop publishing at The Leprosy Mission's vocational training centre at Nashik. Board and lodging were also provided to support him through his study.

Now Yousef not only has restored hand movement but also brand new employment opportunities for the future.



Photos: Georgina Cranston

Interest on investment

For people affected by leprosy, social exclusion often brings loss of livelihood and social status. To counteract this The Leprosy Mission supports people through small business loans.

Bashizi from DR Congo says, 'I was given a loan of one big pig. It gave birth to three babies. I sold one and repaid my loan'. Pigs can be sold for a good price and having a better income has given Bashizi a renewed sense of dignity and self-worth.

'My life really changed when I got the loan,' he says, 'it became good. The project also helps me put my children in school. When I was diagnosed with leprosy I was pushed out of the community. This project has helped me to be accepted again.'



Photo: Georgina Cranston

Speaking out

When Catherine, from India, received treatment from The Leprosy Mission she also became interested in the training offered on rights awareness and advocacy. This training inspired her to form a self-help group with her neighbours to advocate for their community.

Catherine says, 'Before the project I and other women were not willing to come out of our own homes. Now we are confident to meet officials and ask questions about delays in processing applications or why they are not giving entitlements. We have confidence to help our village develop and have built six houses, ten toilets and acquired a telephone connection.'

