

Update

Rebuilding what leprosy tore down



Young people across the world share many of the same aspirations; a secure home, a good job, friends and family to share their joys and sorrows. Sadly, leprosy often destroys all that in a single blow.

Growing up in rural India, Amar dreamed of one day moving to a big city. At 22 his dream came true; Amar moved to Delhi to work for his brother-in-law's firm as an accountant. He had everything he'd ever wanted – a good job, a home with his sister and her husband, the loving support of family and friends.

A frightening discovery

One day a friend noticed a skin patch on Amar's back. When Amar touched it, he couldn't feel any sensation. He recognised this as a leprosy symptom, and a doctor confirmed the diagnosis.

Amar began a course of multidrug therapy to cure him. It seemed he would soon be fit and well again, and able to continue with his life. Unfortunately, after six months Amar began to suffer from severe leprosy reaction; as the antibiotics killed off the leprosy bacteria, Amar's body began reacting to the dead cells. His hands, feet and face swelled up, making it obvious that he was taking leprosy medication.

Losing almost everything

Amar's sister and brother-in-law took the news badly. He says that they became cold and hostile, fearful that he would pass leprosy to their children. Things became so bad, Amar felt he had no choice but to leave. Because his brother-in-law was also his employer, Amar lost not only his home and family but also his job.

Amar returned to his home village, where thankfully his old friends accepted him back. Even so, rejected by his family and unemployed, Amar became depressed. 'I was not able to accept how I could have leprosy,' he explains. Because he wasn't receiving treatment, Amar also developed 'clawing' in his right hand. This meant he



© Georgina Cranston

As the antibiotics killed off the leprosy bacteria, Amar's body began reacting to the dead cells

couldn't even share meals with his friends, as the custom in that part of India is to eat food only with the right hand.

Then came the light at the end of the tunnel; Amar came to The Leprosy Mission's Kolkata hospital. He was treated and given counselling, and also had reconstructive surgery to restore his right hand. Amar is slowly recovering, physically and emotionally, and hospital staff are caring for him until he can return home. Once his hand has healed, nobody will ever know that he's had leprosy, and Amar can look forward with hope.

World Leprosy Day 2011



**Seek justice. Help the oppressed.
Defend the cause of orphans.
Fight for the rights of widows.
Isaiah 1: 17b NLT**

Last year we asked for your help around the time of World Leprosy Day to raise funds for our Anandaban hospital in Nepal. Your wonderful and faithful support, even in difficult financial times, came in the form of coffee mornings, special services, collections, sponsorships and many prayers.

The power of your prayers and support

Your efforts raised an amazing total of over £38,000. Shovakhar Kandel, Superintendent at Anandaban hospital, says, 'From your support we have managed to deliver holistic care to many leprosy patients. We, on behalf of all the leprosy patients, would like to express our heartfelt gratitude.'

In 2011, World Leprosy Day (30 January) will be focusing on India, where over half of all new leprosy cases are found. In particular, funds will go to Naini hospital in the north-east: a busy leprosy hospital where staff offer treatment, counselling and rehabilitation.

Restoring justice and dignity

Rameshwa was at Naini at the beginning of the year for an operation on his clawed left hand – a result of leprosy-related nerve damage. He had already undergone the same operation on his right hand in 2009. He says, 'When I started having leprosy I lost all my strength, I was not active, like in going to school. I'm able to do

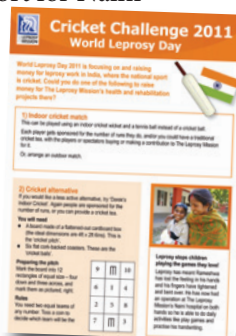


Rameshwa being collected from hospital by his mother after his second operation

everything now with the hand I've had surgery on. Without the work of Naini hospital, Rameshwa could still be suffering the physical and social disadvantages of having a leprosy-related disability.

Could you raise funds and prayer support for Naini hospital this World Leprosy Day? To find out how you can do this through holding a cricket event, or for a church resource pack, please contact us:

e. post@tlmew.org.uk
t. 01733 370505 or visit
www.worldleprosyday.org.uk



National Director Rupert Haydock

It is with great sadness that The Leprosy Mission England and Wales has announced the death of its National Director, Rupert Haydock. Rupert was at a supporters' meeting in Nottingham on 1 September when he collapsed, just before the meeting took place, and passed away that same morning.

Rupert was greatly valued and respected by his colleagues at the Peterborough office and by The Leprosy Mission globally. He was known to be a very Godly man, who made a remarkable contribution to sustain The Leprosy Mission's ministry in many countries around the world. He was fully committed to his work as National Director and to furthering the work and impact of The Leprosy Mission. Please pray for his family at this time, for his wife Janet, daughters Ruth and Joy and his son Peter.

Jesus said to her [Martha], 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she told him, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.' **John 11:23-27 NIV**

Searching for treatment in Sudan



Leprosy Mission staff in Sudan face many challenges – political fragility and poor transport links mean accessing and treating people is particularly difficult. But the difference made to the lives of people like Piol demonstrates the wonderful blessing of staff's perseverance there.

Piol became sick with leprosy when he was only 11 years old. There was no treatment available in his area, and so the disease was free to attack his nerves, leaving him with anaesthetic hands and feet and red, swollen eyes. His nose also collapsed – this is very unusual in someone so young and is normally a sign of very advanced leprosy.

By now still only in his mid teens, Piol faced the distress of a rapidly degenerating appearance, and found himself barely resembling the boy he had been. 'Because of my nose, I was not even able to breathe properly,' he says.

Finding help at last

Eventually Piol, then 15, found help in a clinic run by The Leprosy Mission, where he was referred to the Mission's centre in Khartoum. There he received the cure for leprosy, multidrug therapy, and was seen regularly by an ophthalmologist. He also knew that The Leprosy Mission could help him with his nose. 'I sought an operation from The Leprosy Mission,' he says. 'A doctor did the operation in Khartoum and now I can breathe much better. I am also more handsome!'

Thanks to our supporters, The Leprosy Mission in Sudan can keep working to bring restoration to lives devastated by leprosy. Please continue to pray for the staff in Sudan and their work.



Piol before the operation

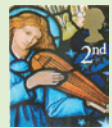
News

Volunteer training days

There are four volunteer training days to choose from: Guildford on 9 October 2010, Exeter on 19 March 2011, Southwark, London on 9 April 2011 and Newark on 21 May 2011. For more information contact **Barbara Robinson**: t. 01733 370505 e. volunteers@tlmew.org.uk

Stamps and collectables

Since 1983, gifts of stamps and collectable items have helped to raise a total in excess of £770,000. Gifts of all types of stamps, postcards, coins, banknotes and medals are always welcome and can be sent to: The Leprosy Mission c/o 26 Drift Road, Clanfield, Waterlooville, PO8 0JL.



Concert

Join us on 29 January 2011 at 7 pm when the London Welsh Male Voice Choir will be performing in Southwark Cathedral to support The Leprosy Mission's forthcoming Festival of Flowers.

Contact us for tickets (£20 or £15 for restricted view): t. 01733 370505 e. post@tlmew.org.uk



Pray for Sudan In January 2011 there will be a referendum on whether the northern and southern parts of Sudan should separate. There are concerns about ensuing violence, persecution for Christians in the north and poverty in the north. Please pray for peace and wisdom for all those involved and for protection for Leprosy Mission staff and patients.

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority ... 1 Tim 2: 1-2a *NLT*



Visit The Leprosy Mission's website at www.leprosymission.org.uk

Hope in the heart of the city



Kolkata is a thriving city in West Bengal. Formerly known as Calcutta, it was the capital of India during the British Raj and today is the country's cultural capital with a population exceeding 15 million. One very special hospital in the centre of the city is helping many thousands each year find help and healing when they need it most. Will you be a part of this amazing work?

Kolkata is the third most populous metropolitan area in India. Sadly, a large proportion of those citizens live in poverty. Urban slums in India have doubled in the last two decades and continue to grow. One third of Kolkata's inner city population now live in slums. Slum residents are usually poor and illiterate, and sub-standard sanitation and poor housing expose these people to malnutrition and communicable diseases, including leprosy.

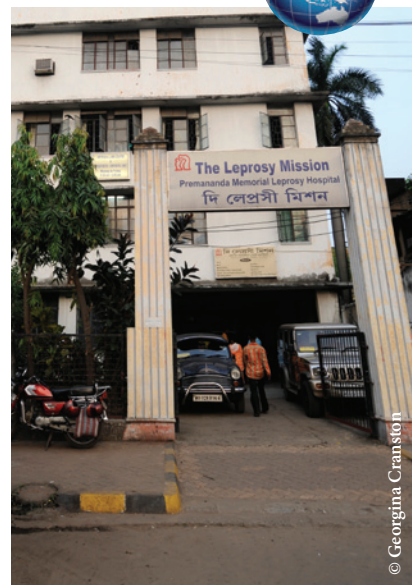
The importance of Premananda

The Leprosy Mission-run Premananda Memorial Hospital is located in one of the busiest areas of the city, treating thousands of patients every year. As well as dedicated leprosy treatment, counselling and general medical services, the hospital also runs skin care, surgical, eye and foot care clinics five days a week. Staff even go out into the community with specialist eye care camps, seeking out and treating those who are unable to get to the hospital themselves.

Premananda hospital is a vital resource for the poorest people in Kolkata. Without it, many thousands would go without essential treatment and care simply because they are poor. Sadly, the hospital is facing financial difficulties of its own.

Due to budgetary constraints, the hospital superintendent fears he may have to give up the posts of two staff nurses, one ophthalmologist, one ophthalmology technician, one records department helper and one cashier. For a large, busy hospital like Premananda this would be a terrible loss and would affect the quality of care that can be offered to those most in need.

We'd like to make sure that budget cuts don't get in the way of patient care. Please, will you help us by making a contribution to Premananda hospital's annual running costs? Just £75 will pay a doctor's salary for a week, or £25 will feed a patient for the whole of their stay.



Premananda hospital is a vital resource for the poorest people in Kolkata



Male ward patients at Premananda



Cataract surgery patients leaving the hospital



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

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