

we can make a difference ...



Together

February 2009

News for church representatives from your local area co-ordinator

'Whatever you did

for one of the least of these ... you did for me' Matt 25: 40

As I commence this letter a two-week visit to Bangladesh in mid-March is greatly occupying my mind. Bangladesh is home to 152 million people, crammed into a delta of rivers where poverty is deep and widespread and life expectancy is less than 62 years. So what will I see there?



Sonia (14), from Dhaka, Bangladesh, received treatment early, thanks to The Leprosy Mission's partnership programme with The Salvation Army, and so does not suffer from any leprosy-related disabilities

The Leprosy Mission's hospital in Nilphamari: specialised services, reconstructive surgery and the leprosy control programme.

Chittagong district: a network of leprosy clinics providing leprosy control, disability prevention and rehabilitation services.

Mirpur district of Dhaka: The Leprosy Mission's partnership programme with The Salvation Army, improving the health of people living in slum communities through disease control, health education and urban development. In this partnership we share the vision of treating people holistically, providing,

alongside medical help, the skills and support for people to regain their independence.

The slums have been neglected, particularly in regard to fresh water, sanitation, health care and education. The most vulnerable are women and children, who are prone to disease and abuse in this slum environment.

The project here will provide a doctor, leprosy control staff and a clinic focusing on leprosy and disease control.

This will be the fundraising focus project for the Mid Central area over the next three years. If you require more information, would like to be involved in supporting this project, or if you have ideas about how funds can be raised, please contact me.

The primary work of The Leprosy Mission is to detect, treat and cure leprosy, but it must go beyond that. When we touch a life, we transform a future and we invite you to partner us in that ministry.

Walks of Hope

All walks commence at 10 am after registration ... we need to make sure all who set out also come back!

Forest of Dean, 9 May
Beechenhurst Park. Toilet and refreshment facilities. Choose from walks of approximately 3, 5 or 8 miles.

Cotswolds, 12 September
The venue for this is being arranged.

Malvern Hills, 17 October
Walk of 4.5 miles which will start and finish in Upper Wyche Village.

Each area has pay and display parking.

For more information please contact me – details below.



Mid Central serves the following postcodes: AL, BS, GL, HP, HR, LU, OX, RG, SL, SN, WD

Revd Bill Hewis
16a Hollywell Road
Micheldean
Gloucestershire GL17 0DN
Tel: 01594 541703
billh@tmew.org.uk



The Leprosy Mission
Goldhay Way
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough PE2 5GZ

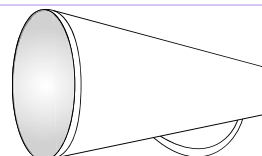
Tel: 01733 370505
post@tmew.org.uk
www.leprosymission.org.uk
Charity no. 1050327

A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 3140347

Together is published twice a year



Please share this information with other people in your church



Our vision: a world without leprosy

In His steps

A very simple way to be involved with the work and ministry of The Leprosy Mission is to join a 'Walk of Hope'. Beginning four years ago, these sponsored walks have now spread around the country. In 2009 the Mid Central area is having walks in The Forest of Dean, The Cotswolds and the Malvern Hills.

These walks have some of the most stunning scenery in the country. So not only do you get the opportunity to raise money for The Leprosy Mission, you also get stunning views, a good walk and the opportunity to meet some great people. What more could you ask for?



View of the walk across the Malvern Hills

In 1896 Charles Sheldon wrote the bestseller, *In His Steps*, subtitled *What Would Jesus Do?* The Leprosy Mission had been founded 22 years earlier and has since been trying to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, bringing hope and a future to many thousands of people affected by leprosy around the world.

When people ask why we do what we do, the simple answer is 'because Jesus would'.

'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.'
Luke 7: 22 *NIV*

What a privilege to share in such a ministry!

And also ...

With Christmas gone and 2009 well and truly here, maybe, just maybe, some of those good intentions and resolutions are by now a distant memory. Especially that one to lose a few pounds and get in shape. But we all know how hard it can be to do it alone.

Why not do it in company with others and join '**WEIGH TO LIFE**' (a sponsored slim) – raise money for The Leprosy Mission



Photo: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

and get in shape at the same time. Go on ... what have you got to lose apart from a few pounds! Just ask me for more details.

Events

Walk of Hope – Forest of Dean – Saturday 9 May at 10 am

Garden Party Dursley – August – date to be arranged

Visit The Leprosy Mission's stand at Gorsley Festival – 27-31 August

Walk of Hope – Cotswolds – Saturday 12 September at 10 am

Walk of Hope – Malvern Hills – Saturday 17 October at 10 am

World Leprosy Day

Sunday 25 January

This year I have conducted several World Leprosy Day services ... though not all on the same Sunday (not all churches can accommodate us on the designated day) and 2010 is already booked!

It has been a real pleasure over the last five years to speak at a great many Sunday services and mid-week meetings – yours may have been among them. If not I would love to hear from you and to have the pleasure of visiting your church or group at some time.

Economy and eternity

In these very precarious times, when words like 'credit crunch' and 'economic downturn' are heard every day, it's good to know that our security is not dependent on wealth and possessions but on what Paul called, '...an eternal house not built by human hands' (2 Cor. 5: 1).

Yet despite the uncertainty of the times in which we live, the continuing generosity of supporters is a source of great inspiration and encouragement.

It is because of such generosity that the work of The Leprosy Mission continues to meet the needs of many thousands of people. You not only support our work but share in our ministry – the ministry of Jesus – in touching the lives and transforming the futures of people affected by leprosy around the world.

Watch out for The Leprosy Mission's new Gifts for Life leaflet, coming soon

Gifts for Life, which range from a child's education to a hospital bed, can be the perfect way to channel your donations or those of your church or group. They also make excellent alternative gifts. Contact me for more information.

