



Together

February 2009

News for church representatives from your local area co-ordinator

Winter blues...

Traditionally, this is the time of year when people are at their lowest ebb. The days are long, cold and dark. Some find the effort of going back to work after the Christmas break rather depressing. The constant reminders of the current economic situation only add to this feeling.

Enduring hope

Yet, the Christian gospel is one of hope. Whatever may be happening in the world, we have the assurance that God is in control. We sometimes just have to exercise a little trust and patience! At the Mission, we pray that we too can exercise trust and patience in our work:

- To trust that God will provide the resources we need to accomplish our vision of a world without leprosy and to trust in our supporters to continue praying and giving.
- To be patient in our task. Leprosy has been with us for centuries



Winter blues?

and we may become impatient in reaching our end goal.

Waiting and acting

Many today want instant, ready-made solutions to life's problems. We often want to speed up God's timetable.

'O LORD, be gracious to us; We have waited for You.'
(Isaiah 33: 2a *New King James Version*)

But waiting upon the Lord does not mean inaction. He also wants us to further His kingdom

as we reach out to those in need. For those with leprosy, there are many needs – medical care, rehabilitation, education and a better quality of life. Be assured that your faithfulness in prayer and giving is making a huge difference in many lives and for that we give thanks and praise.

May the Lord's blessing be with you throughout the coming year.

Musical moments

Following on from last year's successful organ recital at St George's, Gateshead, Richard Allum has kindly agreed to give another recital this year at the same venue. The date is 19 June, and it will begin at 7.30 pm, preceded by wine and canapés at 6.45 pm. Admission is £7 and will be payable at the door.

A second musical event will take place on 27 June when the Grainger Singers will give a concert at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Durham Road, Low Fell. Tickets are £5 (to include light refreshments) and are available from me – just call me on 0191 4786489.



Cumbria and North East serves the following postcodes: CA, DH, DL, LA, NE, SR, TD, TS

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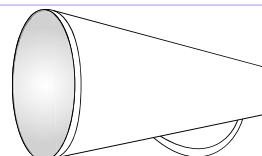
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Please share this information with other people in your church



Our vision: a world without leprosy

Great North Run

The Great North Run is the world's largest half-marathon race, boasting 50,000 participants. Many people run to raise money for various charities, and The Leprosy Mission has 15 guaranteed places for anyone who wishes to take part and raise as much as they can for our work.



Newcastle's Tyne Bridge, part of the Great North Run

Leprosy may not be the most high-profile cause, yet it still affects hundreds of thousands across the world. It is notable that in 2008 The Leprosy Mission was not able to fill its allocated places for the run. Please publicise this event and encourage people to take part so we can take full advantage of

the opportunities the run brings. Runners MUST register via myself, either by calling on 0191 4786489 or emailing me at johnr@tlmew.org.uk

Bolton Abbey

If you want a more relaxed day out, why not join our friends from Yorkshire and

Lancashire as we make our way to Bolton Abbey and steam railway. The date is 20 June. You must book your place on the coach before 30 April, with a £5 deposit. Full details of times, pick-up points and itinerary will be issued upon registration. Cost is £27 per person.

Walk of Hope

This year's sponsored Walk of Hope will take place on 19 September at 10.30 am. The walk will be in Derwenthaugh Park near Blaydon, one of the few places where red kites nest. The whole walk is 11

miles, but a shorter option is available upon request. Stage 1 (4 miles) starts at Winlaton Mill, leading to Lintzford via Rowlands Gill. Stage 2 (7 miles) is from Lintzford, back to Winlaton Mill via Barlow – one of the best places to see the

red kite. This section passes through Chopwell Woodland Park, Spens Bank Wood and Paddock Hill Wood. Please contact me if you are interested in this walk and full details will be forwarded to you.

Prayer from Nigeria

'Even if the stars forget to shine/ Flowers forget to blossom/ Birds forget to sing/ Nature forget to spring/ Never will the Lord forget what The Leprosy Mission is doing for people affected by leprosy/ May the good Lord continue to see you through'.

by Mrs Amina Fashona, The Leprosy Mission Nigeria

Jesus loves me this I know

I am told that as a young boy – many years ago now! – I had a lovely soprano voice. On numerous occasions I sang the above song at church, and over the years, this knowledge that Jesus loves me has become very real and special.

Many people affected by leprosy need to hear that same message. Despised by family and friends, some leprosy patients need the assurance that God cares, and that we do too. The Leprosy Mission is more than just a medical charity. We seek to care for the whole person and show God's love through our service to those affected by leprosy.

Dr Daisy Rani Rao works at The Leprosy Mission's hospital in Salur, India. When she was studying at a medical college in India, she felt a real burden for those with leprosy. Although she had a Green Card for US residency, she gave it up as keeping it would mean returning to the US every year to renew it. Instead she felt God was calling her to remain in India to help those with leprosy. Such love and dedication is at the heart of The Leprosy Mission's work. As we recognise and give thanks for God's blessings in our lives, may we have a heart to share our blessings with those in need so they too can say,

'Yes, Jesus loves me'.



Dr Rao

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.

