

Make a difference, make an ...



April 2009

# Impact

News for our volunteers from your volunteer co-ordinator

## Happy Easter!

**This Easter we celebrate again that Christ is risen and alive among us, and brings each of us the hope of a better future. We are so grateful to all of you who give your time to work with us to bring hope to those affected by leprosy.**

### Li's story

Such hope is reflected in this picture of Li, a bright 12 year old who, until recently, had never been to school. Li was born and brought up in a leprosy colony in northern China although neither she nor her parents had ever had leprosy. Her grandparents once had leprosy, so Li's family were tied to the colony, oppressed by poverty and the stigma associated with leprosy.

Li had no chance of an education because nearby schools refused to take children from the leprosy colony. A school built in her village remained unused because teachers refused to come.

Then, thanks to a project supported by The Leprosy Mission, Li had the opportunity to attend a school in the



Li is growing up in a stigma-free environment where she is accepted and loved, along with children from all kinds of backgrounds

provincial capital which welcomes disadvantaged children. The school is many miles from her home but she is able to visit her family during the holidays, as her living expenses and travel expenses are covered.

Li is about to enter grade four. She can read and write and speaks standard Mandarin fluently. She will have the chance to continue her studies to a high level, and can dare to dream of opportunities in life denied to her parents and grandparents.

*'So it is right for me to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God'.*

(Romans 15:17 *New Living Translation*)

Thank you all for your generosity in prayer, time and giving.

### Welcome!

We have been delighted here at head office to welcome Janice Cosham who contacted us and offered to donate one day out of her week as administrative support volunteer. Janice started in February and is currently giving valuable assistance, helping to sort and catalogue our resources.



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**Our vision: a world without leprosy**

# Dates for your diary!

Five volunteer speaker days have been arranged around the country in the coming months. The sessions will start at 10.30 am and finish around 4 pm. There will be an opportunity for training, asking questions, sharing tips and ideas and enjoying a light lunch and fellowship with other volunteers. The venues are:



- Bristol** Friday 26 June
- Guildford** Thursday 3 September
- Llandudno** Thursday 24 September
- Harrogate** Friday 2 October
- Peterborough** Thursday 8 October

Please use the enclosed booking form to reserve a place.

## Identity Badges

If you would like a Leprosy Mission Volunteer Speaker identity badge, please send a passport sized photograph to me at the address overleaf.

## Volunteer Questionnaire

Many thanks to all who returned questionnaires at the end of last year. Your comments and suggestions will be very helpful in planning future volunteer training and support.

Some of you commented about resources and equipment. We have now produced a new speaker pack, and photographs available in A3 or A4. Regrettably we don't have the funds to provide projectors and laptops, but we are pleased that many of you are able to borrow electrical equipment from other sources. Please check that it has been electrically tested within the last year.

The questionnaire showed that volunteer speakers had several different ways of notifying us about speaking engagements and handling donations, so we have developed written procedures for both.

It is very important that you notify us as soon as you arrange a visit on behalf of The Leprosy Mission. This ensures that the appointment is recorded on our database and Area Co-ordinators have up to date information about churches/venues in their areas. It also allows us to remember your visit in our daily prayers at head office. **Most importantly, you must notify us in advance if you are speaking on our behalf. This will ensure you are covered by our public liability and personal accident insurance.**



Have you noticed this logo on our literature and ever wondered what it means? The Leprosy Mission is a member of a self-regulatory scheme for fundraising in the UK.

This assures the public that we keep high standards of fundraising practice. Members of the scheme must adhere to the Board's guidelines ensuring honesty, legality and openness in fundraising.

As part of this commitment we must comply with the FundRaising Standards Board complaints process. In the unlikely event of a complaint we must be able to account for a donation at every stage from when it leaves the donor to when it is allocated to a project.

With this in mind we now have a new procedure on handling donations for our volunteers. If you need a copy of the procedure, a receipt book or supply of bank giro credit forms, please contact me.

## Can you help?

One suggestion made on the volunteer questionnaire was that we compile a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** and answers for volunteer speakers. We would be delighted to receive suggestions from you. Which questions crop up most frequently? Have there been any questions that you've found it difficult to answer? Please contact me with your ideas.

## 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.



[www.leprosymission.org.uk](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk)