

Make a difference, make an ...



Autumn 2010

# Impact

News for our volunteers from your volunteer co-ordinator

## What would we do without you?

At The Leprosy Mission we derive much encouragement from the support of our volunteers, so I was interested to hear recently about the contribution of volunteers in Nigeria. It's great to know that God is calling people from all parts of the globe to do whatever they can to help people affected by leprosy.



Volunteers for The Leprosy Mission Nigeria

My counterpart in Nigeria tells me that volunteers help to make contact with churches, enabling The Leprosy Mission to visit and raise awareness about leprosy. They also speak in churches on behalf of the Mission, performing the same vital role as our own volunteer speakers.

Also in Nigeria, volunteers meet twice a month to pray for the Mission and for people with leprosy. In Niger State they visit all four leprosy settlements at Bank Holidays or on other special occasions to pray with patients and encourage them. Here in England & Wales we too are heartened by those who pray faithfully, and are especially grateful to those who take on the added role of co-ordinating a prayer group. Don't forget you can use the prayer page on our website to keep up to date.

Closer to home, I know that The Leprosy Mission Scotland values its office volunteers. Here in Peterborough we are encouraged by the contribution that volunteers make to the management of our resources. They prepare and post material out to supporters, and continue to make inroads into the vast task of scanning and digitising our large collection of slides and photographs. One short-term volunteer updated all our country files over a four week period! If you need any resources for your volunteering role we are always pleased to help.

As far as I'm aware, our stamps & collectables volunteers perform a role that is unique to us, but maybe someone will tell me differently! Wherever you are on God's planet, and whatever you do, thank you for the part you play.

***There are different kinds of service but the same Lord.***  
**1 Corinthians 12:5**

### Millennium Development Goals

Many of you will be aware through our e-newsletter of the campaign to return international focus to the Millennium Development Goals, which set targets to end world poverty. Disability was not mentioned in the original goals and there is concern that people affected by leprosy, disability and other Neglected Tropical Diseases are being overlooked. To find out more please see the News page of our website: [www.leprosymission.org.uk/news\\_events/](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk/news_events/)



Barbara Robinson  
Volunteer Co-ordinator

[barbarar@tlmew.org.uk](mailto:barbarar@tlmew.org.uk)  
Tel: 01733 370505



The Leprosy Mission  
Goldhay Way  
Orton Goldhay  
Peterborough PE2 5GZ

Tel. 01733 370505  
[volunteers@tlmew.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@tlmew.org.uk)  
[www.leprosymission.org.uk](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk)  
Registered charity  
no. 1050327  
A company limited by  
guarantee registered in England  
no. 3140347

**Our vision: a world without leprosy**

# Focus on research

In the late 1940s Paul Brand became the first surgeon in the world to use reconstructive surgery to correct the deformities of leprosy in hands and feet. His success was the culmination of many years of meticulous observation and experimentation.



Today researchers in laboratories, hospitals and communities around the world follow his example and continue the drive to eradicate leprosy. Research topics include prevention and treatment of leprosy; prevention of disability; improved prostheses and footwear; counselling and stigma. As results are published they bring fresh hope and improved treatment.

**Praise God** for the dedication of those who work in research.

**Pray** for members of The Leprosy Mission International Research Committee

Several studies show a benefit in prescribing leprosy medication to those who haven't been diagnosed with leprosy, but who have been in close contact with someone who has the disease. This affords protection from developing leprosy for up to two years after a single dose of rifampicin has been given, which can prevent 50-60% of new cases that would have otherwise been expected.

**Praise God** these findings

**Pray** for continued funding so that there is no shortage of resources for further studies to benefit patients

Progress has been made on developing a leprosy vaccine. Preparations are beginning for human studies, with clinical trials planned for 2011.

**Praise God** for the resources and staff that have led to this encouraging development

**Pray** that the clinical trials will go smoothly and produce promising results, with no adverse effects on patients

A research study carried out in TLM hospitals has looked at the treatment of one type of leprosy reaction. In some patients the body produces a hypersensitivity reaction to the dead and dying bacilli, causing red lesions, swelling, pain and tenderness in parts of the body where the nerve is close to the surface. Findings show a 20-week course of steroids gives better control of this type of reaction than a 12-week course, but that high starting doses do not add any significant benefit.

**Praise God** that patient care can be improved as a result of this research.

**Pray** for our vision of a world without leprosy

## Recommended reading

Paul Brand's fascinating story is told in the book 'Ten Fingers for God' by Dorothy Clarke Wilson (published by Hodder & Stoughton ISBN 0340106859).

## Volunteer training

There will be one more volunteer training day in 2010, and a further three have been arranged for 2011. Each will take place on a Saturday and include a guest speaker who will talk about an aspect of The Leprosy Mission's work.

The programme for each day will run from approximately 10.00 am until 3.00 pm, depending on numbers. The morning session will cover information about leprosy and The Leprosy Mission and is relevant to all volunteers. The afternoon session will be for volunteer speakers.

The 2010 training days have been well attended, and provided wonderful opportunities for fellowship, sharing ideas and learning from one another, so I encourage as many of you as possible to attend one if you can!

To book a place, please return the accompanying booking form.

The dates are as follows:

9 October 2010  
Guildford

19 March 2011  
Exeter

9 April 2011  
Southwark, London

21 May 2011  
Newark



## Get ready for ... World Leprosy Day 2011

Could you ask your church to hold a World Leprosy Day service, or could you offer to speak about The Leprosy Mission's work in your church around the time of World Leprosy Day (30 January 2010)? If you would like a pack containing resources, including a DVD and a prayer and blessing calendar, contact us: e. [post@tlmew.org.uk](mailto:post@tlmew.org.uk) t. 01733 370505 or visit [www.worldleprosyday.org.uk](http://www.worldleprosyday.org.uk)