

Notes to accompany PowerPoint presentation for World Leprosy Day 2008

The following notes give a little more information about the people and subjects included in the presentation.

Slide 1

World Leprosy Day has been celebrated around the world since 1954. In many countries it is an opportunity to publicise the fact that leprosy is curable and is not passed by touch. In western countries it is a chance to raise awareness that leprosy does still exist and is a real problem for many people in the world.

Slide 2

Sarah lives in Uganda near Kumi.

Slide 3

Leprosy caused Sarah to lose sensation in her fingers. This led to her burning herself in a cooking fire, which eventually meant her finger had to be amputated. In many countries there is huge stigma attached to leprosy, and with any kind of leprosy-related deformity the stigma is even worse. The cooking accident happened after Sarah's husband left, but it was at this point that her mother-in-law threw her out of the family home.

Slide 4

The Leprosy Mission has been working with Kumi hospital since the mid 1990s. Sarah was treated at the hospital, but after some years of struggling financially she went back there for advice. Through the Kumi hospital business loan fund she borrowed 300,000 Ugandan shillings (£88 pounds approx). Sarah is now able to cultivate cassava and millet to feed her family.

Slide 6

Eddie Askew and his wife Barbara Askew started working in Purulia for The Leprosy Mission in 1950. Eddie worked as superintendent of the centre, and later went on to work as international director for The Leprosy Mission in London. He also became one of the most successful Christian writers of recent times. In total he gave 37 years' service to leprosy work. The success of the centre in Purulia and the introduction of the new drug dapsone in the 1950s meant that the centre was often crowded, but they would always take in children without exception.

Slide 7

Even today some children have to leave their homes because of the stigma attached to leprosy.

A huge part of leprosy work is not only providing the cure and treatment but also supporting people to reintegrate back into the community and regain their dignity and self-confidence.

Slide 9

There are still leprosy colonies in the world. The International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement (IDEA) did a survey for 2007 which showed that there are 631 leprosy colonies across India. The total population is 55,244 and the child population is 10,960.



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Slide 11

Multi-drug therapy is a combination of dapsone, a sulphone, with two antibiotics, rifampicin and clofazimine. This is taken for six or 12 months, depending on the person's immune system. People with leprosy can take their medication at home and many can continue their normal jobs and activities. However, medication cannot bring feeling back to numb areas of the body.

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The Leprosy Mission continues to care for people's social and economic needs. The organisation empowers people to regain their dignity and place in the community through education, job training, business loans, support groups and housing schemes.

Slide 19

Jennifer, from Uganda, came to Kumi hospital from Soroti in December 2006. When she was younger her mother was unable to look after all the family and Jennifer was sent to live with an aunt. During this time Jennifer started showing signs of leprosy – a clawed hand and patches all over her skin.

Fortunately her mother came to visit Jennifer and realising what the problem was she brought her to the hospital.

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Gejandra is from India. His family quickly recognised the signs of leprosy and sought treatment, so he has been cured of the disease very early on.

Slide 22

These children are receiving treatment at ALERT (All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Centre) in Ethiopia.

Slide 23

When Neeraj (right) discovered he had leprosy he went for treatment at The Leprosy Mission hospital at Naini, India. He says, 'While I was in Naini I heard about the Vocational Training Centre run by TLM in Faizabad and went to see it. I joined the cutting and sewing trade and am enjoying the training. I also take pleasure in helping others in my class.'

Slide 25

A patient at Anandaban hospital in Nepal (November 2007).



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