

World Leprosy Day 2008

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full
John 10: 10 *NIV*

Today, one of the biggest challenges for organisations like The Leprosy Mission is lack of awareness about leprosy, with many in the west still thinking of it as an ancient biblical disease. In addition, some governments either do not provide sufficient resources for leprosy sufferers or even try to ignore the problem.

In spite of this, we believe that people affected by leprosy are very high on God's agenda. The reality is leprosy still affects hundreds of thousands of people around the world, often the most poor, resulting in social exclusion, inability to work and further poverty. There is still huge stigma surrounding the disease, and the myth still exists that it can be passed by touch, making many outcasts of their own communities.

We know from both the Old and New Testament that God makes a point of defending the rights of the poor and the marginalised. We also know all people are made in the image of God, which is why it is so important for us to value each individual.

World Leprosy Day is a fantastic opportunity to focus on those affected by leprosy and to join with people around the world in praying for them and those working to eradicate the causes and consequences of the disease.

