Thank you for responding so generously to Thein Min’s story in the last issue of New Day. You may remember the 16-year-old could no longer walk without dragging his foot on the ground as a result of leprosy-caused nerve damage. He was given a wheeled platform (see inset picture) to move around on in order to keep his numb foot off the ground and injury free. As a teenager, he naturally felt embarrassed about using the platform and became withdrawn as a result.

But thanks to you, Thein – and other teenagers like him – has undergone reconstructive surgery. He is currently taking part in daily physiotherapy sessions during his hospital stay and will soon be able to walk again – just as he did before he contracted leprosy! What’s more, your gifts will enable him, and other teenagers in similar situations, to enrol on a vocational training course. Thein will train to do a skilled job and, therefore, will be able to support himself and his family.

He is still undecided as to what course he wants to do and his latest thinking is car mechanics. He is terribly excited about the future and says:

“I can now dream again and want to build a life for myself.”

Thank you, once again, for transforming this young man’s life.

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5: 20 (KJV)
Dear supporters

I would like to welcome you to April’s issue of New Day magazine and thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support. Thank you in particular for the kindness and generosity you have shown to 16-year-old Thein Min from Myanmar, formerly Burma. You can read on the front cover how Thein has had reconstructive surgery on his left leg and will be able to walk again. He is currently undergoing daily physiotherapy sessions and excitedly plans to embark on a vocational training course so that he can do a skilled job. We are praising God that this young man who had little hope for his future after suffering the devastating effects of leprosy will soon be able to walk again and financially support himself and his family. I wish you could meet Thein personally so that he could thank you himself.

It is encouraging that Leprosy Mission staff are increasingly able to reach out to more youngsters as you can read about on page four. In an ideal world, we would have been able to treat Thein before he developed a leprosy-caused disability. We are certainly thankful that we were able to reach Ramesh before he developed a disability. Please pray that we come into contact with other children, like Pavi, sooner so that their lives are not blighted by this terrible disease.

Finally, none of us can escape General Election fever gripping the country in the run-up to Thursday 7 May. You may wonder just how much UK politics can affect the world’s poor but it really can! Just last month we saw the UK Government pass a bill that enshrines in law its commitment to spending 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) on overseas aid every year, making it the first G7 country to meet the United Nations’ (UN) aid spending target.

So it is very important that MPs elected in May are well versed in what is happening in international development, particularly with the UN’s new

email post@tlmew.org.uk

Peter Walker
National Director

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Every blessing

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So it is very important that MPs elected in May are well versed in what is happening in international development, particularly with the UN’s new Sustainable Development Goals, a set of goals to replace the Millennium Development Goals.

As part of the Action/2015 campaign, an international initiative to fight poverty and inequality, The Leprosy Mission England and Wales has written to parliamentary candidates who are contesting England’s 533 and Wales’s 40 seats in May’s General Election to ask them to take steps to ensure those affected by disability and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), which include leprosy, are included in international aid programmes.

Tragically, the Millennium Development Goals, launched in 2000, made no mention of disability or NTDs, which affect 1.9 billion of the world’s poorest people.

If the new Sustainable Development Goals, which are due to be agreed by the UN in September, are to follow the ‘leave no-one behind’ principle, then targets need to be included to reach people with disabilities and those affected by NTDs.

Would you be prepared to take five minutes and write to the parliamentary candidates contesting your constituency? Just visit leprosymission.org.uk/take-action/write-to-candidates.aspx for a template letter and quick explanation as to how to contact the parliamentary candidates where you live. MPs have the power to change the lives of some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people which include people affected by leprosy!

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Thanks you, Loureno in Mozambique was able to start school.

You can change the lives of many more leprosy-affected people by making one of these gifts. Please ring 01733 370505 or visit www.leprosymission.org.uk/donate.

Many of these gifts are available through our Gifts for Life catalogue which is an extraordinary way of giving a gift to a loved one that, in turn, makes a real and lasting difference to someone affected by leprosy. Please ring us to request a catalogue or visit www.leprosymission.org.uk/donate and click on Gifts for Life.

Did you know that one in 10 of the people newly diagnosed with leprosy is a child?*

It is so crucial that we reach these children and provide early diagnosis and treatment so that they can live lives free from disability. Thankfully little Ramesh pictured, aged four, from Nepal was diagnosed with leprosy by a government doctor last year. His father was being treated for the disease and thankfully a doctor noticed the little boy had a rash on his arms and legs. The doctor referred him to Patan Clinic in Kathmandu, run by The Leprosy Mission’s Anandaban Hospital, as they wanted The Leprosy Mission’s expertise as to what dose of multidrug therapy to give such a young child. Ramesh was treated for leprosy and was spared disability.

Pavi, however, was not so fortunate. The 35-year-old from Bangladesh first displayed tell-tale patches on her skin aged 10. She then lost sensation in her feet and developed ‘clawed’ hands. She visited a traditional doctor who practised herbal medicine but, unsurprisingly, this did not treat her condition. Finally a relative saw a leprosy awareness poster produced by Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission and engagement with The Leprosy Mission’s Anandaban Hospital, providing services. Two years ago she finally attended the hospital where she was diagnosed and treated for leprosy but, tragically, her severe disabilities are irreversible.

The Leprosy Mission runs outreach clinics and is always careful to examine the children of leprosy-affected parents for the early signs of leprosy. It costs just £24 to bring a diagnosis and cure to a child with leprosy. Would you be kind enough to cure a child of leprosy today and spare them from a future blighted by leprosy?

Contact us on 01733 370505
email post@tlmew.org.uk

World Leprosy Day – together we climbed Mount Everest!

Together we managed to climb Mount Everest, all thanks to your participation in the Helping Hands challenge!

You might remember that our country of focus for World Leprosy Day 2015, on Sunday 25 January, was Nepal. Nepal is known for the Himalayas and, in particular, Mount Everest – the world’s highest mountain. For many people affected by leprosy, rebuilding a broken life feels like climbing Everest and for this reason we asked you and your churches/groups to take part in our Helping Hands challenge.

We asked you to draw around your hand, cut it out and write a prayer on it. On World Leprosy Day 2015 church representatives collected the paper hands, along with £1 from everyone to take part, with every penny of the money benefiting patients at The Leprosy Mission’s Anandaban hospital in Nepal. We worked out that we needed 48,664 hands to scale Everest’s 8,848 metres. And at the time of going to print, thanks to your kindness, we hit this target thus reaching the summit!

We had some beautiful photographs of prayer hands arranged in collages sent in to us – many of which we have used on Facebook and Twitter. A big thank you to all who took part!

A Legacy of Love

Eighty supporters recently attended a Legacy of Love event at the House of Lords where supporters learnt how leaving a legacy gift in their Will provided transformed futures for people affected by leprosy, some of the world’s poorest and most marginalised people.

Lord McColl, President of The Leprosy Mission England and Wales, hosted the event and introduced Reverend Christopher Hughes. Representing the Lawyers’ Christian Fellowship, Revd Hughes spoke of the importance of giving a legacy of love using the illustration of the Old Testament story of Boaz and Ruth. It is recorded in the Book of Ruth that there are two men who have the opportunity of acquiring land, and the added blessing of Ruth herself.

Rvd Hughes explains: "In modern terms we might say that the other man was working on the ‘charity begins at home’ principle. He was not willing to endow his own estate by taking into account people outside his own immediate family. But Boaz was different. His decision, and the basis of that decision, was a legacy of love.

“Clearly for most people it is right and appropriate to make provision for our own families. But what about making provision for something wider? Boaz made his decision because it was the good thing to do — in God’s wonderful plan it was gloriously and wonderfully the right thing to do.”

While all legacy gifts are exempt from inheritance tax and you leave a charitable legacy of 10 per cent or more of your net estate then you can reduce inheritance tax from 40 per cent to 36 per cent. (Charity giving can be made up of gifts to several charities totalling 10 per cent of the net estate.)

As a Christian charity, this is something The Leprosy Mission England and Wales is encouraging its supporters to consider as it goes hand in hand with the Biblical principle of tithing. The 10 per cent tithe from the Old Testament is often applied in churches as a ‘recommended minimum’ for Christians in their giving.

If you would like to talk to us about leaving a gift in your Will or would like to speak to a lawyer from the Lawyers’ Christian Fellowship call Marina Swift on 01733 404878 or email MarinaS@TLMEW.org.uk.

HELP CURE A CHILD OF LEPROSY TODAY

Title: __________________________ First Name: __________________________
Surname: __________________________
Address: __________________________ Telephone: __________________________
Postal Code: __________________________

I am happy for The Leprosy Mission to contact me this way.
Yes, I want to cure a child like Ramesh of leprosy

£72 brings the cure for leprosy to three children

£48 brings the cure for leprosy to two children

£24 can bring the cure for leprosy to a child

£10 provides a pair of protective sandals to a person disabled by leprosy

Other amount: __________________________

I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to “The Leprosy Mission”

Or Please debit my: C Visa C MasterCard C CAF Card C Maestro
Card no.: __________________________ Expiry date: ______/______

Valid from (if available): _________/_______/_______

Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Please return this form with your gift to: The Leprosy Mission, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5GZ
Registered Charity No. 1050277 a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 316397

Donate online: www.leprosymission.org.uk/donate

Contact us on 01733 370505 email post@tlmew.org.uk
Ruth Butlin, 62, from Eastbourne - a volunteer Medical Advisor at Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission hospital, Bangladesh.

Ruth has served The Leprosy Mission since 1982, in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. She moved back to England in 2007 to live with her elderly father, following the death of her mother, and worked as a part-time GP. After her father died in 2012, she retired from the NHS and in 2013 returned to Bangladesh in a voluntary capacity to work as a Medical Advisor at the Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission hospital, where The Leprosy Mission provides services.

Here’s a typical day in Ruth’s life:

“The Leprosy Mission’s driver, Ezekiel, had the vehicle ready at 7.30am and we drove up to Thakurgaon to visit a rural health programme. Staff from TLM Bangladesh asked me to confirm a couple of new leprosy cases they had found: in both cases they were correct about the diagnosis. They also showed me a known leprosy patient asking if he should continue his multidrug therapy (MDT) when a doctor had told him he also had chronic kidney disease. This is the sort of case you cannot expect a Leprosy Control Assistant to manage unaided which is why I am looking forward to help train a new Bangladeshi doctor in leprosy care and diagnosis. In this instance I adjusted the dosage of the gentleman’s medication.

On the way back to the Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission hospital at Nilphamari, I received a text message from one of the doctors saying they had a suspected relapse case which they wanted me to assess. When I did see the lady, she gave a history of being treated at the Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission hospital around 30 years ago. Sadly I had to agree with my colleagues that the findings of the examination and a positive skin smear did mean she had a second episode of leprosy – a very uncommon problem. But the good news was a second course of MDT was likely to cure her infection.

I reviewed a few more patients in the wards that afternoon and then went home to look at emails before going to the guest house for a dinner with other staff. It was the end of the surgical camp Dr Indra Napit from TLM Nepal had been carrying out at the hospital. For some time there had been no reconstructive surgeon but Dr Napit was training two doctors at the Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission hospital in certain reconstructive surgery procedures. Dr Napit had done about 50 operations over the past seven days assisted by the enthusiastic Bangladeshi doctors and the meal was to thank the team.”

Stamping out leprosy!

It is hard to believe that a bunch of used stamps can help transform the lives of some of the world’s poorest people. But the fact is it can! In 2014, The Leprosy Mission England and Wales raised £127,341 as a result of stamps and collectables. We welcome your gifts of all types of stamps, even the most common. It is preferable for stamps to be left on their backing and not soaked off, especially if they are the self-adhesive types. If possible, please trim around the stamps so that they have no more than a 5mm single thickness paper around each edge.

Please send your gifts to:
Phil and Eileen Jarman, 26 Drift Road, Clanfield, Waterlooville, PO8 0JL
Tel: 01733 516094
Email: philj@TLMEW.org.uk