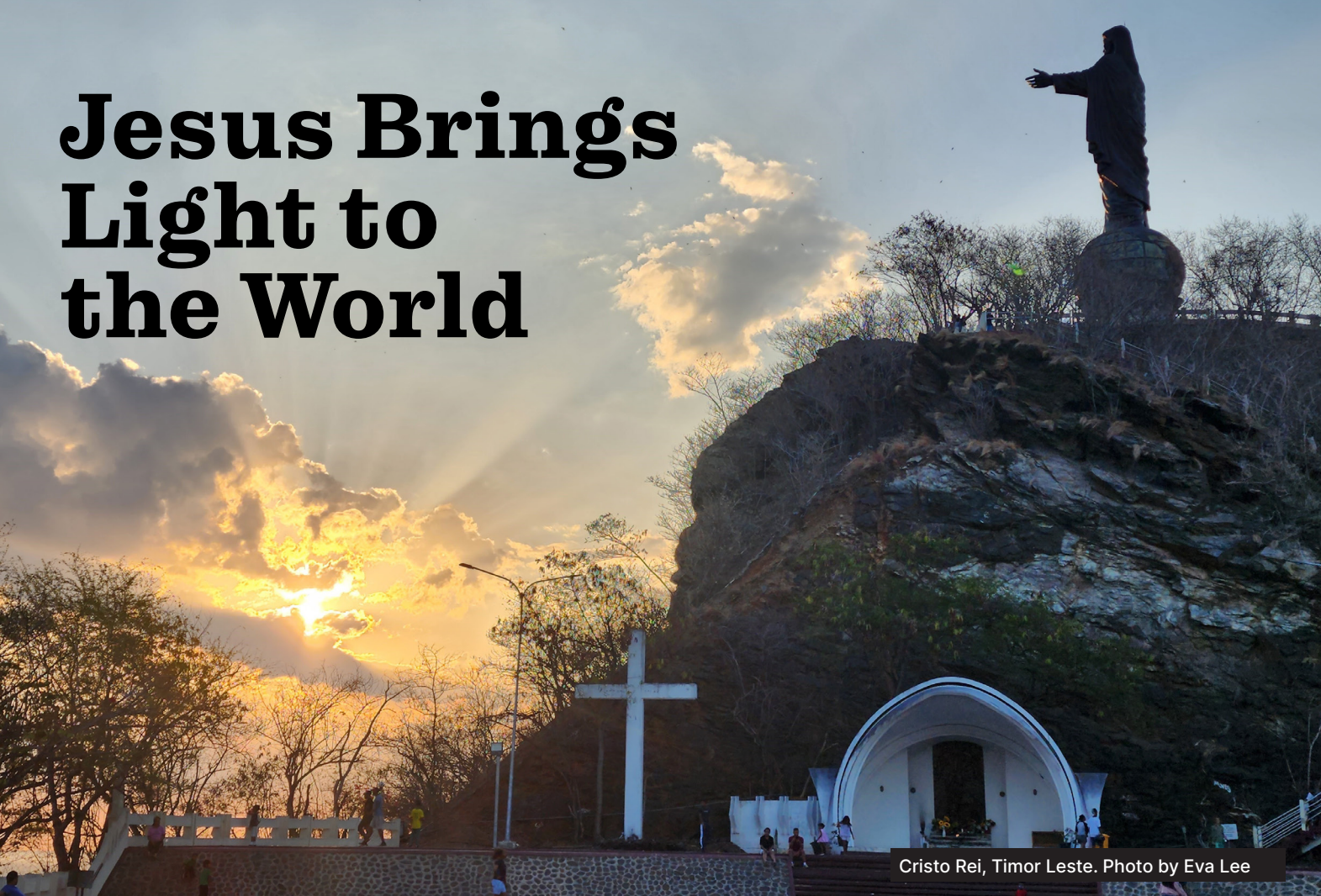


Jesus Brings Light to the World



Cristo Rei, Timor Leste. Photo by Eva Lee

By Glen Coleman

You are salt and light in the world. So says Jesus in Matthew 5. What does this mean? Simply put, God calls on you to help bring out the best in other people, to discover who they are, and then guide them towards God.

When Jesus came down the mountain at the end of His sermon on the mount He was confronted by a man with leprosy, looking to be healed. He could have ignored him, pushed him aside as so many had before. Left him there humiliated and scorned. Instead of keeping the man in the dark, where people like him had been kept for thousands of years, Jesus offers him both salt and light. He adds salt to the man's life simply by treating him as a human being. He touches him, something most people wouldn't do. He

responds to him with kindness and love – “I am willing.” One simple action, and three simple words and a man's life is changed.

The man is now healed but still an outcast. So Jesus offers him light. He points the man towards the priest, explaining what to do next. Jesus gives the man his life back. He can return to his family, his community, and begin to rebuild his life. A difficult situation managed with Godly love, grace and practical, real-world solutions.

This is the great gift that Jesus offers each of us through the cross at Easter. In dying for our sins Jesus frees all those who choose to follow the chance at a new life. No longer bound by death we can now be who God intended us to be – our true selves, full of life and love. This is a true act of being salt in the

world – adding flavour and preserving life.

The cross and Jesus actions upon it are also a light in a dark world. This light points us towards God as the source of life and freedom. It points us into the world as His messengers, bringing the Word of hope and potential that exists in all people.

So thank you for being open to the salt and light that Jesus offers. In doing so, you have become salt and light for others. Your prayers for people with leprosy have brought dignity, inclusion, and love to many.

God bless you this Easter as you remember the love of Jesus in your life, and for all people.

Leprosy
Mission
Australia



Issue 4, 2025

Keeping In Touch

Australian
Aid



You're helping Nuraeni reduce leprosy stigma in Indonesia!



Like many people, Nuraeni believed that people affected by leprosy were bad, sinful people.

The belief that people with leprosy were cursed and to be avoided is still strong, and causes great pain and hardship for individuals and the community they live in.

Thanks to supporters like you, Nuraeni has been educated about leprosy. She has become a great advocate and makes a great contribution as a health care worker in her village in rural Indonesia. Thank you!

For thousands of years people have looked at leprosy as a curse, given by god as a punishment for sins committed. Nuraeni was no different, “I would think people affected by leprosy are bad ones. They must have sinned and been cursed.” These beliefs were challenged once she took part in training. Nuraeni now understands the effects of leprosy and is committed to helping people get the treatment and support they need.

Nuraeni knows that correct information is vital. Once, she tried to educate the local Head of Neighbourhood who refused to be screened. Even being told off didn't stop her, and eventually the man was screened. She has helped people who were ashamed of having leprosy, visiting

homes and schools to encourage more open conversations.

Thanks to Nuraeni and others in the community, her village government has now allocated budget towards leprosy.

This means more resources such as screening, education, and disability support for affected people.

Thank you for making possible the changes in Nuraeni's life. “After the training, I realised I had been wrong. I am now committed to help reduce both self-stigma and social stigma,”

Pray for Nuraeni as she continues to make a difference in the lives of people affected by leprosy and discrimination in her village.

Pray that more people and villages will experience the benefits of training for their health care workers. Pray that more village governments will add leprosy to their budgets so that more people will be included in community life.

Thanks to your support, Nuraeni is a positive influence for people affected by leprosy. You can help make even more Leprosy Friendly Villages today!
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/leprosyfriendlyvillagedesaku/kit4>





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Little Amadi desperately needs MDT, but Nigeria is out of stock ...

By Greg Clarke

Can you imagine this?

Your little boy is very sick...

He begins taking the medication you're told will cure his leprosy completely ... then suddenly, there's no more.

It's out of stock. Right across the country.

And no-one knows when more is expected.

This is the terrifying situation facing 10-year-old Amadi and his family in Nigeria right now. Amadi is one of 3,000 people, including 800 children, who cannot get the Multi-Drug Therapy, or MDT, that can cure their leprosy.

You already know that Multi-Drug Therapy stops leprosy in its tracks by preventing transmission and ending nerve damage before permanent disability results. It's available free of charge through the World Health Organization.

Yet because of circumstances out of The Leprosy Mission's control, there has been no MDT in Nigeria for 11 months now.

What this means is some people have been diagnosed only to find out they can't begin the necessary treatment. They have been deprived of the treatment they so desperately need.

Others, like Amadi, have had to stop in the middle of their course of MDT.

It breaks my heart, this is devastating.

Little Amadi's life changed when leprosy left his fingers too weak to write, forcing him to drop out of school.

His father, a farmer, recognised the symptoms all too well. He had seen them before in his wife. The same disease left his mother with permanently clawed fingers because she was diagnosed too late.

Everything about his future is now uncertain. What if the drugs never come back in time? Will he

lose a limb? Will he be able to go back to school? Will his family or community abandon him?

Along with these fears, terrible physical symptoms add to the suffering of everyone in Nigeria deprived of their medication.

You see, a patient taking MDT who can't finish their course of medication has a higher chance of 'leprosy reaction'. This is a complication due to the bacteria that causes leprosy, and may involve lesions, severe pain, or swelling in the throat.

And those who have not yet started treatment are at greater risk of permanent damage.

In extreme cases, the reaction can cause nodules to swell. This swelling may disfigure parts of the body and damage nerves. As a result, there may be a loss of sensation, which can lead to unnoticed injuries that later become infected.

These symptoms then require their own medication. That's a big challenge when your healthcare system is already stretched to the limit.

What's more, nerve damage can also leave children like Amadi at risk of lifelong disability.

Amadi simply wants to get back to school with his friends.

Yet without MDT, Amadi's fingers have now started to curl into his palms. He is likely to develop irreversible disabilities which will affect his opportunities for the future.

Amadi's story is an incredibly painful reminder of the devastating impact of medicine shortages. He and thousands more are needlessly suffering.

Unlike many others in the world, you don't turn away from vulnerable people like Amadi



and his mum. Instead, you reach out in love and kindness to bless those in desperate need.

This work is vital. And with your prayerful support, we'll keep working hard behind the scenes to get the Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) supply up and running again.

Pray for Amadi that one day soon he will be able to get back to school with his friends, free from leprosy and its consequences.

Pray for people diagnosed with leprosy who have not been able to begin their treatment because there is no Multi-Drug Therapy available. Pray their symptoms will not put them at further risk of lifelong disability.

Pray for all those involved in ensuring the secure and reliable access to MDT. Pray that this problem will be addressed quickly to limit the physical and mental health damage to people affected by leprosy.

Global Day of Prayer 2025 Save the date!

Each year, Christians around the world join to pray for a world without leprosy. This year we invite you to pray with us on Wednesday May 7th.

These international prayer services are a wonderful opportunity to meet and pray with supporters from various parts of the Global Fellowship. Meeting time and Zoom link will be available here soon:

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/global-day-of-prayer-2025>



You can help end the MDT crisis...
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/mdtcrisis/kit4>

