



**“Two are better than one,
because they have a good
return for their labour:
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.
Also, if two lie down together,
they will keep warm. But how
can one keep warm alone?
Though one may be
overpowered, two can
defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not
quickly broken.”**
—**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

You may have heard this passage read at a wedding—the couple holding hands, full of love and hope, committing to stand together through life’s challenges. But Ecclesiastes 4 isn’t about romance. If we read the whole chapter of Ecclesiastes 4, we discover a deeper, more sobering truth: a world filled with injustice, loneliness, oppression, and relentless toil. The beauty of the “cord of three strands” shines even more brightly against this dark backdrop.

Now, imagine hearing these words from the perspective of someone affected by leprosy.

For thousands of years, people with leprosy have been pushed to the margins – cast out from families, excluded from school, left to suffer in silence. Imagine how these words sound to someone who has experienced that kind of isolation:

“But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”

Life begins to change when someone comes alongside.



Healing begins with community. Dignity begins with support. And transformation begins with love—and prayer.

This is Bimala’s story.

Bimala, a young woman in Nepal, was diagnosed with leprosy as a teenager. Her family had seen the damage leprosy can do—her father lives with permanent disability in his hands. But they acted quickly, getting Bimala the treatment she needed. After six months of Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT), she was due for a review to see if she was cured. But her doctor wasn’t available, and the clinic was far away. She didn’t go.

Some time later, warming her arm by the fire, she realised she couldn’t feel the heat.

She still had leprosy. The delay had left her with damage to her hands and arms—making it hard to write, and harder still to study.

Bimala says she regrets not going back. That moment, that missed review, changed so much. And yet—this is not where her story ends.

Because two are better than one.

Bimala's family has never given up on her. Her mother has supported her every step of the way—



Bimala's hand and arm were damaged because of incomplete treatment for her leprosy. Complete treatment and ongoing care are crucial for people affected by leprosy!

getting her the care she needs, encouraging her education. And when Bimala sat her final high school exams, someone sat beside her and wrote down every word she dictated. That's the power of people helping one another. That's the heart of Ecclesiastes 4 in action. Today, she's setting her sights on becoming a social worker.

"There are many people in the country who are suffering, and I want to help them."

And there's another part of the story you've helped write.

When Bimala's brother was blinded in an accident, someone suggested they go to a local church. After prayer, his sight returned. The family became followers of Jesus, their faith now woven into every part of their life.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

God. Others. You.

Your prayers—spoken from your heart—become part of that third strand. You are holding up people like Bimala and her family through the power of your intercession. In times of setback, you remind them they're not alone. In moments of hope, you're rejoicing with them.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Your prayers bring light, courage, and connection into places that once felt forgotten.

"There are many people in the country who are suffering, and I want to help them."

If you would like to share your prayer for The Leprosy Mission, please email me engage@leprosymission.org.au or use the response form enclosed.

Yours in prayer,

Glen Coleman
Community Engagement



Coordinator
Leprosy Mission Australia



Would you like to share a prayer for Bimala and others like her? Email engage@leprosymission.org.au or use the response form enclosed. We may even share your prayer with others in an upcoming Daily Prayer sheet.

And if you feel called to do more, please consider supporting the Jhapa Leprosy Reduction Project in Nepal. Your gift can help find more cases of leprosy early—especially in children—and reduce the long-term impact of disability and stigma.



leprosymission.org.au/JhapaLeprosyReductionPPD