



**The human spirit can  
endure in sickness,  
but a crushed spirit who  
can bear?**

**The heart of the discerning  
acquires knowledge,  
for the ears of the wise  
seek it out.**

**—Proverbs 18:14-15**

**My children often roll their eyes when I shoehorn  
random facts into everyday conversations.**

For instance, did you know that some species of bamboo experience something called gregarious flowering? All over the world, no matter where they grow, or the climate they are in, the entire species will flower at the same time (within a year or two) even though their flowering cycle might be up to 120 years! And then...they all die.

Incredible, isn't it?

But this isn't just a weird quirk of nature. For communities relying on bamboo the flowering event can be devastating. There is the loss of materials used for building, plus the loss of income from the sale of the bamboo. Even worse, once the flower fruits they attract a boom in the rat population, which can lead to food shortages and even famine. Not to mention the spread of disease.

See how a random fact can quickly become something deeper and more important? Gregarious flowering is an interesting, unique, if somewhat mysterious phenomenon to most people.

But when you look through the eyes of those directly affected, we see another story unfolding. Curiosity is an amazing gift I hope I am passing on to my children. The more we learn, the more we understand the world around us.



This understanding can change the way we think about the world and build empathy, wisdom and change.

It's this same kind of wisdom that guided Lanni, a courageous woman from Nepal.

Lanni noticed discoloured patches on her skin. First, just on her left arm. Then, more appeared—spreading across her body over the next six months. A trip to the local hospital led to blood tests, but no answers. She was given medicine for an unrelated infection and sent home. But the spots remained.

Lanni didn't stop looking. She continued to search for understanding—until she found a local community program that could help. There, she was finally diagnosed with leprosy and referred to a nearby health post to begin Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT).

So far, this sounds like many of the stories we hear. But what happened next was truly unexpected.

When Lanni was told she had leprosy, she laughed. The doctor was startled. “Why are you laughing?” he asked. “You're the only person I've seen react like this to a leprosy diagnosis.”

Lanni's reply was simple and deeply moving: “Because I can get better now. I finally know what is happening with my body.”

What a powerful response. It speaks to the difference knowledge can make. For thousands of years, leprosy has carried a heavy burden of fear, stigma, and social exclusion. But understanding changes everything. When people know the truth—that leprosy is curable and early treatment prevents disability—it replaces fear with hope. And sometimes, even with joy.

Lanni's story didn't stop with her own healing. Inspired by her experience, she began helping others seek diagnosis and treatment. She became the chairperson of a Self-Help Group, then led it as it grew into a cooperative. She has gone on to train in areas such as self-care, corporate management, disaster management, and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene).

Her journey is an example of what happens when wisdom, compassion, and courage come together.

**Yours in Prayer,**



**Glen Coleman**  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Leprosy Mission Australia



### Will You Pray With Us?

Your prayers for people like Lanni are powerful. Please:

- Give thanks for Lanni's courage, wisdom, and leadership.
- Pray for communities still burdened by misinformation and stigma around leprosy.
- Lift up local health workers who are bringing healing and hope.
- Ask God to stir a holy curiosity in our hearts—not just for knowledge's sake, but to move us toward compassion and action.

Share your prayers for people like Lanni by emailing [engage@leprosymission.org.au](mailto:engage@leprosymission.org.au) or use the enclosed form.

### Would you like to do more?

If Lanni's story moved you, consider a regular gift of TLC. No child or adult should be excluded from their family, community, school, or workplace because of leprosy.

Your regular support helps:

- Change attitudes.
- Fight discriminatory laws.
- Bring healing, dignity, and opportunity to those affected.

Together, we can stop leprosy transmission in Nepal.

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/tlc/nepal/ppd09>

