



**“Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you  
not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the  
wilderness  
and streams in the  
wasteland.”**

**— Isaiah 43:18–19**

**As we pause to consider the significance of Easter, it is helpful to sit with Scriptures like these and allow them to speak with fresh meaning. Isaiah’s words were first delivered to a people weary from exile, a people who feared their story was over. And yet, God interrupts their despair with a promise: *I am doing something new.***

For generations, people affected by leprosy have lived with their own form of exile. The early days of The Leprosy Mission are full of images that are hard to forget—men, women, and children pushed to the edges of society, abandoned in remote settlements, separated from home, dignity, and hope. Forgotten by their communities, despised by those who feared them, and left to fend for themselves far from the life they once knew.

One can imagine how a passage like Isaiah 43 might have sounded to them. Perhaps some would have heard it and quietly dismissed it as a promise meant for someone else. They might have wondered whether God, too, had turned away—whether even He had forgotten them in their suffering. Surely redemption, homecoming, and being called by name (v. 1) belonged to others, not to them.

And then God sent people.



Wellesley Bailey, walking into the stark reality of leprosy colonies in India, did not look away. Instead, he allowed God to move his heart. “If there was ever a Christ-like work in the world,” he said, “it is to go amongst these poor sufferers and bring them the consolation of the gospel.” The consolation he spoke of was not merely words—it was presence. It was love expressed through action. It was the lived truth of Isaiah 43: God gathers His children from all directions (vv. 5–7), restoring those who believed they had been cut off forever.

Imagine the impact when the first missionaries arrived among communities that had endured

isolation for so long. These visitors didn't simply preach about reconciliation—they embodied it. They sat with the rejected. They embraced the unseen. They offered care, dignity, and belonging. Their presence whispered a profound truth: God has not abandoned you. He is doing a new thing.

What once felt like a wilderness was being transformed. What had been a wasteland was beginning to show signs of life. The promise of Isaiah 43 was becoming visible—not in theory, but in lived experience. Streams were appearing in dry places, and pathways were opening where none had existed before.

Jesus called His followers to heal the sick and cleanse those with leprosy more than two thousand years ago. Wellesley Bailey and those who followed him stepped into that call, trusting that Christ's resurrection life still flows into the most forgotten places of the world. And today, we stand in that same line of calling. We continue the Christ-like work because He died that we might live—and that we might share that life with others.

But as we put ourselves into this Scripture, alongside those affected by leprosy, we discover something humbling. When we “go amongst these poor sufferers,” we recognise that we, too, are among the broken and the in-need-of-grace. Not in the same way—not in a way that diminishes their experience—but in a way that reminds us of the truth Paul proclaimed: in Christ, we are all one family. Neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free... leprosy-affected or not. (Galatians 3:28)

Christ's reconciling work joins us together. We are healed people walking with healing people. We are restored people walking with restoring people. The new thing God is doing is not only in them—it is in us too.

This Easter, what new thing might God be stirring in your own heart for the sake of the family?

Is He inviting you to pray in a deeper, more intentional way—perhaps for a specific country, a project, or a group of people who come to mind?

Is He prompting you to share with others the remarkable breakthroughs happening in the leprosy world?

Is He planting a seed of compassion, generosity, advocacy, or courage?

Whatever God is doing in you, trust that it is part of His “new thing”—the same new thing He has been unfolding since Isaiah spoke, since Jesus rose, and

since the first missionaries walked into forgotten places with the light of Christ.

May you perceive it.

May it spring up.

And may it bless the whole family of God.

**Yours in Prayer,**

**Glen Coleman**



**Community Engagement  
Coordinator  
Leprosy Mission Australia**



#### **Will you pray with us?**

God continues to do a new thing through your prayers. Mitali (pictured), from India, had her life turned around because you pray. When more responsibility fell on her shoulders to provide for her family, Mitali was able to train to become an artisan. Now, her creations – beautiful, handcrafted products – bless her whole family, opening the way for a brighter future.

Share your prayers for people like Mitali and for all that God is doing by emailing [engage@leprosymission.org.au](mailto:engage@leprosymission.org.au) or use the enclosed form.

#### **Would you like to do more?**

Try a new thing today! Host a Cuppa for a Cure in your home, church, workplace, or school. This is a great way of sharing the work you support to raise vital funds for people affected by leprosy, transforming lives and communities. Go to <https://host-a-cuppa-for-a-cure.raiselysite.com/> to register your event or call 1800 537 767.

