



Princess Di learning about the work of Anandaban Hospital that your kindness and prayers support.

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“The other effect was on the people who worked with leprosy patients. A colleague in PNG told me they received copies of that broadcast from Nepal and showed the health workers – it really challenged their attitudes. They realised that if the Princess could come that close to patients and not feel afraid or repulsed, then they had to think about their attitude to people with leprosy as well. It was very powerful.”

[You can read the full article here...](https://bit.ly/3AivURc)
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In Hannah Mudge’s article for TLM England and Wales, Country Leader Peter Waddup speaks passionately about the need for the same attitudes today.

He said: “Covid has had a completely devastating effect in the countries where we work. It is not only a case of health systems collapsing under the strain but lockdown measures imposed to curtail the spread of the virus causing widespread poverty.

“There is desperate hunger and it is widely reported that millions of people globally have been plunged into extreme poverty as a direct result of the pandemic.

“Leprosy is a leading cause of preventable disability and is a disease that thrives where people live in poverty. Princess Diana was a superb Patron of The Leprosy Mission.

“She was the world’s most photographed woman and made huge strides in quashing the age-old prejudice and myths surrounding leprosy which we know stop people coming forward for treatment.

“We need to remember the Princess’s legacy of kindness and acceptance by raising awareness of the disease so that people will recognise its early symptoms and seek treatment without fear of rejection from their family, friends and communities.

“This is even more paramount in the days of this terrible pandemic where government resources simply will not be there to find these people.”

[You can read the full article here... ‘We need Princess Diana’s legacy of kindness and acceptance more than ever before’ \(shorturl.at/CKNW9\)](https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/nepal-self-care-unit)

Pray that more people affected by leprosy would experience healing through the compassion and love shown by people like Princess Diana, and people like you.

Your continued faithfulness in following Jesus and reaching out, touches the lives of those affected by leprosy. You can continue to show kindness in the work of Anandaban Hospital where Princess Diana visited through the Nepal Self Care Unit by going to:
www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/nepal-self-care-unit

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The heartbreak of losing your leg. What would you do in Mr Singaravel’s place?



by Andrew Newmarch
International Programs Manager
The Leprosy Mission Australia

We’re often encouraged to take the advice of medical and professional personnel. The facts before us all add up to making a decision that is consistent with that advice. In the case of leprosy, stigma and discrimination makes life as hard to bear as having leprosy itself. Getting any assistance at all is welcome. However, sometimes taking that advice can be really hard.

In the village of Vadakkupalayam, near Cuddalore in India, I met members of a self-care group. This group gathered to learn how to treat their ulcers and support each other. One gentleman, Mr Singaravel, had a bad ulcer on his right foot which meant he needed crutches to get around. The ulcer kept getting damaged; indeed, it was not really getting better. The medical and professional advice: the lower leg should be amputated. Mr Singaravel could then get a prosthesis that will make walking so much easier.

Have you ever had to make a decision to lose part of your body? Did you have a choice or was it a life or death situation eg cancer? For Mr Singaravel this was not a life or death decision but more of a difficult life versus a better life.

Perhaps for us we might work through the logic and decide for an amputation.

We might pray about this and seek spiritual guidance. For Mr Singaravel his body helps to define him and to amputate is losing definition. He has made several attempts to say yes and has got as far as the surgery room but still resists

The Inclusive Empowerment project you support, makes prosthetics so there is no problem in getting a new leg. The project you support also teaches people how to manage their disability and take care of themselves.

Pray for people like Mr Singaravel as he considers his options and weighs up what it would mean to have an amputation.

Your kindness and compassion in continually praying for those affected by leprosy and disability continues to transform lives. If you would like to give loving care to someone, you can donate using the form enclosed and return in the envelope provided, FREECALL 1800 537 767 or go to:
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/inclusive-empowerment>



Your faithful prayers bring hope, joy, and new life through Andrew Newmarch's (right) visit.



Your love and compassion for people affected by leprosy is expressed beautifully in this photo of Princess Diana.

The Joy of gaining a leg.

Your compassion and prayers give reason to celebrate.



by Andrew Newmarch
International Programs Manager
The Leprosy Mission Australia

Most of us are thankful for our limbs and how they enable us to do things. We get annoyed when we experience damage: a cut, a bruise, a pulled muscle, a broken bone. With our medical system most of us will resume full functionality of that part of our body. We give thanks for God's provision of the medical research skills, treatments and systems developed over centuries to make that possible. We also have a disability care system that makes life so much easier in our society than in others.

I recently visited a clinic in Kuruvappan Pettai village, near Cuddalore, India. I received a flower garland in welcome and introduced to some people who had gathered there for disability therapy. Among them were Mr Murugan, Mr Ramar and Mrs Devaki who were all leg amputees. They had lost limbs for various reasons, often due to irreparable leprosy damage. They had all been measured and fitted for prosthetic legs. Given that I was visiting, the presentation of legs to them was delayed a few days so I could hand them their legs!

It was very exciting to see these men and women walk around the room, smiles beaming from their faces.

They now have a mobility previously lacking. What was even more astounding was how quickly they applied their new limb to doing life. Mr Ramar hopped on his bicycle and rode off. Mr Murugan hopped on to his motor scooter, needed a friend to start the scooter, but then rode off on his own. Mrs Devaki was able to get up side-saddle on the pillion seat of another scooter and they rode off.

Give thanks for the skills of the Inclusive Empowerment therapy team and their care for people with disability. Also pray for these amputees as they adjust to life with their new leg and discover what they can now do.

Thank you for your compassionate heart!
If you would like to financially support the work of the Inclusive Empowerment project please use the form enclosed and return in the envelope provided, FREECALL 1800 537 767 or go to: <https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/inclusive-empowerment>

Your influence can continue the legacy of Princess Diana!

The "people's princess" touched the hearts of many across the world...including people affected by leprosy. It is 25 years this month since the much beloved Diana, Princess of Wales died in tragic circumstances. Much has changed. The ability to find, treat, and heal people with leprosy has made remarkable progress. The goals of zero transmission, zero disability, and zero discrimination are possible because of your faithful prayers and kindness.

Princess Diana once said, "It has always been my concern to touch people with leprosy, trying to show in a simple action that they are not reviled, nor are we repulsed." She matched her actions to her words and gave us a modern biblical example of compassionate love.

Janet Walmsley invites us to remember what tender-hearted influencers can do for the hope of individuals and the inspiration of nations. Perhaps you will be inspired too...

Excerpt below from article by Janet Walmsley, Former TLMI Staff Member

In 1989 Diana, Princess of Wales visited a Leprosy Mission Hospital in Indonesia against the advice of officials and the press. She was filmed sitting with leprosy patients, talking to them and – most controversially – touching them. A year later Diana became a patron of The Leprosy

Mission (TLM), and in the following years she visited projects in India, Nepal and Zimbabwe.

When Diana visited The Leprosy Mission's work at Anandaban Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1993, she sat on the patients' beds, holding their hands and talking to them. When the pictures were broadcast around the globe, they absolutely shocked the world. It was against everyone's advice, against protocol – to touch a person with leprosy.

Her visits at that time provided invaluable publicity for the work of TLM – giving a clear message that leprosy was not a disease from Bible times, something eradicated a long time ago, nor were leprosy patients "untouchables" – to be feared and outcast from society.

Ruth, a British worker with The Leprosy Mission in Nepal who had been there when Diana visited the Anandaban Hospital, shared with me some years later:

"There were two quite beautiful effects from Diana's visit. One was on the patients, who were overwhelmed by her kindness – the way she sat on their beds, held their hands and talked to them. It was absolutely huge to hold a leprosy patient's hands at that time!

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