

ACTION



YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE ARE CHANGING LIVES

EDITION 2, 2016

**COVER:
Namaste
from Nepal...
thanks to you!**

**See how God
raised up a
village leader**

.....
A young
woman's artistic
Gift of Love
.....

**Join the
Trek to Nepal
2017**



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia

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We see Transformation:
People healed and living in community with dignity, opportunity and hope

VISION:
Leprosy Defeated. Lives Transformed.

MISSION:
Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission strives to break the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.



The Leprosy Mission Australia
ABN 52 354 004 543 | ACN 067 616 193
PO Box 293 Box Hill VIC 3128 | Fax 03 9890 0550
Phone 03 9890 0577 | Tollfree 1800 LEPROSY
Email tlmaust@leprosymission.org.au
www.leprosymission.org.au



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The Leprosy Mission Australia ABN 52 354 004 543 (TLMA) is a member of the Australian Council for International Development and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability, and financial management. TLMA is committed to full adherence to the ACFID Code of Conduct. More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct may be obtained from The Leprosy Mission Australia website: www.leprosymission.org.au or ACFID's website: www.acfid.asn.au.

The Leprosy Mission Australia is an international organisation that works in partnership with governments, public health officials, non-government organisations, the World Health Organisation, churches, Christian partners and others to achieve its vision of a world without leprosy. The Leprosy Mission is the oldest and largest leprosy-focussed organisation in the world today.



**THIS PUBLICATION IS
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Message from the CEO

Jesus' Gift of Love for people

If Jesus was here today, I believe there are two things he would be saying to you and me. One is that people affected by leprosy still need to be reached and treated. The other is that we need to walk with them as they reintegrate into society. That requires us to put love into action. And I want to thank you for being so faithful in doing this.

I thank YOU for following the example of Jesus in sharing his love for people with leprosy.

I thank YOU for the love that leads to your prayers, your support and your generosity... so people with leprosy can be cured and live their lives with dignity!

Because love was Jesus' greatest gift to all of us.

WHAT A GIFT OF LOVE DOES

This edition of ACTION features many items in the Gifts of Love Catalogue – and the stories of the people whose lives have changed because they received one... thanks to people like you.

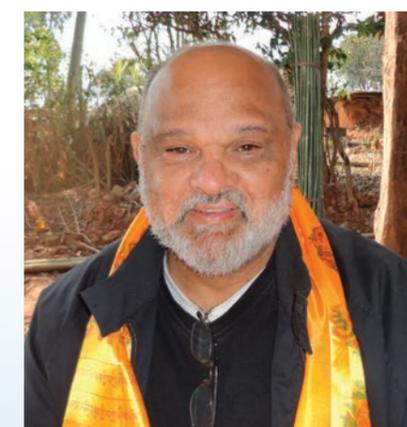
You can read about Gopal in Nepal. He was driven out of his village by people fearful of his disease. But he eventually returned, cured, and with a new faith in God! And thanks to a special Gift of Love, he's now running his own shop and has regained respect in his community.

Or you can see the beautiful artworks of Supriya. Three years ago, she could not use her hands. Now a gift of love - Reconstructive Surgery - has made it possible for her to draw and paint.

These Gifts of Love touch the lives of those whom society thinks are not worthy or beautiful. When a person affected by leprosy receives a Gift of Love, it says to them, "There is hope. There is a cure. You are worthy of love and care."

I believe that's exactly what Jesus would have said to these people. Because of you, we can say it on His behalf.

**Sheldon Rankin
CEO, The Leprosy Mission Australia**



Gifts of Love

NIGERIA



Through the leprosy and disability project in Nigeria, you help people with leprosy by:

- Providing prosthetic limbs so they can walk again
- Providing treatment to cure leprosy and care for wounds and ulcers
- Building water pumps and toilets to ensure a clean water supply and better hygiene

TIMOR LESTE



Through self-help groups such as this one in Oecusse, you give people affected by leprosy the chance to:

- Raise awareness of leprosy to reduce the stigma of the disease
- Receive training and assistance to start small businesses so people with leprosy can earn a living

NEPAL



Through the RECLAIM project, you give people like Lila the chance to reach their full potential through activities including:

- Reconstructive surgery to restore function to hands and feet
- Self-care groups that teach people how to care for wounds and prevent disability
- Loans through Self-Help Groups to buy livestock or start a business



INDIA



Through The Leprosy Mission Hospital in Kothara, you change the future for people like Kishori and Supriya with:

- Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) to cure leprosy
- Surgery and physiotherapy to restore mobility to clawed hands
- Prosthetic legs so people can walk again after losing a limb to leprosy

THAILAND



Through the McKean Rehabilitation Centre, you ensure people with leprosy get the best chance of a better future with activities including:

- Physiotherapy so those with clawed hands can regain the use of their fingers
- Vocational training so they learn skills to support themselves leprosy can be independent

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Through the PNG Leprosy Control Partnership, you ensure young people like Anna and Rebecca don't have to live with the effects of leprosy with activities including:

- Diagnosis and treatment of leprosy
- Training health workers to find and identify cases of leprosy
- Teaching people how to care for wounds and ulcers, and prevent permanent disability

A Simple Greeting

Have you ever been to Nepal? If so, you've probably been greeted by the locals who clasp their hands together and say, "Namaste!"

But this is impossible to do when your hands are clawed from leprosy.

This was Lila's situation when she was 10. She and her parents didn't know why her hands were swollen and weak. Why she had light-coloured patches on her skin. Why her hands had begun to claw.

And she couldn't say "Namaste" without everyone seeing her deformed hands.

Then one day Lila burned her left hand while warming herself in front of a fire. But she never felt the pain of the flames... because she'd lost sensation in her hands!

The local hospital could not tell her what was wrong. The children at school kept asking why Lila's hands were clawed.

It wasn't until one of The Leprosy Mission's partners in Nepal met Lila that she was properly diagnosed and cured of leprosy. Reconstructive surgery at Anandaban Hospital followed – so now Lila can straighten her fingers normally. Only slight clawing remains in her left hand.

A role model for others with leprosy... thanks to you

Lila was able to finish school. She joined a self-care group where she learned how to prevent wounds like the burns she got from the fire.

Through the group, Lila received a goat. She gets an income from the goat's milk and offspring. She also sells eggs from chickens. With these funds, Lila has enrolled herself in a business degree at university. As president of the group, she wants to learn new skills to support their work.

"I am very grateful for your help. Now our group is in a position to help other people in need in our community. We want to be a model group – to show what people affected by leprosy and people with disability can achieve!"

Today, if you were to go and visit Lila, now 20, she would be delighted to greet you with the traditional "Namaste" – using hands that can now clasp normally. Thanks to you.

When your fingers are clawed, it's hard to say "Namaste!"

Take ACTION with a Gift of Love

The following Gifts of Love gives people like Lila a chance at a normal life.

Self-Care Pack – helps someone affected by leprosy care for wounds and burns like Lila got from the fire.

Goats – so people like Lila can support themselves by selling milk, and their offspring.

Select your Gift of Love on the back page and send the order form back to us!

Lila can now say Namaste and greet people with her hands in the traditional way – because of you.

Once banished... now a respected village leader, thanks to you!

"Jaimashi!"

All the way from Nepal, that's Gopal's message to supporters like you! It means "Greetings in Christ!"

Gopal was in his early twenties when he first saw the signs of leprosy. Losing sensation in his feet. Developing wounds on his soles. His hands going numb... then his fingers clawed.

He had no idea what was wrong...

... but eventually others in his community turned against him.

They accused him of having leprosy.

They told him he should not be around other people.

They wanted him to leave the village...

For Gopal, the wounds on his limbs were one thing. But the wounds in his soul were another.

"I became very depressed and afraid."

Eventually the stigma and pressure became too great. Gopal had to leave. But God had a plan for him. He moved to India. He found a hospital where he completed a one-year course of Multi Drug Therapy (MDT).

Here Gopal also committed his life to God and joined a church family who loved and accepted him. He also met his wife and they now have two adult sons and a daughter. What a multitude of blessings!

With your help, God raised up a leader.

Eventually Gopal returned to his village in Nepal with his family. About four years ago, he joined a self-care group in his village run by The Leprosy Mission.

Although he is cured of leprosy, the numbness in his feet means he can't

feel it if he injures his feet while working in the fields. But the group taught him how to clean and dress his wounds so they heal.

With the support of the group, Gopal started a small shop selling snacks, tea, soap and homemade bamboo stools. This gives him the chance to save for the future. He's also discovered the joy of giving to his local church.

"God gave to me so I want to give back."

When his self-help group merged with four others, Gopal was elected chair of the new cooperative. Now Gopal is respected and invited to every community event in his village.

"The same people who used to refuse to talk to me and told me to leave the village now respect me. They even come and ask me for advice!"

Now Gopal wants to thank you for making this all possible for him... and he has a special request.

"Please continue to support people affected by leprosy in Nepal. There are many more who need help. Also, we Christians are a minority here, please pray that our church will grow and reach more people of Nepal."

"God gave to me so I want to give back."

OPPOSITE PAGE ►
Because of you, Gopal knows how to care for the injuries to his feet that occur while working in the fields.



Gopal says thank you! Because of you, this once-shunned man is now a leader in his village and can earn a living through his shop



Gifts of Love

Gopal also brings in income by making and selling bamboo stools.

Take ACTION with a Gift of Love...



These Gifts of Love can help a person like Gopal.

Self-Care Pack – helps someone like Gopal to care for the wounds they get on their feet as they work in the fields.

Small Business Start-Up – gives others like Gopal the chance to live independently.

Grant for a Self-Help Group – supports people affected by leprosy both with wound care training, livelihood skills and loans.

Select your Gift of Love on the back page and send the order form back to us!

A leprosy story in images



Thanks to people like you, reconstructive surgery meant Supriya could take up drawing...



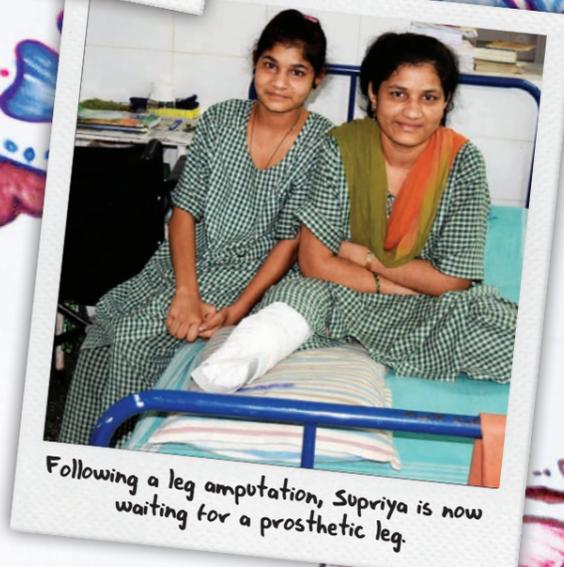
Supriya (left) and her sister Purnima came to The Leprosy Mission Hospital in Kothara for Multi Drug Therapy. Their father was very sad the two girls both had leprosy.



Three years ago, Supriya's clawed fingers meant she would not have been able to produce artwork like this...



Now could she have embroidered cloth like this



Following a leg amputation, Supriya is now waiting for a prosthetic leg.

Take ACTION with a Gift of Love...



For people like Supriya, the following Gifts of Love can change their future:

- Cure Package** – cures someone like Supriya from the disease.
- Reconstructive Surgery** – gives others like Supriya the chance to draw and paint for a living.
- Prosthetic Limb** – means someone will be able to stand and walk instead of being crippled by losing a limb.

Select your Gift of Love on the back page and send the reply form back to us!

A father's love

Gifts of Love



All he wanted was to provide for his family...

When Kishori noticed the patches on his skin several years ago, he first consulted traditional healers in India. They did not know it was leprosy. The only treatment they recommended was petroleum jelly for the affected area.

The cost of this ignorant advice was the clawing of Kishori's hands. This made it hard to drive his rickshaw – the main source of income for his wife and three children, who are 9, 6 and 3.

Kishori loves his family and works hard for them. He wants a better life for them – just as you want the best for yours.

As a rickshaw driver, he earned enough to pay the rent on their house, which is three-quarters of his income. They don't have savings as

any money left over is spent on food, school and other living costs. Now this income for his family was under threat. It was at this point that Kishori went to hospital. Here The Leprosy Mission staff diagnosed him correctly and treated him with Multi Drug Therapy.

And eight months later, he returned to have reconstructive surgery to "unclaw" his hands. With physiotherapy to restore function to his fingers, he'll be able to drive his rickshaw again.

Thanks to you, a breadwinner's hands have been restored!

Take ACTION with a Gift of Love...



For a family man like Kishori, the following Gifts of Love mean a lot:

- Cure Package** – successfully treats leprosy, with appropriate medication and care.
- Reconstructive Surgery** – so others like Kishori don't have to live with permanently clawed hands.
- Physiotherapy** – so someone like Kishori can use his hands again to earn a living for their family.

Select your Gift of Love on the back page and send the order form back to us!

Bless you for your messages of love to Papua New Guinea

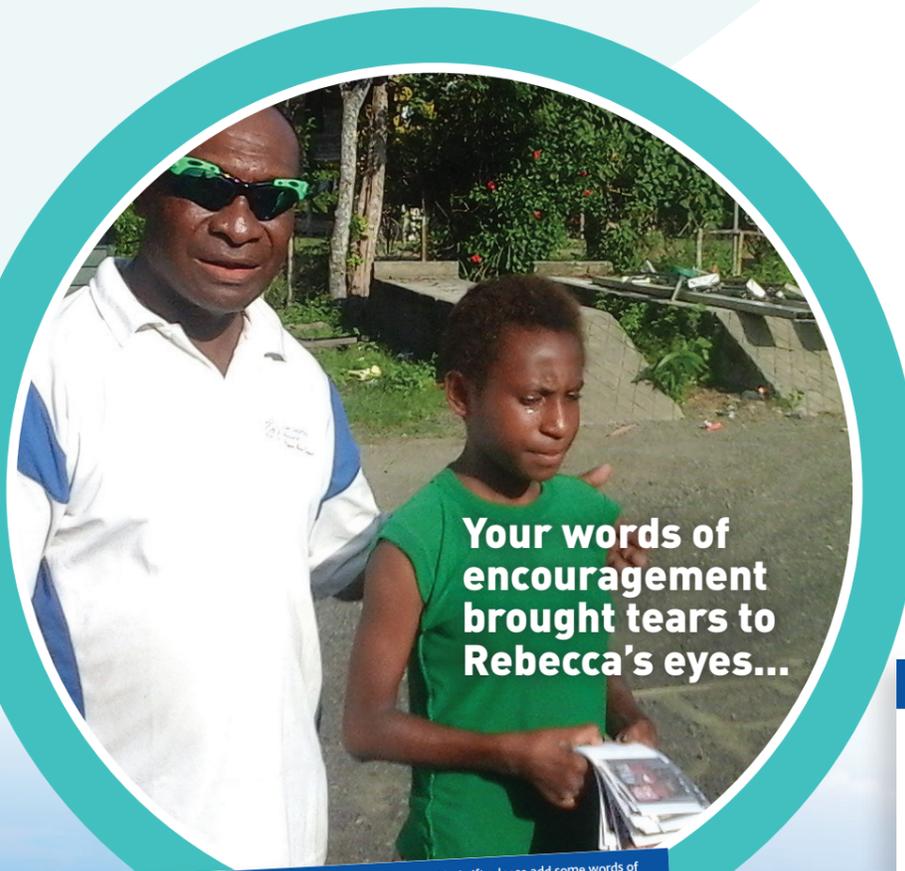


Rebecca says "Tenkyu tru!"

That's pidgin English for thank you – she enjoyed receiving the beautiful and heartfelt notes from Australian supporters like you.

This shy but sweet 15-year-old was the focus of The Leprosy Mission's February appeal. **Thanks to your support, she can continue the Multi Drug Therapy treatment she needs to cure leprosy!**

Thank you to everyone who wrote an encouraging message to Rebecca!



Your words of encouragement brought tears to Rebecca's eyes...

Encourage your neighbours Along with your kind gift, please add some words of encouragement for children in PNG like Rebecca.

Keep smiling and continuing your schooling. People in Australia think about you and are helping to make you better.



Encourage your neighbours Along with your kind gift, please add some words of encouragement for children in PNG like Rebecca.

You look beautiful. I like your pretty skirts. Keep taking your medicine. Lots of love, From Grandma Stella.

Encourage your neighbours Along with your kind gift, please add some words of encouragement for children in PNG like Rebecca.

Give all your cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7. With love and best wishes. From Gwen



Love your neighbour as yourself. Mark 12:31

Anna is no stranger to rejection. Because she had a club foot, her parent abandoned her when she was 6.

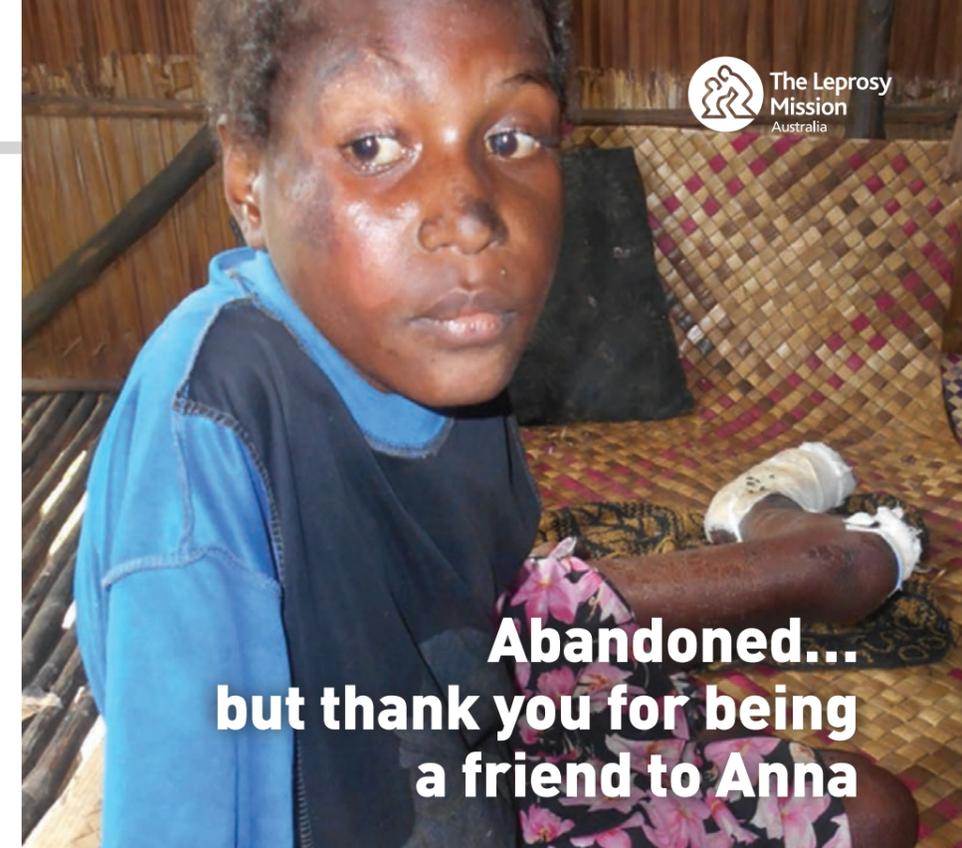
How would you feel if your mum or dad left you for something you couldn't help?

Anna's grandfather was kind enough to take her in. She was lucky to have her club foot corrected and was able to attend school.

But then Anna got leprosy. She lost sensation in her hands and feet. Horrible painful ulcers developed... and Anna was so miserable, she hid away in her house. She became one of the many people with leprosy who feel rejected because of her terrible condition.

She was very sad as she spent many hours peering out of a broken wall of her house, too ashamed to leave.

A field worker, Elma, from The Leprosy Mission PNG eventually found Anna, now 14. She had a serious ulcer covered with a reeking pus-soaked bandage. It was clear Anna's gangrenous foot needed urgent treatment.



Abandoned... but thank you for being a friend to Anna

While trying to get a consultation with a hospital doctor, Elma cared for Anna herself, changing the dressings for her ulcers and even bathing her.

This is love in action – loving the unlovely – despite ugly ulcers, pus and bad smells. Anna experienced this love because of you.

Eventually, Anna was able to go to Port Moresby to have her right foot amputated.

Now she's back home and in time should be able to go back to school! Thank you for touching the lives of people with leprosy in Papua New Guinea.

Take ACTION with a Gift of Love

The following Gifts of Love would help someone like Anna – so they no longer feel they have to hide themselves away.

Cure Package – help cure someone like Anna from the disease.

Village Health Volunteer Training – train a local in leprosy and its treatment to support people like Anna to get the medical attention they need.

Select your **Gift of Love** on the back page and send the order form back to us!



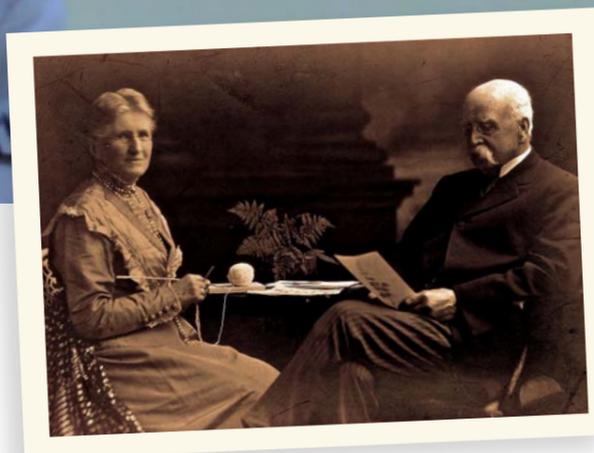
Because of you, Anna was able to get treatment for her ulcerated foot – she is so thankful.



Thank you for praying

Your prayers accomplish God's purposes in the lives of people affected by leprosy

Prayer in action is love...
– Mother Teresa



Wellesley Bailey, pictured with his wife Alice, would pray about all matters related to The Leprosy Mission.

What an incredible thing it was to hear so many people took part in the prayer weekend during August. Thank you to all who participated.

Everyone at The Leprosy Mission values your prayers. Since the mission began in 1878, prayer has been an essential part of the work we do in changing the lives of leprosy-affected people.

Through your prayers, staff are found, resources are given, leprosy is cured, wounds are treated, surgeries are performed, prosthetic legs are made, self-help groups are formed, livelihoods are created.

And people with leprosy experience love – a kind word, acceptance, a caring hand to change a bandage – from those who were there in the

right place at the right time because of a ministry bathed in prayer.

When you pray, you're following in the footsteps of founding member Wellesley Bailey. As a praying man himself, he said:

"The Mission was born and cradled in prayer, it has been brought up in prayer, it has been nourished in prayer, and prayer has been at the bottom of its success since the first moments of its life."

"We feel we owe all, under God, to the prayer of people who have been guided by His Holy Spirit..."

It's such a blessing to have people of faith upholding the ministry in prayer – thank you.

Take ACTION!

Are you a prayer warrior?

If so, you can request the Ask Prayer Diary with daily prayer points for The Leprosy Mission all over the world.

Call 1800 LEPROSY
for your copy.

Other ways to take ACTION

Send in your stamps... and you send in a leprosy cure!

Do you have old stamps stored away or sitting in a box somewhere?

If so, you could help cure someone with leprosy... just send your used stamps to us!

The Blackburn Missionary Stamp Club collects and sorts stamps donated to The Leprosy Mission, then sells them on our behalf during their stamp sales. Proceeds go to people affected by leprosy.

Over the last 8 years, the Stamp Club has donated enough money to provide leprosy cures to 146 people!

Your stamps could be turned into a leprosy cure for someone living in poverty.

Fun fact about stamps

At Christmas 2015, the South Australian Post Office released an emergency run of 30 cent stamps to make up \$1 with the standard 70 cent stamps. A set of these rare stamps were selling on eBay earlier this year for over \$1000!

What about your coins for cures?

If stamps are not your thing, perhaps you have a coin collection stashed away that you'd be willing to donate. The Leprosy Mission recently received a coin collection valued at \$15,000 – that's leprosy cures for 41 people!

Take ACTION!

Send your used postage stamps to the national office at PO Box 293, Box Hill, Victoria 3128 or drop them in to 37-39 Ellingworth Pde, Box Hill, Victoria, 3128.

If you have a coin collection you'd like to give, please contact us for details or to make arrangements:

Call 1800 LEPROSY



Ron's legacy of love lives on

A heart of love continues to reach out!

"Love cares more for others than for self... Love never dies." 1 Corinthians 13:4,8 (MSG)

Through your prayers and generosity, so many of you have supported the ministry of The Leprosy Mission over the years... with the same heart of love the Bible talks about in the famous passage in 1 Corinthians 13.

It's this heart of love that made Baptist minister Ron Nowlan leave a gift in his Will to help those affected by leprosy. Throughout his life, Ron faithfully prayed and encouraged people all over Australia – including all of us involved with The Leprosy Mission.

Now that he's gone, his heart of compassion will continue reaching people and changing lives. We pay tribute to his memory and his legacy.

If you want to make a difference into the future, we invite you to consider people affected by leprosy.

It doesn't matter whether it's big or small – The Leprosy Mission Australia has received bequests ranging from \$100 to over half a million. We honour and respect the heart of love behind your legacy to help those with leprosy.

Take ACTION!

If you would like to leave a gift in your Will to The Leprosy Mission, tick the **Gift in My Will** option on the back page. Your gift of love will give people suffering with leprosy improved health and dignity for a better life.

The Leprosy Mission's Trek to Nepal 2017

Join us for a life-changing 13-day journey to the Annapurna region in Nepal while raising money for people affected by leprosy!

You will:

- Meet and greet the people you're helping at Anandaban Hospital
- Stay one night at The Leprosy Mission guesthouse, newly-rebuilt after the Nepal earthquake.
- Break down barriers and share a meal with a leprosy self-help group in a community just outside Kathmandu.
- Trek through the long and winding paths of the Himalaya, meeting the locals and supping at traditional teahouses.
- See spectacular views around the world's highest mountains.

"I felt in my heart that God has made us all equal but some people have a much harder journey. Just seeing the inequality of our world in terms of the difficulty that some people go through - yet they still have joy in their hearts."

– Chrisy Savvides, former trekker and TLMA Board Member.

Run by Inspired Adventures, this is a chance in a lifetime to experience the real Nepal. It's not just a nice holiday or tour, this is a chance to both meet and make a real difference to people living with



leprosy every single day. The money you raise will go towards the work of diagnosing and curing leprosy and helping people to live full and independent lives with dignity.

For more information, please visit <http://trek17.leprosymission.org.au/> to register your interest.

Chrisy Savvides (Director) joined the TLMA Board in 2006, and is currently serving as Chair of the Prayer, Engagement, and Fundraising Committee. She has a degree in Visual Communication and works as a freelance Graphic Designer based in Sydney. Chrisy was introduced to the Leprosy Mission through TLMA's Trek for Treatment to Nepal in 2005, and brings extensive experience in advertising to her position on the Board.



Every 2 minutes a new case of leprosy is diagnosed | Cure One Today

Choose your Gifts of Love!



I want to put love in action with a Gift of Love!

I want to bless others like Jesus did. When I buy a Gift of Love, I know I'm helping people with leprosy like Lila through The Leprosy Mission's healing ministry.



Gifts of Love

"I am very grateful for your help!"

Lila, 20, Nepal

1 Choose your Gifts of Love

CODE	MY GIFT	QTY	EACH	TOTAL
11284	Pair of Chickens		\$10	\$
11288	Pair of Sunglasses		\$10	\$
12647	Physiotherapy Session		\$15	\$
12623	Self-Care Pack		\$30	\$
11289	Children's Scholarship		\$45	\$
11287	Goat		\$50	\$
12650	Village Health Volunteer Training		\$100	\$
11290	Small Business Start-Up		\$150	\$
12649	Cure Package		\$360	\$
12624	Prosthetic Limb		\$400	\$
12652	Reconstructive Surgery		\$500	\$
12648	Grant for Self-Help Group		\$500	\$
	A gift where needed most			\$
GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR COMPASSION AND GENEROSITY YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE WILL CHANGE LIVES!			TOTAL	\$

When you buy a Gift of Love, you are making a tax-deductible donation to an actual TLM project. The dollar value listed for each gift is an estimation of how much this part of the project costs. Your donation funds this part, along with other vital activities of that project. If we can't use the money for the specific item you buy, it will go to an associated program. Countries that benefit from your Gift of Love are projects that you support in Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, India, Nigeria and Nepal.

Please complete the other side of this form...

TEAR ALONG HERE, INSERT THE COMPLETED COUPON WITH YOUR GIFT INTO THE ENVELOPE LOCATED IN THE CENTRESPREAD AND RETURN IT TODAY

Ways you can take ACTION!

Select your Gifts of Love on the other side of this page and tick the areas that interest you below. Return this entire page with your gift, in the Tear-off Reply Paid Envelope in the centre pages.

OR, you can make your gift in the following ways:



1800 LEPROSY
1800 537 767

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm AEST



www.leprosymission.org.au



Please remember to select your Gifts of Love on the other side of this page.

2 I would like to PARTNER IN PRAYER:

- Please send me your monthly prayer newsletter **Keeping in Touch (KIT)**
via Post Email
- Please send me the **Ask Diary** – international prayer guide

3 I would like to receive:

- Cure One Catalogue** – I want to shop from the gift catalogue
- Gift in my Will** – Please send me information on leaving a gift in my Will through The Leprosy Mission Australia to those affected by leprosy.
- Regular Gifts** – Please send me information on how to make regular gifts via Direct Debit or Credit Card

4 Payment options: (please tick)

I enclose my Cheque payable to The Leprosy Mission Australia OR

Please charge my Credit Card:   

Card Number:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Expiry Date: /

5 Thank you for your gift. It will provide hope, healing and dignity to someone affected by leprosy.

Please return this entire donation slip, with your gift, in the Tear-off Reply Paid Envelope in the centre pages. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

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