

ACTION



YOU CAN CURE ONE DURING COVID

EDITION 1, 2021

Heizen says
thank you

India loses staff
to COVID

Easter cards
by artisans -
order yours!

Be Inspired!
Cure One Like
Shabnam



The Leprosy
Mission
Australia



The Leprosy Mission
Australia

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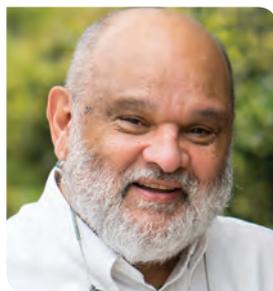


The Leprosy Mission Australia ABN 52 354 004 543 (TLMA) is a member of the Australian Council for International Development and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability, and financial management. TLMA 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-focused organisation in the world today. The Leprosy Mission Australia complies with the Voluntary Code of Practice for Public Fundraising in Western Australia.



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Thank you for showing God's love to people affected by leprosy during COVID

“We love because He first loved us.” – 1 John 4:18

Your support for people affected by leprosy continues to amaze me. I would like to sincerely thank you for your compassion during the midst of the frustrations, disappointments and uncertainty of the last year. But one thing doesn't change... God's love for us.

And how great is that love!
The Apostle Paul tells us:

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

At times like this I thank God for people like you. I am truly inspired by YOUR love, by YOUR kindness and by YOUR generosity towards those with leprosy. Thank you for faithfully demonstrating love in a practical way for some of the most rejected, isolated and poverty-stricken

people on the planet... especially during the pandemic.

In this edition of ACTION, you can read about the impact your prayers and support are having, especially as the ministry continues while dealing with the effects of COVID. Some of you will already be aware of the deaths of several staff in India due to coronavirus. Please continue to pray for their families and for others to be raised up to do the work of the ministry.

Because I don't want to see any person affected by leprosy miss out on the cure, the care of surgery, physio, self-care and other treatments and the restoration to a full, independent life. God loves each and every one of them.

God bless you.

Sheldon Rankin
CEO, The Leprosy Mission Australia



Don't forget last minute Easter Cards!

**Don't forget your last-minute Easter Cards!
And help leprosy patients in Thailand!**

Order these beautiful handmade cards, made by artisans affected by leprosy in Thailand (pictured). Four cross designs to remind you and your loved ones of Jesus' incredible act of love by dying on the cross and the triumph of His resurrection.

Request the Gifts of Love catalogue using the form on the back page or visit shop.leprosymission.org.au/collections/cards

**Correction to page 9 last issue: Grace Warren was awarded the Star of Pakistan in 2006.*



Thank you for your Easter miracle messages

Many of you wrote messages of encouragement to Heizen to lift his spirits during his treatment. Thank you for not giving up on Heizen and others like him. Your kind heart is inspirational!

"I pray you will be helped because of Jesus' love for you. You are special to Him. Bless you." – Margaret

"I hope you know how special you are to God. He loves you very much and I do too even though I don't know you. I'm so glad you're going to be made better from leprosy. God bless you." – Lauris

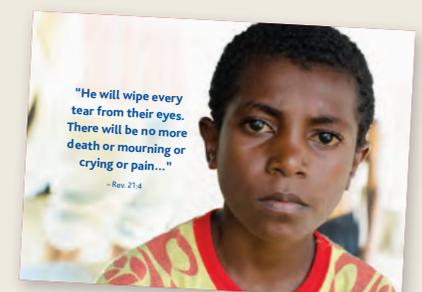
"May the Lord bless & keep you & His healing upon you." – Michael

"I am praying for you and that you will be healed as soon as possible. I thank God for you." – Bronwyne

"God bless you dear child. I pray you will be healed and be able to attend school and play with your friends, and truly know how much God loves you." – Margaret

"God bless you on your journey of recovery. Take courage!"
– Rosemary

"I pray daily for you and all who work for The Leprosy Mission. May God bless you." – Brenda



PNG Report: You help cure children like Heizen!

Remember Heizen from PNG?

Remember how leprosy had so weakened his left hand that it was starting to claw?

And how sad he was at not being able to help his mum with her chores?

Or play rugby with his friends?

Remember how his eyes filled with tears as he spoke about being teased?

"My friends made fun of me and said you have leprosy. I felt so ashamed and could not go back to school and face them again."

Thanks to the amazing Christian heart of people like you, Heizen has completed his Multi-Drug Therapy treatment and is now cured from leprosy!

And with treatment, self-care and physiotherapy, his hand is no longer clawed!

He's so happy. He can now help his mum around the house AND play rugby with his friends. But best of all, his friends no longer tease him! He says a big thank you to all the supporters in Australia!

Your love and financial support continues to touch children like Heizen across the globe. Without your support, people affected by leprosy may not experience God's love through the care they receive.

Thank you!

Heizen is cured of leprosy... thanks to people like you!

You can Cure One

- India carries 60% of the world's leprosy burden.
- India has the second highest number of COVID cases in the world.
- Now, more than ever, supporters like you are needed to help Cure One like Shabnam – to ensure that girls like her continue taking their Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) medication. So they get a full leprosy cure and reduce the risk of disabilities and amputations!



Take ACTION and Cure One today!

When you commit to Cure One, you will follow Shabnam's journey as she undertakes treatment for leprosy. You can Cure, Care for and Restore someone like Shabnam with a monthly gift of \$36 for 12 months. Just fill out the Cure One form enclosed and mail it back to us!

Please, will you Cure One during COVID ... will you Cure One like Shabnam?

One of the hardest things to do is telling a young girl like Shabnam she has leprosy.

She wept inconsolably when she heard the news. She's already had a hard life... she grew up without the love of a mother... who wasn't there to comfort her in her darkest moments.

Would her family reject her? Would her community shun her? Would she become an outcast?

Sadly, she was rejected by some. At 18, Shabnam should have had her whole life ahead of her. Instead, this leprosy diagnosis would make it hard to find work and even affect her marriage prospects.

Especially in a country like India where the stigma of leprosy lingers. Shabnam may have been able to hide the loss of sensation in her hands... but nothing could hide the collapse

of her nose when leprosy ravaged her face.

No mother to love her. Members of her family have abandoned her. Feeling alone. Afraid. Crushed.

But Jesus loves people like Shabnam. He touched and healed those with leprosy.

"Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him." – Luke 5:13

As a faithful follower of Jesus, you can Cure One at a time, just as Jesus did! As a truly caring person, your commitment of \$36 a month for 12 months or \$432 is all it takes.

As a Cure One supporter, you'll receive regular updates, showing

the life transformation of a person like Shabnam. This is what your commitment will do:

1. You will provide a CURE with Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT). With major disruption to health services during COVID, you help ensure young women like Shabnam continue their course of MDT so they can be fully cured.

2. You will provide CARE to deal with the effects of leprosy. This could be physiotherapy for nerve-damaged hands like Shabnam's or reconstructive surgery to restore their nose.

3. You will RESTORE a future back to a girl like Shabnam with education or training to start a business. And you'll help communities to understand that leprosy is a treatable disease, replacing rejection with acceptance.

You can share the joy of investing long-term... like Pam Harris

Pam is a long-term supporter of The Leprosy Mission and discovered the joy of giving at an early age.

"I was a kid in Sunday school in Adelaide in the 1950s. We had these little cylindrical letterboxes, about four inches high, with a slot in the top. You put your sixpences in there, and when it was full up, you pulled off the plug at the bottom and cashed it in... I enjoyed doing that."

Many years later, Pam's interest in The Leprosy Mission was rekindled when she went to see the movie Molokai. The film features Belgian priest Father Damien and his work with the leprosy settlement on the Hawaiian island of Molokai.

"I had learned about Father Damien in primary school – he was one of my heroes, so I was keen to see the movie. As I was going across the foyer of the cinema, somebody stepped forward and handed me a pamphlet. I tucked it away and back home pulled it out to read. It was from The Leprosy Mission... and it brought back all these memories of the sixpences..."

"I am interested in the medical aspects of leprosy and also I just hate stereotyping... the idea that people are stigmatised for no reason, for nothing that they can help, whether it's their skin colour, ethnicity, their short or tall stature, or their particular disease."

Pam contacted The Leprosy Mission, attended a presentation about leprosy and decided to become a regular giver.

"I feel as though I'm a partner in the work of The Leprosy Mission... and if you want to, you can increase or decrease your gift at different times. The people at TLM are very friendly and very helpful. You can always feel free to call and discuss it if you've started something that you want to change or pause for a while."

Pam has now been a regular giver for over 15 years... helping to cure and restore many people from leprosy!



Make an investment into life transformation through regular giving – Cure One is a commitment for just 12 months.



People used to save their coins for people affected by leprosy. And now instead of millions of cases a year, we're down to around 200,000. Will you Cure One this year?

It's because of the generous support of kind people like Pam that The Leprosy Mission exists today.

When you are giving a leprosy cure, you experience the joy of giving AND the joy of knowing you're transforming the life of someone like Shabnam...just like Pam does!

Your global COVID impact



NIGERIA SAYS *thank you!*

You've helped provide much-needed emergency relief and PPE as families have been left without income due to the pandemic. The crisis is exacerbated by cattle rustlers, who not only steal livestock but food and goods from the leprosy settlement and the homes of people affected by leprosy. The risk of violence is so high that field workers are also working with the government to find new homes for these people who are most vulnerable.



NEPAL SAYS *thank you!*

You've helped ensure leprosy diagnosis and treatment continues in Nepal during the pandemic. This is vital to ensure fast identification of leprosy cases before complications or disability occurs. Field workers' training continues with masks, constant sanitising and other measures to prevent the spread of COVID.

INDIA SAYS *thank you!*

India's leprosy hospitals are under immense strain – over 50 staff have been diagnosed with COVID. But with your support, the work continues as they recover. People affected by leprosy like Kalpana (left) have lost their income due to COVID and your support goes towards helping them to rebuild their livelihoods with small businesses.

To provide ongoing support, please choose India Sponsorship on the back cover of this magazine and return it to us reply-paid.

TIMOR LESTE SAYS *thank you*

Your support means workers on the frontlines, educating people about how to stop the spread of COVID and how to identify and treat leprosy. This includes screening, contact tracing and follow-up. You also help provide crisis supplies – food and household goods – for people who can no longer work or who have lost income due to the pandemic.

Every donation you make to these projects in Nigeria, Nepal, Timor Leste will be combined with funding from the Australian Government to reach more people. The Leprosy Mission Australia has committed to contribute \$1 for every \$5 received from the Australian Government.

**Australian
Aid** 

In memory of Valda Fairbank

A blessed life in the service of others

We honour Valda (Val) Fairbank for her commitment and generosity towards people affected by leprosy through The Leprosy Mission Australia.

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And this is certainly true in the life of Valda (Val) Fairbank.

Val grew up in Northcote, Victoria. Her teen years centred around her local church community. She gave of herself in so many practical ways – sewing, catering, hospitality, op shop volunteering, Bible study groups and working bees. She later married Ken Fairbank and together they raised three children.

Val loved supporting The Leprosy Mission and many other missions both in Australia and overseas. If there was a job to be done, Val would be the first to volunteer. She worked quietly behind the scenes, never seeking recognition.

Now Val has gone to be with her Heavenly Father and we thank God for her dedication and commitment to missions. Her life shone like a beacon, saving lives and bringing light to those both near and far... and leaving a lasting legacy for people affected by leprosy.



"We remember... your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope."

**TAKE ACTION
– WILL YOU
LEAVE A GIFT
IN WILL LIKE
VALDA?**

Before her passing, Val made a decision that would have a lasting impact for people affected by leprosy. Out of her heart of compassion, she decided to **leave a gift in her will to The Leprosy Mission Australia.**

Would you like to leave a legacy like Val did to continue touching the lives of leprosy-affected people?

Then just tick Gift in My Will on the coupon on the back page and send it back with your details! You'll receive the easy-to-read guide *How to include The Leprosy Mission Australia in my will.*

Ways to take ACTION!

TAKE ACTION!



Bless you for so faithfully praying and giving to The Leprosy Mission Australia.
We can't do the work of this ministry without you.

Please tick any statement below that is true for you.

- I follow Jesus Christ. By His example I reach out to people affected by leprosy and disability.
 Yes, it is important to me those suffering with leprosy can feel God's love.

Please tick the areas that interest you below and send it back to us.

I would like to:

1 GIVE FINANCIALLY

- My gift of \$_____ to follow Jesus' example and help people affected by leprosy and disability during COVID!
- Cure One – \$36 a month for 12 months \$36 a month until further notice
 \$432 upfront for the year's program \$432 annually until further notice
- India Sponsorship – \$45 a month to support the ministry in India

I enclose my Cheque / Money Order payable to The Leprosy Mission Australia – OR –

Please charge my Credit Card:   

(My monthly gift processed on the _____ of the month)

Card Number:

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Name on Card:

Signature:

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Direct Deposit / Online Banking:

The Leprosy Mission Overseas Relief Fund account: BSB: 013225 No: 297114729

In the reference field enter: SURNAME 21ACTIONABC

Please email notification of payment to: hello@leprosymission.org.au

2 PARTNER IN PRAYER

- Keep in Touch – the bi-monthly KIT with Australian prayer notes and news
 ASK 2021 Diary – international prayer guide

3 PLEASE SEND ME

- Gift in Will – The guide How to include TLMA in my Will
 Gift Catalogues – I want to shop from the Fairtrade catalogue

4 My Contact Details: Mr Mrs Ms Miss

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| First Name | | Surname | |
| Address | | Suburb | |
| State | P/code | Phone () | |
| Email | | | |

THANK YOU

We are so truly blessed to have supporters like you who honour the heart of God with your generosity.

Send back your completed form to: The Leprosy Mission Australia, Reply Paid 83988, Box Hill, VIC 3128. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Privacy Statement — Your personal details will be stored on our secure database and will not be passed onto a third party. See www.leprosymission.org.au. If the area of need becomes funded, your gift will go where it's needed most.