

**‘Don’t give him
any food...and
let him die!’**



Ram was heartbroken.

10 years old and rejected by his friends, his teachers, and worst of all his father. Only his mother continued to love and care for him.

Ram was diagnosed with leprosy in Year 2. He already had wounds on both his feet. These turned into terrible ulcers preventing him from walking properly. Rejection meant he could no longer attend school. Life at home was tough with his father’s rejection and those words – ‘let him die’ – ringing in his ears. Even today, aged 24, these words still cause Ram pain.

Ram’s ulcers did not get better. By the time he was 16 they had become so infected that his left leg required amputation below the knee. Three years later came more devastating news that his right leg would also need to be amputated.

Ram lost all hope for the future.

With little acceptance or support for disabled people available in Nepal, Ram knew he could not go home where he would face further discrimination so he moved to a leprosy community.

Following his second amputation, Ram was fitted with prosthetics and had to learn to walk again. Then, his life changed dramatically.

He met a woman named Sanjila who had suffered from polio. Amid his pain and suffering, she was a bright light and a real blessing.

Looking back on his life, Ram never dreamed he could be so happy. Now he and Sanjila are happily married and have a seven-month-old son. Despite the challenges Ram feels incredibly blessed and grateful for the love and support of his wife, and The Leprosy Mission for their compassion and skillful care over many years.

Pray for Ram, Sanjila and their son as they continue to build a life together in their community, Give thanks for their acceptance there and for the care shown them by The Leprosy Mission Nepal staff and volunteers.

Give thanks and pray for the medical staff who show compassion and love towards Ram and all who are affected by leprosy. Give thanks and pray for the skills of the prosthetic makers who enable people like Ram to be able to walk again.

Your love and compassion each month can give another person like Ram a bright future.
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/tlc-Nepal>



God builds through your faithful prayers!

**Spoken by Pius Ogbu Sunday
Programs Manager
The Leprosy Mission Nigeria
Video Transcription**

For the last 17 years, I’ve had the privilege to live and work among communities of people affected by leprosy.

This has given me the opportunity to get to personally know and share the pain they suffer, and also witness the transformation that can happen with the power of your love in their life through The Leprosy Mission.

Let me introduce you to Jane.

BEFORE YOUR KINDNESS

Jane’s dad and mum were both affected by leprosy. They had complications which

caused physical deformities and left them so disfigured that their own families rejected and isolated them.

This meant, as a young child, Jane grew up in a leprosy community, constantly being told that nothing good could come out of her family. The first time I met Jane was when her father came to one of The Leprosy Mission hospitals, where we have our orthopaedic workshop to make and fit prosthetic limbs. Jane’s dad received a prosthetic leg and was able to walk again.

I kept in contact with the family, but was heartbroken a few months later when Jane phoned, and

told me her dad was very ill with a leprosy ulcer that had become cancerous.

What made it worse was that Jane’s extended family showed up, with a plan to marry Jane off, and to force her two young brothers to become farm labourers. That was the only future they thought them worthy of!

**When Jane reached
out to me, crying
at the other end of
the phone, she was
asking for help.**

All of us on The Leprosy Mission team knew we couldn’t abandon Jane and her brothers to that community.

Jane’s mother gave us her full support to



Pius Ogbu Sunday (left) talking with a community member on a Leprosy Mission Nigeria site visit.

protect her children, and agreed we should move the family away, to the welcoming community where I live. Basically, I became Jane’s adoptive father, and began to care for her and her brothers, supported by people like you through The Leprosy Mission.

AFTER YOUR CARE

When we rescued Jane, all she had were a few school qualifications. Jane and her two young brothers went back to school. We found a place for them to live.

That was 11 years ago.

As I speak with you today, Jane is married, and blessed with three lovely children. Not only did Jane get her first degree, she also has a Master’s Degree in Public Health.

Her two brothers are currently in the university. One is studying electrical engineering, and the other is studying computer science.

This is why The Leprosy Mission exists. This is the reason why we do the things we do.

We are simply walking in the footsteps of Jesus, extending the healing hand he extended to people hurt by leprosy.

Jane’s story is the perfect testimony of how the love that The Leprosy Mission conveys across the world can transform

life for people like Jane, whose lives are affected by leprosy in their family.

Our privilege – mine, and yours – is to bring change and transformation and restoration. Together, we make a life-changing difference for those we are called to serve.

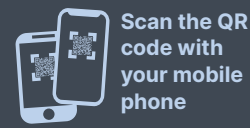
“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

—Jesus (John 10:10b)

Pray for Jane as she continues to thrive, transformed, thanks to the prayers and compassion of people like you. Pray for others, like Jane, whose lives are affected by family members with leprosy.

Pray for The Leprosy Mission Nigeria as they work tirelessly to bring love and support to people living with the consequences of leprosy. Pray that more people like you will become aware of the wonderful work they are doing, walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

If you would like to support people like Jane through the Strengthening Integrated Neglected Tropical Disease Control project in Zamfara you can do so here. Thank you.
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/strengthening-integrated-neglected-tropical-disease-control-zamfara-nigeria>

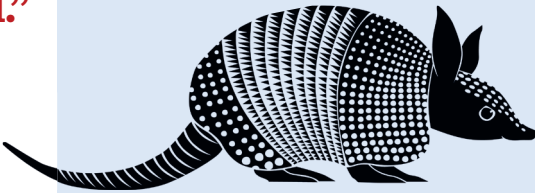


Australian Aid

This project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Thanks to ANCP and supporters like you, this project is able to help improve the well-being of people affected by leprosy and disability.

Save the date!

May 8th is The Leprosy Mission’s Global Day of Prayer. Join with people around the country and around the world who will be praying for the Global Fellowship and people affected by leprosy, disability, and discrimination. Watch this space for more information next month.



Why the armadillo?

This gorgeous and intriguing creature plays an important role in understanding leprosy. The nine-banded armadillo is pretty much the only animal that not only gets leprosy but can pass it on to humans.

But don’t worry: Armadillos are not found in Australia, and it is illegal to keep them as pets here, though you may see them in the care of a zoo.

Observing the armadillo contributes to global knowledge of leprosy and the transmission of this ancient disease. With the armadillo’s help, the global leprosy community is getting closer and closer to eliminating leprosy in our lifetime.

We band together with the armadillo in the 150th year of The Leprosy Mission around the world and Leprosy Mission Australia is honoured to have it as our emblem of compassion and hope for the future.



**By Dr. Greg Clarke
CEO, Leprosy Mission Australia**

Leprosy has been around for 4,000 years. If, like me, you originally heard about leprosy when you read the Gospel stories of Jesus’ healings, you probably thought of it as an ancient disease. Something from ‘the olden days’, something in the history books. How wrong I was!

Leprosy continued to haunt the poorest people of the world throughout those millennia, with little hope for relief, incredible suffering and rejection being the usual situation for those unfortunate enough to contract it. People were cast out of their families and villages; islands were established as colonies for leprosy sufferers; there was little hope, little love, little care.

But the founders of the Leprosy Mission refused to accept this. Wellesley and Alice Bailey, the Pim sisters and others were moved by compassion, driven by following in the footsteps of Christ, and they committed to make a difference. 150 years later, their vision

and determination has contributed to thrilling and energising progress towards the elimination of leprosy.

As we mark this important milestone, we are grateful for the medical research, the donations, the dedicated servants, and the courage of sufferers. We are getting closer and closer to finishing the task of removing this scourge from the world. We pray for God’s blessing and grace as the goals of zero transmission, new disability and discrimination come closer into view.

Technology is a gift to us, as we work globally on better ways to detect disease early, to treat disabilities with surgery and prosthetics, and explore preventative medications such as vaccines. Being a fan of the band U2, I have often thought about one of their lyrics since I took on the role of CEO of Leprosy Mission Australia: “In science and in medicine, I was a stranger you took me in” (from their song ‘Miracle Drug’). Our scientific and medical efforts are an outworking of the command

of Jesus to treat the outsider as if he or she were Jesus himself.

We are holding several 150th celebration events around the country this year, as well as running some media campaigns and special product releases. We’d love you to get involved, so please keep your eye on our communications. With every blessing and thanks for being an essential and beloved part of the Leprosy Mission’s work.

Give thanks for all that has been achieved over the 150 years of The Leprosy Mission. Pray that all the advances in technology and science will continue to bring us closer to our goal of making leprosy a thing of the past.

Pray the celebration events will raise greater awareness of leprosy in the community and encourage people to join in the work of Leprosy Mission Australia to bring healing, dignity, and a brighter future for all who suffer.