



Have you ever prayed for more capsicums?

Next time you pick up a delicious capsicum at your local supermarket or greengrocer, spare a thought and a prayer for Chaituram.

Chaituram, from Nepal, knows the importance of a good diet with access to fresh veggies to help develop a strong and healthy immune system. And a healthy immune system can help fight off diseases like leprosy. Leprosy is a disease which thrives under conditions where people have less access to resources. Resources such as fresh water for washing and drinking, enough healthy food to eat, education to understand the signs and symptoms of leprosy, and healthcare facilities to diagnose and treat the disease.

Chaituram discovered he had leprosy 10 years ago. He was fortunate to be diagnosed early and received treatment in the form of Multi-Drug Therapy and was successfully cured. Limited information meant he only discovered later how fortunate he was to have escaped serious consequences in the form of discrimination and disability.

Chaituram learned more about leprosy through joining a Self-Help Group (SHG) supported by your Integrated Mobilisation of People for Active Community Transformation (IMPACT) project. The group loaned him money to begin his business, and after his first harvest of capsicums, he was already able to repay the loan in full!

Because of this, Chaituram has been able to support his family and his three children's education. Chaituram watched the SHG grow and merge into a cooperative, and was even a board member for a time, until his business required much more of his focus.

Your prayers and support for the IMPACT project team means Chaituram can continue to grow as a farmer. He looks to improve his business by implementing more efficient watering systems learned during his time as a vegetable farmer in Kathmandu.

As you prepare your next meal, remember that capsicum represents so much more than part of a delicious, healthy meal. For people like Chaituram it can also be a way out of poverty.

Pray for Chaituram, his SHG, and cooperative as they work together to create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Pray for the IMPACT project team as they support hundreds of people involved in their SHGs and cooperatives. Pray these numbers will continue to rise and become self-sustaining.

Your love & care can keep supporting people like Chaituram reach their potential through the IMPACT project.
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/IMPACTSA>



202402



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia

Your prayers can restore dignity and life.

Keeping in Touch • Issue 2, 2024

When Amar's wife died after falling off a roof, Amar lost everything.

Amar from Nepal had two young children, but his leprosy left him with no way to earn a living ... so, after much heartache, he chose to give his children a chance at a better future in an orphanage.

On top of that, the leprosy had taken an enormous toll on his body. He burnt his hand because he'd lost sensation in it from the leprosy. He bandaged it, but it didn't heal, and scarring from the burn caused his hand to claw.



Leprosy also disfigured his feet, with nerve damage causing the loss of some toes and a left drop foot. The leprosy ulcers started to smell – badly – and the brother whom Amar was living with said he had to leave. Amar ended up in a shed, under a bridge, begging to survive.

Your compassionate prayers are seeing Amar get his life back on track. Multi-Drug Therapy will cure him from leprosy. A social mobiliser from the local

health centre referred him to Anandaban Hospital where surgery and physiotherapy will heal his wounds.

But your continued prayers are needed. Amar has not seen his children in 11 years. He misses them greatly but is unsure if they would even recognise him. He doesn't want to go back to his old life, begging to survive. He wants to use his skills, start a farm, and be with his children.

Amar's future is uncertain, but when speaking about his children, there is a smile on his face and a look of hope in his eyes. Your kind-hearted prayers, given with love and trust in Jesus, can make all the difference.

Pray for Amar as he looks to get his life back on track. Pray for his children to receive the care, education, and support they need and to be reunited with their father.

Pray for the staff and volunteers at the Self-Care Unit who bring dignity and love to people like Amar. Pray that their compassion and hard work will bring freedom and increased opportunity to live full lives within their communities.

You can further show your loving compassion for people like Amar at the Self-Care Unit here.

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/Nepal-Self-Care-Unit>





God builds through your faithful prayers!

What a wonderful image of God this is.

A strong God building a place of refuge for His people. A nurturing God, taking care of the inner well-being of those who have been damaged by what life has thrown at them. A healing God, tending to the physical needs of people after a long and difficult journey.

What God did for the people of Israel, He continues to do in places such as the Self-Care Unit (SCU) at The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. The staff and volunteers reflect the love of God through their actions to make the SCU a refuge and beacon of light for people affected by leprosy. Here they receive the love, treatment, and training they need to manage their wounds, cope with everyday life, and ultimately thrive.

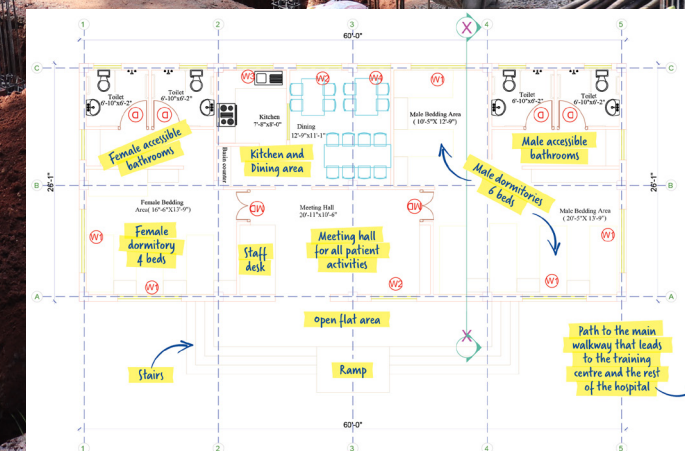
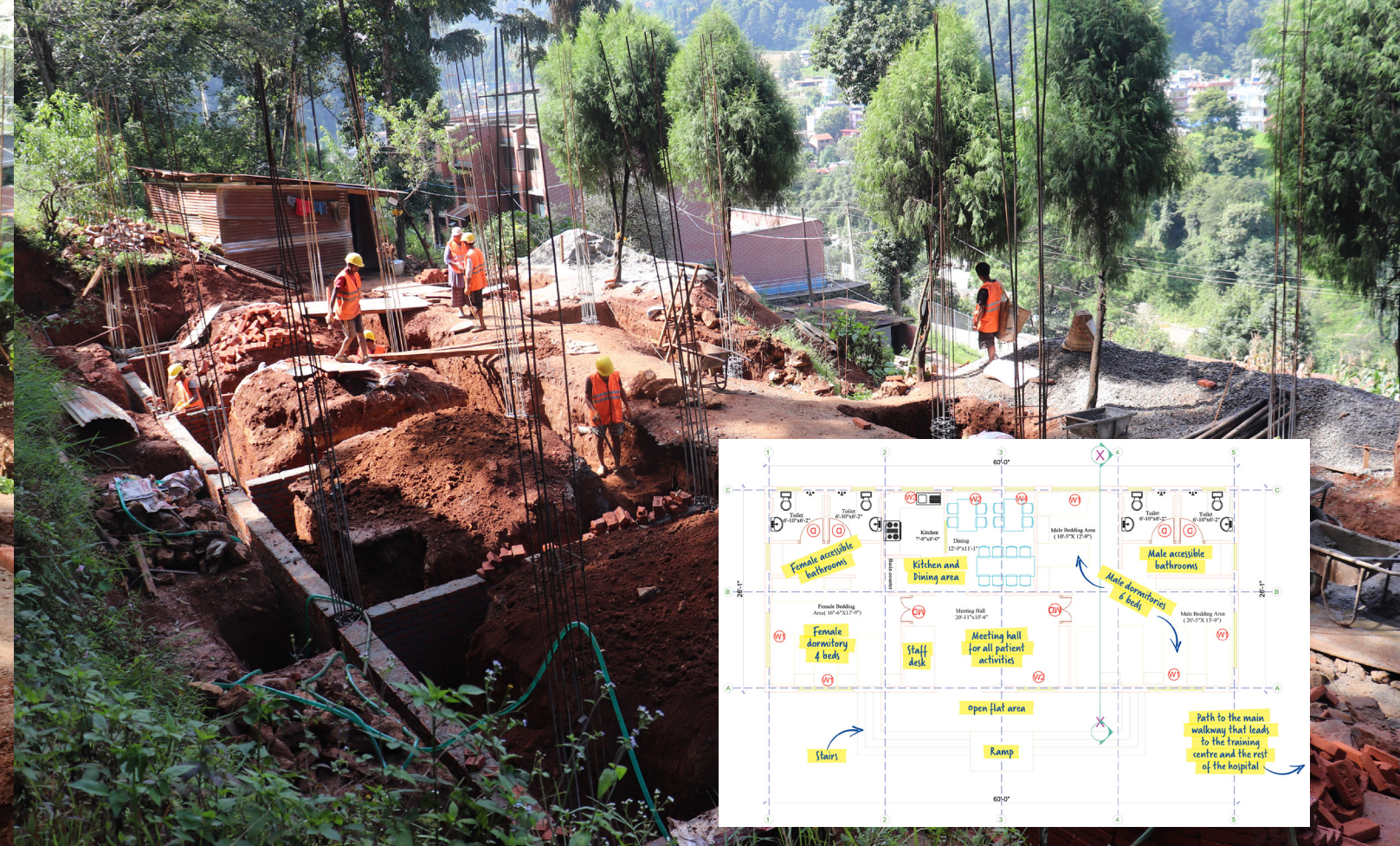
The Self-Care Unit is designed for people recovering from operations to correct impairments like drop foot and clawed hands caused by leprosy. Patients whose condition is found too late, and who require amputations and prosthetics, also use the Self-Care Unit for their longer-term recovery and rehabilitation.

The final verse of Psalm 147 reminds us that God delights in those who put their hope in His unfailing love. So, The Leprosy Mission in Australia

and Nepal are stepping out in faith together to build a new 10 bed Self-Care Unit. The existing Self-Care Unit has been assessed as no longer fit for purpose, due to structural damage caused during the 2015 earthquakes.

The new structure will have increased disability accessibility and modernisation of rooms and facilities. People like Amar (see front page) will be able to return home equipped with skills to continue their normal activities and occupations without causing further injury or disability. Patients are also provided with counselling sessions to learn strategies to support their mental health.

Your prayers and kind-hearts are needed to make this a reality. Right now, the foundations are being made ready. Pray for the necessary resources to be available. Pray for the architects and builders to use their skills and training to bring to life the vision of The Leprosy Mission to see people live full, independent lives. Pray for the staff and patients temporarily using other facilities at Anandaban Hospital to continue receiving the high level of care while the new SCU is built. Pray for God's blessing over the new Self-Care Unit and the patients who will benefit from their stay.



Look what you're building!

Already the site has been cleared, rubbish removed, and trenches, pits and foundations excavated. The good news is you don't have to jump on a plane to Nepal and get knee-deep in a trench to be a Hospital Hero!

All you need to do is give a donation! Scan the QR code, visit the link, or call 1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767) to become a Hospital Hero!
<https://leprosymission.org.au/hospitalheroes>

**HOSPITAL
HERO**



"Praise the LORD.

How good it is to sing praises to our God,

how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;

He gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the broken hearted

and binds up their wounds."

—Psalm 147

NEPAL SUPPORTER TOUR September 2024

The Leprosy Mission Australia plans to lead a small team of supporters like you to visit Nepal to see the new Self-Care Unit that your faithful prayers are helping to build in addition to our other projects.

If you'd like to know more about this self-funded opportunity of a lifetime to see the impact of your ministry through The Leprosy Mission, simply email engage@leprosymission.org.au or call 1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767).