

Ian and Denise Scott's Big Adventure

For more than 50 years the name of Scott has been a byword for the integrity and faithfulness of The Leprosy Mission in Australia.

From their early days in Hobart the Scott family moved to Toowoomba where Denise would be instrumental in forming the Toowoomba Auxiliary in 1975. Her natural leadership skills saw her able to grow this group, holding functions such as a dinner for 350 people at which Eddie Askew (former International Director for The Leprosy Mission) spoke.

Invited to represent Queensland at the very first National Council meeting Denise continued to be an important part of a new season for The Leprosy Mission, also joining the country's first State Advisory Committee.

During this time Ian had been working alongside Denise behind the scenes, assisting at functions, unaware that they were about to embark on what Ian described as "one big adventure!"

Ian became chairman of the Queensland State Advisory Committee before the couple were approached in 1989 to take on the role of Queensland State Directors. This involved a move

to Brisbane from where their adventures traveling around Queensland, other parts of Australia, and overseas began.

Over the next 15 years Ian and Denise travelled many thousands of kilometres. Narrowly avoiding monsoonal rains or fighting the boredom of extremely long road trips (when not together of course!), the couple marvelled at the resilience and faithfulness of supporters.

As their role took them overseas to see the work of The Leprosy Mission they had more adventures. Here they met field staff as well as people affected by leprosy. They witnessed the courage and determination with which people lived with their suffering and how the love of Jesus, shown through staff, made such a difference in their lives. Some became Christians, praying daily for others around the world, including in Australia.

All these experiences sharpened their faith and motivated them in their work. But in 2002, less than 2 weeks before his death, Ian retired from, in his words, "this truly fascinating and life-enriching work."

Since then, Denise has been heavily involved with volunteering for The Leprosy Mission, serving on National Council for much of the last 45 years. In 2024 she announced her retirement from that role.

She has also led the Brisbane Support Group for many years, making sure the good news of The Leprosy Mission is heard. In all that Ian and Denise did, they never forgot how they managed it all. As Denise said:

"In all our comings and goings I've been able to testify to God's graciousness and provision. I've been much encouraged in the faith by many Christian friends. In times of struggle and sadness I've been aware of God's upholding and strength, and I rejoice in the knowledge that our God is Sovereign and works out His purposes through each one of us.

Give thanks for what God has done through Ian and Denise. Give thanks that the work they shared brought dignity, healing, and inclusion to many, and created a strong supporter base for The Leprosy Mission in Queensland. Pray that this legacy of support would continue through prayerful compassionate hearts to make leprosy a thing of the past.

In the 150th year of The Leprosy Mission we are taking some time to remember some of the many people who have contributed to our goal of a world without leprosy. We are thankful to God for inspiring people like Ian and Denise to provide love and healing to people affected by leprosy.

Leprosy Mission Australia

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Keeping In Touch

Australian Aid

Your Compassionate Prayers Do Something Impossible

Before prayers like yours arrived, it was a life of loneliness.

Tarsih lives on the edge of a little village in Kuningan District in West Java. Her son was scared of leprosy, and wouldn't visit, or let Tarsih see her grandchildren.

The people in the village were afraid too.

"Is Tarsih cursed?"

"Are there ghosts in her house?"

The village leaders told Tarsih she was not allowed to go near other people. Not allowed to touch babies. Not allowed to touch anything. As Tarsih lost feeling in her hands, neighbours decided they would try to heal her by forcing her hands into boiling water.

You can imagine the trauma. (No, you and I probably can't.) The blisters. The pus and ugliness.

The danger of infection which causes the damage you see on the photo of Tarsih's hands. Damage that can lead to amputations, and needless disability.

You might wonder how Tarsih could afford to live, when she was rejected by her family and community? One neighbour, who knew a little more about leprosy, used Tarsih as cheap labour, paying her a pittance to shell peanuts and cut

onions. This work was dangerous for Tarsih because her hands had no feeling and could easily be cut – but this was the only way she could manage to survive.

That's where the transition to a Leprosy Friendly Community has a life-transforming impact.

First, the local Health Service now checks in on Tarsih to make sure she is taking her meds, and to offer any psychological support she needs. They understand how hurtful stigma and rejection can be and makes sure Tarsih has someone to talk to.

Second, the Health Service is raising community awareness, so they understand that leprosy has nothing to do with ghosts or curses and is simply a disease that can be cured.

Third, Tarsih is taking the lead in helping transform her village into a Leprosy Friendly Village.

Your prayers make possible what Tarsih once thought impossible. You know that "what is impossible for people is possible with God" (Luke 18:27). Thank you for your life-transforming prayers for people like Tarsih.

See inside for how you can pray for Tarsih... and make a real difference!



Your prayers for Tarsih

Pray for Tarsih's continuing need for support as she re-builds her life. Pray for emotional and physical support as her body and mind heal from the damage inflicted by leprosy and through fear and stigma

Pray for Tarsih as she advocates for herself and others, bringing dignity and inclusion to her village.

Pray for her village as they learn more about leprosy and gain a deeper understanding of the disease. Pray for the impact they can have on people suffering from leprosy by becoming a community which is safe, inclusive, and no longer afraid.

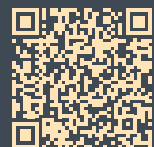
Pray for the Leprosy Friendly Village project team as they continue to transform communities and bring dignity and hope to many affected by leprosy and discrimination.

Your compassion can create Leprosy Friendly Villages for people like Tarsih, abandoned and rejected because of leprosy.

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/leprosyfriendlyvillagedesaku/kit11>



Scan the QR code with your mobile phone



5:1 Matching Grant Approved



YOUR GIFTS ARE WORTH 5 TIMES MORE!

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Projects marked with the Australian Aid logo are 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.



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Mina is thankful for the gifts of love and prayers she has received from people just like you in Australia! Her life has been changed forever.

Your prayers recover the voice of the sad and lost.

Shhh!

What happens when you're diagnosed with leprosy...but aren't really told you have leprosy?

Mina felt incredibly sad... and lost.

While working in a field Mina had an accidental knock on her arm from a colleague. She didn't feel anything, which she thought was weird. So, she took some medicine from the local pharmacy, but things didn't improve.

Taking the initiative Mina went to the nearby hospital where a slit skin smear tested positive. It was only later that she fully understood that she had leprosy.

Mina had not heard good things about leprosy from her community.

"The doctor gave me medicine for six months and told me that all of it would be free of charge and then referred me to a local health post," recalled Mina.

She asked the staff at the health post not to disclose her condition to anyone...

She asked the staff at the health post not to disclose her condition to anyone and went on quietly taking her medicine.

Having finished her medication Mina continued not to speak about her leprosy. Then one day she discovered that other members in her community were taking the same medicine.

"I started talking to them and coming out."

The Leprosy Mission in Nepal contacted her to talk about starting Self-Help Groups in the community. Finally, Mina was no longer lost...and she had found her voice. Not just her own, but for others affected by leprosy and those with disabilities. She began one of the first Self-Help Groups under the now concluded IMPACT project.

Eventually a number of these groups merged to form a cooperative. Mina, who had chaired the Self-Help Group, now chaired this newly formed Leprosy-Affected and Disability Agriculture Cooperative.

Mina continued to take the initiative, becoming an active and vocal member of her community.

"Nobody knew about me, but now ... even the local government invites me to different meetings and discussions."

"When compared to my days before putting the Self-Help Group together, I feel very different in terms of other people's responses and reactions to me. Nobody knew about me, but now local stakeholders and community members know me and even the local government invites me to different meetings and discussions."

Today, Mina is neither lost or sad.

Through a loan from the cooperative she is now a successful banana farmer, selling at local markets. Mina has developed a sustainable source of income for herself and her family.

With an eye to the future, Mina is looking to grow the farm and the cooperative and offer employment for others. No wonder she looks so happy!

Pray for Mina as she continues to build community through the cooperative so that others will not feel lost or sad. Pray this group will grow and provide more opportunities to start businesses to provide sustainable livelihoods.

Give thanks for the Gifts of Love (Mina is holding the Farmers Tool Box card) and pray that more people will be able to find sustainable livelihoods through farming.

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YOUR GIFTS ARE WORTH 5 TIMES MORE!

You can help realise the dream of an agriculture trade for a person affected by leprosy, including tools and essential training.
<https://bit.ly/3ZTnM6f>

