



He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

—Isaiah 40:29-31

Every time I visit a church or community group, I am reminded of the privilege it is to meet those who faithfully support the work of The Leprosy Mission.

Many have been praying, giving, and standing with people affected by leprosy for years, even decades. I come away from these visits encouraged and blessed by their openness, curiosity, love, and desire to make an impact.

Some of my visits have involved me driving three or more hours to reach my destination, sometimes after flying interstate. Every time I am met with gratitude and amazement that I have come so far just to share with them. But I see it differently.

Each month in this newsletter I tell the story of a person's journey with leprosy. Together we share their tears and joy, their heartbreak and their recovery. Sometimes, we don't know the end of their story, and we are left to ponder what might have been if... if they had been diagnosed earlier... if they hadn't been discriminated against... if they had gone to a different hospital or clinic...

Consider some of the extraordinary lengths people must go to for answers, for treatment, for healing of body, mind, and soul. And think of the breakthroughs God is enabling through The Leprosy Mission staff and our partners. My travelling hours to visit a church is nothing compared to what people affected by leprosy endure, nothing compared to what God is doing

among some of the most overlooked people in the world.

When Kshitiz, from Nepal, was just 17 years old, he was diagnosed with leprosy after developing painful swellings and red nodules. What followed was not a simple course of treatment. Repeated leprosy reactions caused intense pain and swelling. He spent months at a time in hospital, returned home briefly, only to see the symptoms return. He missed two years of school and eventually required surgery to relieve pressure from severe nerve swelling in his arm.

The disease demanded much from his body.

But leprosy also took a toll on his mind. Growing up, Kshitiz had seen relatives affected by the disease and feared that he would never recover.



Even after completing treatment and rebuilding his life as a teacher, husband, and father, the fear remained.

Devastatingly, more than twelve years later, leprosy returned.

As symptoms reappeared, so did old fears. Kshitiz was forced to stop working and travel once again for treatment. He worries about whether he will find work when he returns home. He worries about what people in his community would think if they knew about his diagnosis. Most of all, he worries about his three-year-old daughter, whom he loves dearly.

When Kshitiz speaks about her, his face lights up. She reminds him to take his medication and asks when he is coming home. When the future seems uncertain, it is thoughts of his daughter that help him keep moving forward.

Leprosy has also affected Kshitiz spiritually. He feels trapped by the belief that the disease will always return. **Although he believes in God, he struggles to believe God is helping him through this season.** At times he cannot see a way forward and finds himself overwhelmed by the challenges before him.

As I contemplated Kshitiz's story, I was challenged by our verses from Isaiah. Leprosy has left Kshitiz weary and weak. Just when he is at his lowest point, stumbling and falling, God speaks to him through a different lens – his daughter, giving him strength to see the world differently, to live and strive to give her a leprosy free future.

Leprosy affects far more than skin and nerves. It can wound a person's confidence, strain relationships, interrupt education and employment, and rob them of hope. That is why healing must involve more than medicine alone. People like Kshitiz need support for their body, mind, and soul.

God also provides strength through The Leprosy Mission's Self-Care Unit and counselling services. Here people affected by leprosy receive practical care, emotional support, encouragement, and the opportunity to rebuild hope for the future. This holistic approach helps people navigate not only the physical impact of leprosy, but also the hidden burdens of fear, loneliness, and stigma.

Your faithful prayers and compassionate support are also part of God's provision of strength,

helping people like Kshitiz continue to rebuild their confidence and dignity. Thank you for being there, each step of the way.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and partnership. Together, we are helping bring healing, dignity, and hope to people who need it most.

Yours in Prayer,



Glen Coleman
Community Engagement Coordinator
Leprosy Mission Australia

Will you please pray:

Pray Kshitiz will make a full recovery and remain free from further leprosy reactions, and that he would experience God's love and peace deep in his heart.

Pray for his wife and daughter, to be surrounded by peace and reassurance.

Pray for The Leprosy Mission's Self-Care Unit staff and volunteers as they help people affected by leprosy regain confidence, dignity, and independence.

As you pray please consider how God might be working through you to give strength to people like Kshitiz...

Support the Anandaban Hospital Self-Care Unit

Your support helps provide practical care, rehabilitation, counselling, and encouragement for people whose lives have been deeply impacted by leprosy. Together, we can help restore life in its fullest.

Invite a speaker to your church or group

If your church, group, or fellowship would like to hear stories of lives being transformed through the work of The Leprosy Mission, we would love to visit and share. Whether your gathering is large or small, your partnership is making a difference, and it would be a privilege to encourage your community with stories of God's work around the world.