

## Your support moves the world towards Zero Leprosy.

Thanks to your prayerful support of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria (TLMN) people like Mary can live without the fear that leprosy so often brings.

Mary's mother was undergoing treatment for leprosy herself when she noticed a patch on ten-year-old Mary's chest. She immediately recognised it as a first sign of leprosy. Once Mary was diagnosed, she received Multi-Drug Therapy and was cured without any permanent markings or disabilities.

Your support means that more people like Mary are diagnosed early and so avoid the awful consequences that undiagnosed and untreated leprosy can bring.

While Mary attended primary school, she was not offered a place at secondary school. In her late teens she received vocational training through a TLMN project and trained to be a seamstress, making beautiful clothes (such as in the photo).

Through other TLMN projects Mary found work as a cleaner and then she qualified as a tailor. She now produces and attaches skin colour matching material to prosthetic legs.

Life for Mary continued on as normal thanks to her early diagnosis and treatment.

Sadly, her husband was not happy when Mary spent time looking after her unwell mother. He made her choose between him or her mother and left when Mary chose to continue caring for her mother who died the following year.

But Mary continues to smile and be thankful for all the support and friendship she has received through TLMN. She dreams of continuing to study, going to university and to marrying again. Thanks to compassionate people like you more people can live their lives free from disability and discrimination. Thanks to you a world without leprosy is possible. Together we can make leprosy a thing of the past!

**Pray for Mary as she continues to flourish in her work which supports people with leprosy and disabilities.**

**Pray for TLMN as they provide the healthcare and vocational support needed to make a life free from leprosy, discrimination, and disability a reality.**

**If you would like to support another person like Mary, please consider a donation by scanning the QR code or following the link to your Nigerian project.**

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/strengthening-integrated-neglected-tropical-disease-control-zamfara-nigeria>



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The Leprosy  
Mission  
Australia

## The Pain of Loss and Rejection

### Keeping in Touch • Issue 6, 2023

Shakti, 16, from Nepal, was just two and a half years old when sore red patches appeared on her legs. Over time these wounds got bigger and ulcerated and just wouldn't heal

Shakti remembers how the pain in her legs made her feel miserable. Initial tests for leprosy came out negative. So began a ten-year loop of various hospital visits, medication, and follow ups.

Finally at age 14 Shakti was diagnosed with leprosy. She started Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) which cured the disease, but Shakti still had battles ahead of her. *"I knew about this disease and how people discriminate and hated people affected by leprosy... It's made me so sad. Everyone looks down on me. They don't want me around them. My neighbours hate me and won't let me leave my house. They think I'll infect their children."*

Thank God her parents and family have been supportive. *"My parents love me very much, they treated me the same, before or after I was diagnosed."* This love and support were greatly needed after a follow up visit to Anandaban Hospital. *"The doctor told me that the disease had spread to the bone and that I needed to have my leg amputated."* This devastating news put a stop to her dreams. *"I worked so hard to pass my school exams and I hoped to go on to university."*

*I dreamt of studying to become a doctor but instead, I am here."*

Your prayerful support is needed for children like Shakti to live a full life, free from disease and discrimination. Free from the life-long consequences that disability can bring. Thanks to the love and support from people like you Shakti is now preparing to have a prosthetic leg fitted. *"I am really excited to get the prosthetic leg... I can't wait to go back home walking on both of my feet and showing it to everyone."* Thanks to faithful prayers like you Shakti is also studying commerce and accounting. *"I still want to study and work and be independent."*

Pray for Shakti as she continues to heal and prepares for how her life will change again once she receives her prosthetic leg. Pray for her neighbours to gain a greater understanding of leprosy and that they may be accepting of her.

Give thanks for the tireless work of the staff at Anandaban who provide support, counselling, and high-quality treatment for people affected by leprosy. Pray they will continue to bring healing and hope to all who come to them for help.

**Please consider giving TLC (Total Loving Care) to another child like Shakti and help restore a life.**

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/tlc-children>







**God's calling  
leads to dancing  
and joy!**

**Dr. Manotosh only intended working for The Leprosy Mission for a couple of years. "We're celebrating our 18th year!" he says laughing.**

Manotosh and his wife Dr. Vandana have been providing medical support for people with leprosy (and many others) for most of their married lives.

Manotosh trained in reconstructive surgery at a Leprosy Mission Hospital. He recalls how he was scared to operate on his own.

"My first surgery was to correct drop-foot. I was so protective of the patient I wouldn't let him stand after the operation, even to go to the toilet! After five weeks of recovery, the man was discharged. I remember the day so clearly. I was walking across the hospital campus and saw the man dancing on the path. I was so cross! I thought he'd undo the surgery. Before I could give him some stern words, I suddenly wondered why he was dancing. So, I asked him.

"Bad ulcers meant that his gait wasn't normal. His pregnant wife's parents took her away and said that he couldn't see her until his feet were healed. I think it was their fear of leprosy. Of course, he was devastated and had little hope of reuniting with his wife. But then he heard about our hospital. He said that his wife had given birth to a girl, and now that his feet were healed,

he would get his precious family back. He was so happy! That's why he was dancing.

"That's when I really understood that reconstructive surgery is far more than healing or giving someone the ability to walk again. It can totally transform someone's life and future. On that day I knew that I was where God wanted me to be."

*You have changed my sorrow into dancing.*

*You have taken away my sackcloth*

*and clothed me with joy. Psalm 30:11 (ERV)*

Pray for Drs. Manotosh and Vandana as they continue to bring the love of God through their healing hands.

Give thanks for the hospitals in India which offer hope to people affected by leprosy. Pray especially for Salur Hospital which is supported by people like you throughout Australia.

If you would like to show support for the patients and dedicated staff at Salur Hospital, please scan the QR Code or follow the link.  
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/save-our-hospitals>



**Your prayers bring a second chance at life!**

"I had intense pain around my body. I actually suspected I had leprosy because I had heard about it being a common complaint. So I went to different herbal clinics, but I did not get any relief. I did not know where to go or what to do."

Before he developed leprosy Mohammed was a commercial motorcycle rider in Zamfara State in Nigeria. Life was good and he was able to support his family. Then everything changed. *"I could not continue riding and became dependent on my family for about 3 years. I did not have any means of livelihood and had exhausted my money on trying to get treatment."*

*"I was really sad and frustrated, because I was spending so much money, yet I was not getting any better. Everything seemed to be crashing down."* Through this time Mohammed's family and friends supported him. Fortunately, people did not treat him badly. He had enough to deal with. *"The pain that it causes is too much and also it does not allow you to continue doing your work. It affects all the activities you engage in. It is a terrible disease."*

One day a community volunteer noticed Mohammed and stopped to help. He mentioned a Leprosy Mission program that was diagnosing people for leprosy. Mohammed received Multi-Drug Therapy, anti-reaction treatment, and has on-going counselling.

Now Mohammed is looking forward. *"I could not get anything done and had to rely on people. I hope by the time the disease is cured; I will be able to go back to my business. I am hopeful for the future that I will get healed, because the challenges I experienced were too much."*

Your support means so much. *"I am showing my appreciation to TLMN for giving me a second chance at life and for putting a smile on my face."*

Thank God for the work of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria (TLMN). Thank God for the faithful prayers of people like you.

Pray for Mohammed to continue his recovery and return to all his previous activities. Give thanks for his supportive community and pray that others will experience similar encouragement.

Give thanks that The Leprosy Mission Nigeria is able to provide healthcare free of charge thanks to the generosity of supporters like you.

If you would like to give another person like Mohammed a second chance at life please scan the QR Code or follow the link  
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/tlc-Nigeria>

