



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia

KEEPING IN TOUCH

KIT06

**Celebrating Trevor & Heather Smith
50 Years In Thailand**

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In Christ...and in Thailand for 50 years! Thank you for your support.



By HEATHER SMITH
McKean Centre
Thailand

We are incredibly thankful for the tireless support of people like you over the years. My husband Trevor and I have been part of some incredible change with The Leprosy Mission. And incredible development in the treatment of leprosy worldwide. We thank God for you. **Thank you for your support.**

When we started in Thailand 50 years ago, leprosy patients were generally rejected from home and society. We had many hundreds of patients of all ages living in the 150-acres of the McKean Leprosy Centre. Not diagnosed or treated early, many patients had severe disabilities. They had bad sores from damaging anesthetic feet and hands. They all anticipated living in a leprosy colony for life. McKean had a school and workshops and five village groups of cottages for single patients. Sometimes patients met and married. They were able to start new life together in one of 20 other leprosy villages across the country. They could access help to build a home and start a livelihood

But in 1970, the World Health Organisation suggested that a long term policy of segregation of

leprosy patients should change to one of integration and rehabilitation. We then spent a challenging 15 years trying to put that policy into place. This enabled 900 patients to return to a home and society that would accept them. Our team at McKean undertook a wide range of medical activities, reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation, social work and health education in community, as well as vocational training, counselling, networking and problem solving. But we still had 120 patients who were too elderly and disabled to support themselves. **Thanks to your support we're able to continue to look after them for life.**

It has been a joy to see the way many of those patients have been able to build a new life. They have families, share their faith and play key roles in starting new churches. They have served their communities over the years and they are all so thankful to you.

With your support, we have been able to reach out to other people with disability. We've included them in our hospital based and community-based rehabilitation programmes. In recent years, we have tried to address the growing need for aged care in Thailand, both palliative care and hospice care.

Heather's story continues over the page, with more information about how McKean is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and her request for your prayers.

It's been an interesting adventure. We've starting a lot of new initiatives related to all these needs. But we couldn't have done it without your support.

Thanks to you, The Leprosy Mission has continued the leprosy work of the Centre. The charity work amongst marginalized people with disability needing access to treatment and rehabilitation is ongoing and is changing lives. McKean is now a registered Senior Care Centre.

Like any other hospital McKean has responded to the COVID-19 crisis preparing isolation units and getting the supplies needed for the pandemic. Our elder communities were quickly put on lockdown to protect them.

Please pray for the needy and marginalized. Pray that they can access the treatment they need during these times of stress.

It has been a privilege to see the growth of the Thai team and leadership. In some cases the professional staff we work with are the children of former patients. Some are babies Trevor delivered.

There is still the challenge to continue providing

leprosy training for medical personnel. To make sure the disease of leprosy and stigma do not return as major problems again. **Please continue to pray that doctors will be able to recognise early signs of leprosy. Pray that they correctly treat the disease.**

The hardest times over the years have not been the dramas and dangers. Nor the times our home went under flood. Nor the constant battle with termites and other invading snakes or critters. They were the family separations as our children left to continue their education. But each of them looked positively on Thailand. Their first home and the place their parents were meant to be. So this confirmed the decisions to continue along the way.

A Bible verse that's helped me through tough times, before we went to Thailand and still is... at all times....

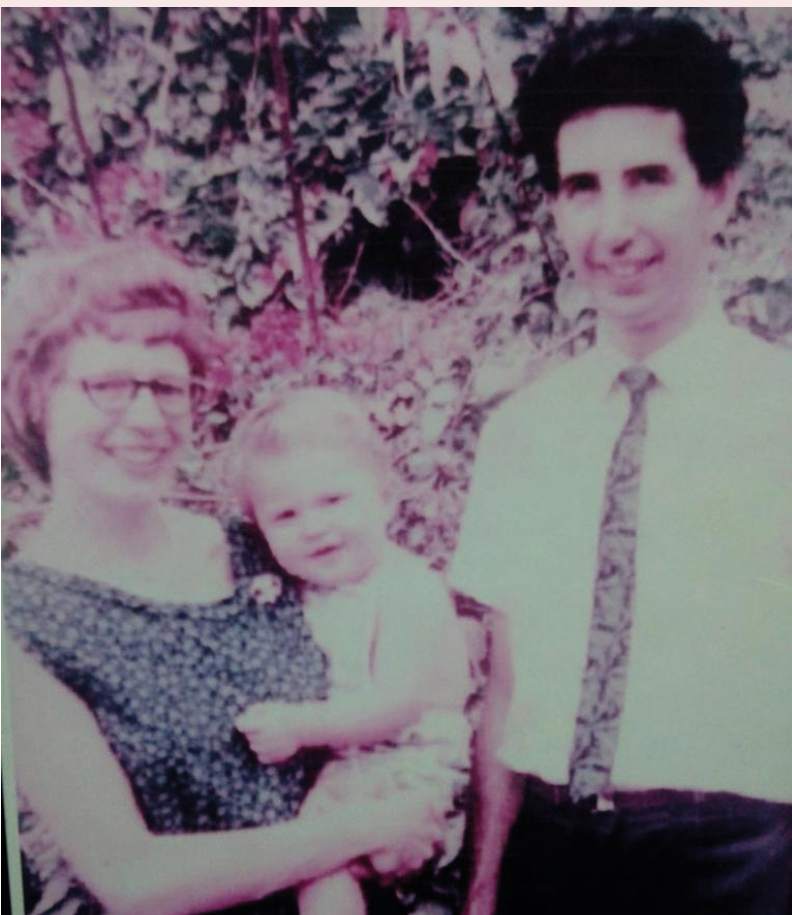
Proverbs 3:5,6 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do and He will direct your paths."*

And a favourite worship song, "In Christ alone..."

I pray you feel encouraged that in these times of uncertainty. You are still playing a vital role in healing the sick. You are empowering people with leprosy and disability across the world.

Thank you and God bless you.

Our first year in Thailand and our 50th year in Thailand. In our jubilee year, we also celebrate McKean's 111th anniversary!





Such a privilege to meet and help so people affected by leprosy over the years, like Rabi. She now makes a living by hand-making greeting cards to sell in The Leprosy Mission Australia Shop. Thank you for your support.



In Christ Alone

Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Monday, June 1

AUSTRALIA Many supporters make their gifts for people affected by leprosy before the end of the financial year. Give thanks to God for them and His provision.

Tuesday, June 2

INDIA Give thanks for the COVID-19 resources made for people affected by leprosy who may be particularly vulnerable. Pray these people feel at peace.

Wednesday, June 3

THAILAND God has done an amazing work for people affected by leprosy in Thailand over the last 50 years. Praise Him!

Thursday, June 4

THAILAND Pray the gains made over the last 50 years for people affected by leprosy in Thailand will continue.

Friday, June 5

GLOBAL World Environment Day. This year's theme: Biodiversity. Ask God to help us be good stewards of His creation.

Saturday, June 6

THAILAND Give thanks for Trevor and Heather Smith who have so faithfully followed God's call on their lives. May their lives of service be an example to us.

Sunday, June 7

GLOBAL Give thanks for the sharing of fundraising material between different countries in the Fellowship. Give thanks for this openness which saves money and resources.

Monday, June 8

AUSTRALIA Give thanks for sponsors committed to regular monthly gifts. Pray there will be others who will help ensure a consistent amount to supply ongoing care for people affected by leprosy.

Tuesday, June 9

INDONESIA Please pray for the government, that they would have wisdom, and that their actions would protect those most in danger of COVID-19.

Wednesday, June 10

TIMOR LESTE The Leprosy Mission is assisting the Timorese Ministry of Health to deal with COVID-19. Please pray this partnership will have great outcomes for people affected by leprosy.

Thursday, June 11

PAPUA NEW GUINEA The health services are ill equipped to handle a large outbreak of COVID-19. Please pray the low number of cases will drop even further.

Friday, June 12

GLOBAL World Day Against Child Labour. One of the Sustainable Development Goals is the end of child labour in all its forms by 2025. The Leprosy Mission supports this goal by ensuring it sources ethical and fair trade products. Pray the artisans who create these goods will be able to continue to support their families.

Saturday, June 13

NEPAL Please pray The Leprosy Mission Nepal's safeguarding programs to protect vulnerable adults and children will be a witness of love to their community.

Sunday, June 14

NIGERIA COVID-19 means there are some activities the team cannot run at the moment. Please pray for the people affected by leprosy this will impact. Pray they would be protected from harm during this time.

Monday, June 15

AUSTRALIA Praise God for His provision. Give thanks for all the individuals who give so generously to people affected by leprosy. Pray that as they give, they are blessed.

Tuesday, June 16

INDIA The government has 'locked down' India effecting many poorer people, including those affected by leprosy. Please pray for the success of government relief efforts.

Wednesday, June 17

TIMOR LESTE As the team helps install handwashing facilities for people affected by leprosy during this current COVID-19 situation, pray they will have the resources they need.

Thursday, June 18

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Pray that infrastructure around telephones and internet will remain solid, especially as the team do much of their work remotely.

Friday, June 19

NIGERIA The team is helping the government raise awareness about COVID-19 through various communication channels. Please pray these would be successful in equipping communities with the right information.

Saturday, June 20

NEPAL Pray the team's regular updates with health information for members of Self Help Groups and Disabled People's Organisations would be clear and easily understood.

Sunday, June 21

AUSTRALIA Give thanks for the volunteers who raise funds and pray for people affected by leprosy. During this time they are unable to meet in groups. Pray they will still be able to stay connected with one another online, and via phone.

Monday, June 22

INDIA Please continue to pray for The Leprosy Mission's work at raising awareness for people affected by leprosy. Pray people will hear and come forward for treatment.

Tuesday, June 23

TIMOR LESTE Give thanks that the team are assisting the Ministry of Health protect frontline health workers from COVID-19 by helping distribute personal protective equipment.

Wednesday, June 24

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Give thanks for Natalie Smith's wise leadership of the team in PNG. Pray she is always safe and well.

Thursday, June 25

GLOBAL In an era of increased regulation and scrutiny around fundraising, pray that The Leprosy Mission will continue to maintain its integrity and hold itself to the highest standards. Pray it will be an example of honouring God throughout the world.

Friday, June 26

NEPAL Pray for participants of Self-Help Groups who are feeling especially affected by not being able to meet due to COVID-19 lockdowns. Please pray they will be supported remotely.

Saturday, June 27

GLOBAL Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day. Many MSME owners and workers have been negatively affected by the economic results of COVID-19. Please pray they would know God's blessings.

Sunday, June 28

INDIA Give thanks for The Leprosy Mission Trust India's production of excellent resources to help people affected by leprosy understand their risks for COVID-19.

Monday, June 29

AUSTRALIA Many staff are now working remotely. Please pray they will stay focused, and will still encourage one another remotely.

Tuesday, June 30

INDIA Please pray for frontline health workers in Leprosy Mission hospitals. Pray they will stay safe and well and vital.