



The Leprosy
Mission
Australia

Keeping in Touch

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Hussaini's healing hands are helping his community – thanks to people like you!

By Andrew Newmarch,
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Hussaini is 68 years old and is still working at a medical clinic in Nigeria. It's no ordinary clinic and he is no ordinary man – he has had leprosy all his life. The fact that he can still work and spend time helping others is due to people like you who care and provide support for the work of The Leprosy Mission. Thank you.

Hussaini's parents noticed that Hussaini had a skin patch when he was just a one year old. His parents knew it was leprosy and so they took him to a traditional herbal healer who told him not to eat goat, eggs, or fish. Of course, this advice didn't help and by the time Hussaini was 7, his leprosy had become worse. His parents changed their approach and took him to a clinic. This was before the days of Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) and the drugs he was given there did not work. He continued to suffer from bad ulcers on his left foot, painful nerve damage in his arms, clawed hands and swelling due to his body's reaction to the leprosy bacterium. It was not until years later, when Hussaini was in his 30s, that he was given (the then) newly developed Multi-Drug Therapy, which he took for two years.

As in many of these cases, people with leprosy are not only given drugs but if they present with wounds or ulcers, they are introduced to self-care groups so they can manage their own wound care. In this case, The Leprosy Mission Nigeria staff not only trained Hussaini how to treat ulcers but also gave him a job and have taught him how to help the people in his community. Hussaini is now very happy living in a leprosy settlement and enjoying the respect and dignity he has in his senior position there.

Hussaini still has some clawing in his hands but manages to dress and treat ulcers three days a week in the clinic's self-help group. He uses bandages and other items provided free of charge to the clinic by The Leprosy Mission Nigeria. **Thanks to the support of people like you. Thank you!**

But sadly, the story of leprosy in Nigeria continues... right now, things are critical for the clinics, government health teams and projects addressing leprosy. The Leprosy Mission Australia has a project in the Zamfara region that is supported by you and the Australian Government through their NGO grant program.

» **STORY CONTINUED INSIDE**

The reason things are critical is that the production of the drugs for Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) has been compromised. COVID factors in other countries have affected both the quality and quantity of these drugs. The result is that Nigeria has gone for months without supplies. This means that courses of the medication that take either 6 months or one year cannot be completed by patients in Nigeria, leading to severe leprosy reaction. These reactions are often more painful and disfiguring than the initial leprosy.

This will exacerbate the discrimination and stigma faced by leprosy patients and has the potential to destroy trust in health services which means that community members will not present themselves for diagnosis or treatment. This will in turn undermine the ability of health services to defeat leprosy.

There is no easy solution to this but it requires support for the World Health Organisation (WHO) as it seeks to coordinate the global players like the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy and Novartis, the global pharmaceutical company that produces the leprosy drugs.



Please pray that this supply issue may be resolved quickly so that MDT medications can reach the leprosy patients in Nigeria that so desperately need it to be cured.

Thank you for your compassion and support. God Bless you.

In Memory of Phyllis Smith



"Phyll" was awarded Life Membership of The Leprosy Mission Australia in 2017 in recognition of her compassionate heart for helping people affected by leprosy. As a faithful follower of Jesus, she tirelessly served with the Taree Auxiliary for over 30 years, including a period of 12 years as President. Her passion brought energy, innovation, and love into everything she did. She was still fully committed and active right up until the time of her death.

It was noted at her funeral, that Phyll died on World Leprosy Sunday 2021, at the age of 91. Even in the timing of her death, she raised awareness of the needs of people affected by leprosy.

We honour her life and friendship, her dedicated service and her very faithful prayer support. We thank God for her deep commitment to the healing and transformation of the lives of people affected by leprosy. Many people across the world have benefited from her support and efforts.

Thank you Phyll. Please join with us as we continue to remember Phyll's family and friends in our prayers.



**WEDNESDAY
12 MAY, 2021**

THE LEPROSY MISSION'S

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER

Join with Christians across the world who are praying for a world without leprosy.

JOIN US ONLINE

Wednesday 12 May 2021
at 2:00PM AEST

OR IN YOUR OWN SPACE

hold your own event with your family, friends, group or church (and go online at 2pm to join with the world!)

Find out more and register at:

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/get-involved/partner-in-prayer>

or for more information go to:

<https://www.leprosymission.org/dayofprayer>



In accordance with The Leprosy Mission's Global Fellowship Charter, we are committed to coming together, globally, as a Fellowship of believers for a dedicated time of prayer. Whether participating in a local or online event, or in your personal prayer time, please:

- Acknowledge God as Jehovah Jireh, as our provider
- Bring the prayers and petitions of Members to the wider Global Fellowship
- Wait upon God and to listen to what He is saying to the Global Fellowship
- Be encouraged by hearing what God is doing across the Global Fellowship

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

—Hebrews 12: 1-2

THE LEPROSY MISSION PRAYER

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life.

Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease. Give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients. Reunite the separated with their family and friends.

And inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission, that it may never lack the staff or the means to carry on its healing work, in accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name.

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen

Any thoughts, reflections, or feedback, please send through to: engage@leprosymission.org.au