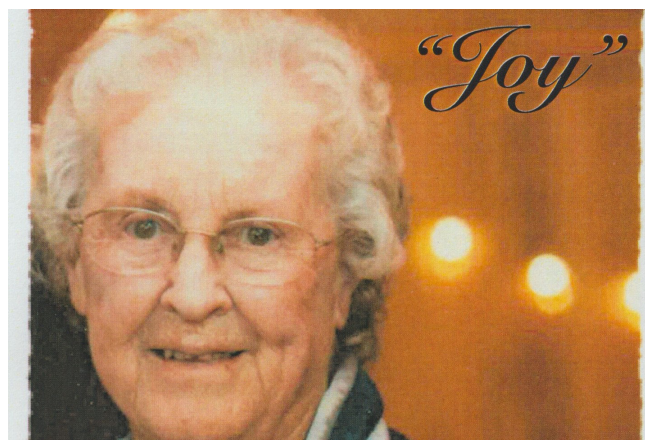


Until we meet again...Rest in peace dear friends...

Celebrating the Life of Joy — (Lilian) Joy Billingham, Life Member



Joy was a very active member of The Leprosy Mission's Taree Auxiliary in NSW for almost 50 years, until her recent passing. Over her time with the group, she served in many roles. These include Secretary for 18 years, Assistant Secretary and Vice President. She was a willing and eager ambassador for the Mission throughout the Taree region, assisting the State Director in visiting churches, local shows, and encouraging new supporters. Joy took part in fundraising activities along with her husband Alwyn. Together they would set up and then clean up after events. They would serve in the kitchen and generally help out wherever needed. Joy was awarded Life Membership in 2010 for her then 37 years of active service with the Taree Auxiliary.

Please join with us in honouring the life and friendship of (Lilian) Joy Billingham. We give thanks to God for Joy's dedication and commitment to serving people affected by leprosy. Please keep Joy's family, friends, and fellow auxiliary members in your prayers.

In Memory of a Mentor — Stephen Chinnaswamy, Consultant



It was with a heavy heart that Brent Morgan, International Director of The Leprosy Mission, reported the sad and sudden loss of Mr Stephen Chinnaswamy to COVID-19 in India. As a mentor and coach, Stephen had a major influence on many of our Leprosy Mission leaders across the world through The Leprosy Mission's Leadership Development Programme (LDP). Stephen and his business partner, Vivek Albuquerque, trained more than 60 Leprosy Mission leaders over the last four years. During this time, he developed close bonds with many across the Global Fellowship family. Stephen also conducted staff training for The Leprosy Mission in India, Myanmar and Nepal. His passing is a great loss to The Leprosy Mission and to the many others who he trained and mentored.

Please continue to remember Stephen's wife Sandra and their two adult children in your prayers. Please also pray for Vivek as he deals with the loss of his business partner and dear friend. Please continue to pray for our Hospital Heroes in India, and their patients, as they deal with the COVID emergency.

'Well done good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Master'

— Matthew 25:23

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Married at 10, abandoned at 11. Saved by surgery and now in her 70s! Thank you for your prayers and compassion throughout the years.

Your kindness is truly inspiring. Thanks to you and others like you, Dev Kumari has finally found a place of refuge and comfort at New SADLE in Kathmandu. But it has been a long and harrowing road for her, married then diagnosed with leprosy — all before her teenage years!

Dev Kumari's parents married her off at aged 10, due to their poverty. But after a year, her husband sent her back home again. She'd contracted leprosy. He'd told her he would come back for her after few months... but he never did.

When Dev Kumari was 14, her father died. She was already in bad physical condition due to her untreated leprosy. But it became her responsibility to take care of the cattle, her younger siblings, and her mother. She looked after them for years until her mother then also died.

Sadly, during years of increasing leprosy-related disability, Dev Kumari never managed to reach a hospital. She only made it as far as the local government health post. But they were unable to give her the right diagnosis or medicine. Tragically, after those lost years of opportunity, she'd lost all the fingers of both hands and all the toes of both feet.

It wasn't until her left leg became useless that she was finally taken to Anandaban Hospital. There she received surgery. Thanks to the support caring and compassionate people like you. Once healed, Dev Kumari had the opportunity to come to New SADLE. Here people affected by leprosy rehabilitate, receive handicraft training and gain employment. The organisation provides free medical services and lodgings to its artisans.

Now retired, Dev Kumari is grateful to the staff of New SADLE for their continued hospitality.

She is so thankful to you for your kindness. Thank you for not giving up on those in great need. Your generous heart is giving Dev Kumari and others like her the practical, lifesaving help they need. You're giving them hope for the future. Thank you and God bless you!

Please pray for the dire COVID situation in Nepal. The country has been struggling with only 18,000 doctors (6 per 10,000 people) less than 2,000 ICU beds and 700 ventilators. Urgent provision is vital.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me". —Psalm 23:4



Anne Steed being presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the TLMA WA State Committee

Thank you to Anne Steed, Chair of WA State Committee and all Western Australia supporters



By Heather Newton
WA State Committee

Recently, the WA State Committee held a final Supporters Afternoon Tea in Perth, WA. It was a celebration of the events of the last 8 years, since the closure of The Leprosy Mission Australia's State Offices in 2012.

It was a blessed time to reflect, and to honour Anne Steed as she retired from committee service. Over 50 faithful supporters attended. This was encouraging particularly given the continuing COVID situation.

The hard-working committee and passionate local supporters have continued to support people affected by leprosy. Over the last 8 years this has been through around 115 events. These have included supporters and fundraising events, speaking engagements and prayer meetings. Many led by Committee Chair Anne Steed until her retirement. Anne maintained the committee by encouraging others to join.

Thank you and Congratulations Anne Steed — for your continuous work as a dedicated, committed, caring and humble servant of Christ.

Anne began her interest in leprosy in 1968 when she was sponsored to go to Papua New Guinea (PNG) as part of a Methodist youth project.

"39 young people from across Australia went. 5 were from WA. I was one of them. I was also fortunate to be able to stay on another 6 months into 1969," recalls Anne. Anne was a newly qualified Medical Laboratory Technologist. She worked at the leprosy and TB hospital on Gemo Island, across the harbour from PNG's capital Port Moresby.



Above: Aerial photo of Gemo Island, Papua New Guinea, where Anne served.

Prior to Anne's appointment, the hospital on Gemo Island couldn't get the pre-op skin smears done quickly or accurately enough at the Taurama Hospital. So, it was a blessing that Anne would be able to provide this service onsite. However, at that time, they didn't even have a laboratory! Anne's first job would be to set one up! Quite a challenge for the 'raw recruit'!

"It was a huge, and interesting learning curve," Anne told us, *"But I was able to set up a lovely simple laboratory, that was able to cover the small range of tests that were needed for both the Leprosy and the TB patients.....about 120 patients at one time. It continued to be staffed by local and overseas people until the hospital closed in the early 1980's."*



Above: Anne (centre) with Australian nurses on Gemo Island in 1968.

Anne worked alongside Australian surgeon, Dr Ken Clezy. Ken was based at The Leprosy Mission PNG in Madang. He would come down to Port Moresby to operate at Taurama Hospital. Then go down east to the islands to Ubuya Hospital. By the time he came back through Port Moresby, Anne and the crew would have a second lot of patients ready for surgery.

On returning to WA, Anne became a supporter of The Leprosy Mission Australia. But it was not until 1985, when Val Bock came over from Melbourne to set up the new WA committee, that she then joined.

Anne served the committee diligently and faithfully for 35 years, many of those as Committee Chair.

Anne formed Auxiliary groups in Kalgoorlie (7 years) and Busselton (9 years), which continued for some years after she left. She also encouraged Beth Douglas to start the Mandurah Auxiliary, which continued under a number of leaders until 2017. In 1988, Anne also joined The Leprosy Mission Australia's National Council.

Thank you, Anne, on behalf of all the people affected by leprosy you have helped. Thank you on behalf of The Leprosy Mission Australia. Thank you for all the lives you have touched. God bless you!

At the event we reminisced over photos of events in Perth over the last 8 years. It was a good time to share about the amazing leprosy work still happening around the world today. I shared insights from the recent Supporter Tour to Nepal before COVID closures. Many of us will continue to strive to defeat leprosy and transform lives into the future.

A huge thank you to all who continued to support people affected by leprosy at WA State Committee events.

Everything achieved was only possible through the fabulous support of the WA State Committee. [pictured top left]: L-R: Maureen Pease, Merrilyn Hambleton, Barry Waldeck, Anne Steed, Joyce Clarke, Heather Newton, Gerry Chapman. Thankyou.

We give thanks to God for all WA State Committee members past and present. God bless you and keep you always. Amen.

If God is stirring your heart to serve The Leprosy Mission in your state, please contact Margaret Lambeth margaretl@leprosymission.org.au or FREECALL 1800 537 767 during office hours.

**Welcome Margaret Lambeth!
God bless you as you are a blessing to others!**

Recently appointed to the national office, Engagement Support Officer Margaret, is ready to assist all volunteers and groups. Contact Margaret for resources and to discuss your particular needs. Her office hours are currently 9.45am-2.45pm (Mon-Wed). She looks forward to hearing from you!