

Keeping in Touch Summer 2021



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Thank you for Saving Soles in Indian Leprosy Hospitals during the Coronavirus pandemic!

Thank you for your prayers and support for people affected by leprosy during this difficult time.

Without your prayer support, people affected by leprosy may not experience God's love through the care they receive. Your amazing Christian heart is essential to God's healing ministry for people affected by leprosy.

Particularly when India, already shouldering 60% of the world's leprosy burden, is buckling under the weight of COVID-19. Thank you to those also contributing financially to people affected by leprosy and our 'hospital heroes' in India.

Your generous support means so much! Your support for people affected by leprosy continues to amaze us all. **You are giving them hope!**

Giving hope to people affected by leprosy like Bhuneshwar...

Bhuneshwar is now 18 years old. He spent three years getting treatment for his ulcers in private clinics. Finally, he received treatment and diagnosed at a Leprosy Mission Hospital in India. Bhuneshwar is the only child of his parents. He passed 10th standard in his education but left his studies 2 years ago due to leprosy. Leprosy took him away from his studies

and restricted his outdoor activities. Resulting nerve damage means he cannot feel his feet. And he has plantar ulcers on the soles. He is taking Multi-Drug Therapy, as he has multibacillary (MB) leprosy. And then earlier this year had surgery to remove foreign matter and dead tissue from the wound.

Praise God! Now, Bhuneshwar's ulcer is healed! And thanks to people like you, he can get back to his normal life. He plans to join his studies again in the upcoming years. He wants to become a doctor and save people from the same problems he has faced.

Please pray for Bhuneshwar's continuing restoration and for others like him in Leprosy Mission Hospitals in India – that they can receive the leprosy care they need during this pandemic.

Your generous heart and prayers make all of this possible. Thank you and God bless you!

If you would like to financially support people affected by leprosy through Leprosy Mission hospitals in India, please contact 1800 537 767 to make a one-time gift or go to: www.leprosymission.org.au/indiahospitals



Take comfort in the name for Jesus - 'Immanuel', God with us.



By Steven Meredith
Board Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you. Your compassionate support for people affected by leprosy continues to inspire me.

It has been a difficult and challenging time for many with the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic affecting us all.

Even more so will be the impact on those already affected by leprosy. In addition to battling leprosy, its stigma and discrimination, those we are trying to help also must now confront a virus which is swamping government health systems, creating more isolation in communities and disrupting drug therapies. In many cases employment or the ability to generate income through small family businesses has been lost.

At these times we can feel powerless and overwhelmed by the sheer volume of discouraging news stories and the tragic impacts on families, our staff, partners and the work in the field.

We can often feel alone - not sure of where to turn

or what response to make, whether that be spiritual, material or financial. Leading The Leprosy Mission at times such as these can feel like working our way forward through a thick fog of uncertainty.

At times such as these I personally take comfort in the name for Jesus - 'Immanuel', God with us.

We know that God doesn't promise a trouble-free life, we don't always avoid trouble and strife. However, God does promise to be with us - the creator of the universe is with us today. When all appears lost, we are never alone.

One of my personal favourites is Psalm 91: 14-15

'Because He loves me' says The Lord, 'I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble.'

There is also a need I feel to be replenished or 'topped up', to be sustained in the ongoing fight against leprosy. My Christian experience also tells me that in times when I feel overwhelmed or 'empty' that it is about seeking Jesus to help me find strength in him. Jesus gives us the gift of spiritual food and water



A sign on the wall of The Leprosy Mission Vocational Training Centre, Vadathorasalur Hospital, India

to sustain us — we just need to ask. Jesus earned this the hard way for us on the Cross.

Isaiah 55:1 *'Hey there! All who are thirsty; come to the water!'*

So as we face the challenges of a New Year, uncertain of what is ahead, I thank God that He keeps me focused on serving those affected by leprosy. I am motivated by Christ's example to love the poor and disadvantaged. I know you are too.

Please join in my prayer that God will continue to install compassion in our hearts and help us through our Leprosy Mission work to show Christ's love to others through our actions.

'Matthew 25: 40 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'.

I remember that Jesus could be found with the outcasts, the poor, the overlooked and downtrodden. I pray that we will continue to be found along with our brothers and sisters in The Leprosy Mission, in the company of the same people for many years to come. God bless you.

Sharing a Christmas message from Dr. Grace Warren.



"Yes Jesus came that there might be Peace on earth. "The Son of God became man to enable men to become Sons of God."

Jesus — The word of God became flesh. The Son of God became man

The Lord of all became a servant. The righteous one was made sin. The eternal one tasted death. The risen one now lives in men. The seated one is coming again. What a message for this unsettled world- Jesus is the only one who can bring Peace and happiness in our hearts and in the world."

You can read Dr Grace Warren's Christmas letter in its entirety by going to <https://bit.ly/GraceWarren> or call 1800 537 767 to request a physical copy.



Lalsari and Bishal in Anandaban Leprosy Mission Hospital, Nepal

Your Tender Loving Care this New Year, can help a loving mother like Lalsari never give up...

“Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

—1 Corinthians 13:7

Your great kindness is truly inspiring. Without your help, people affected by leprosy may be left vulnerable and lose hope, in their time of greatest need. Families like Lalsari and Bishal's.

Bishal's smiling little face is well-known at the Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. Still just 9 years old, Bishal and his mother Lalsari have become regular visitors due to the complications of Bishal's leprosy. Bishal was first diagnosed when Lalsari noticed patches on Bishal's hands. Having had leprosy in the past, she knew the tell-tale signs. Bishal's young body has also reacted against the leprosy bacteria. Lalsari was forced to leave her husband and daughter and take Bishal urgently to the hospital.

As you can imagine, seeing her boy in so much pain was almost too much for Lalsari to bear. “When he started crying, I started crying too,” she says. “I wanted to die.” Bishal now needs a combination of medicines. He can't walk properly, and his face has

become bloated. Without ongoing hospital care, Bishal's condition will worsen. Without his mother at his side, he may lose hope. Thankfully, with support from compassionate people like you, Lalsari has found a job at a nearby paper factory (making wrapping paper sold through The Leprosy Mission Shop). This means she can stay close to her son.

You can help Bishal and his family endure through every circumstance, through your faithful prayers and your thoughtful Gift of Total Leprosy Care (TLC). By becoming a regular monthly TLC Giver you will provide the essential ongoing support to people like Lalsari and Bishal. Families affected by leprosy desperately need regular care and support so that they can once again live a full life in their community. **Please call 1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767) or visit leprosymission.org.au/tlc and start following Bishal and Lalsari's story today...**

Thank you for never giving up, never losing faith and for helping people like Bishal endure through every circumstance. Your generous heart is giving families like Lalsari and Bishal's practical, life-saving help – and real hope for the future. We wish you God's blessings for the coming year.