

The Leprosy Mission Australia | COVID-19 Update

Dear friends,

I know is a time of uncertainty for us all. I pray this letter finds you well. **Please know we are thinking of you at this time.**

COVID-19 (coronavirus) is having a significant impact on the lives of Australians and across the world. It is an increasingly challenging time with the escalating response required to contain its spread.

I would like to share with you what The Leprosy Mission Australia has been and is doing to minimise any disruption to you and your support for people affected by leprosy overseas, while ensuring that our staff, volunteers, prayer partners and the Australian community are protected in relation to the spread of COVID-19.

In order to continue operating, but also taking some precautions, we want to notify you all that effective from Wednesday 18th March, our national office in Box Hill has minimised the number of staff that come to the office, in line with social isolation advice from the government. Other staff are working from home. At the same time, we have asked our volunteers, suppliers and shoppers to please not visit the office or onsite shop until further notice.

Donations and shopping orders will still be processed, however, some of our services may be impacted. We will review the situation on an ongoing basis-and update you accordingly.

Here are some details I hope you may find helpful at this time.

Online Shopping and Donations

These will still be processed, however, in this environment we may not be able to process them as soon as we would like and you may receive your parcel and/or receipt later than usual.

We may also be subject to supplier delays, stock shortages and Australia Post delivery terms and conditions out of our control, particularly if sending your items overseas. The full terms and conditions of shopping with The Leprosy Mission Australia can be found online:

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/about/gift-shop-tcs/>

Contact Details for Phone Orders, Donations and Resource Requests

The office can still be contacted by web, email or phone. If you have the direct line number for a particular staff member, you may be able to contact them directly. Otherwise, **please call TOLLFREE across Australia 1800 537 767 or (03) 9890 0577 and our staff will attend to or return your call.** Any emails will be answered as normal. Email or via the website is the best way to communicate with us during this time.

NB: For your protection, please do not include bank or credit card details in email – please use our secure website or provide your details over the phone or via mail.

We will also be posting regular updates and helpful resources on our website. **To stay up to date with our resources and information, visit [leprosymission.org.au](https://www.leprosymission.org.au)**

Incoming and Outgoing Mail

We still plan to open mail and process your requests during this period. However, in this environment we may not be able to process them as soon as we would like. Please note this may also delay any request or response you have for our resources.

If you are a subscriber to our monthly KIT prayer newsletter this will still be delivered to your mailbox or inbox monthly. And is always available online here:

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/your-impact/kit-newsletters/>

If you receive ACTION magazine, it is still on schedule to arrive with you before Easter. This will update you on your latest impact for many people affected by leprosy and disability around the world. It is also available online here: <https://www.leprosymission.org.au/your-impact/action-magazine/>

Our upcoming Gift Catalogues are still on schedule, at this stage.

Donations

I know this is a time of uncertainty for us all. The truth is, we had important work planned before any of us knew the extent of Coronavirus (COVID19) and that work must continue. As followers of Jesus Christ, we should follow his example and reach out to people affected by leprosy who are in great need.

As always we are thankful for your gifts. People affected by leprosy and disability certainly know what it is like to desperately need a cure, receive early detection and proper treatment. They also know what it is like to experience isolation and stigma, sometimes for years. Whatever you can give, you are still a vital part of this ministry.

Gifts of \$10 or more can be made with a credit card here. <https://www.leprosymission.org.au/get-involved/give-now-where-its-most-needed/>

Alternatively, you can transfer to our bank account:

Account Name: The Leprosy Mission Australia

ANZ Bank BSB: 013225

Account No:297114729

Your reference: [your surname and donor number] 20DCV Eg. SMITH 0123456 20DCV

After making your transfer, please email hello@leprosymission.org.au with the following information: name, date of deposit, amount deposited, and your reference. So we can provide you with a tax deductible receipt.

(Gifts \$2 or more are tax deductible)

If you are having any feelings of isolation or fear, or experiencing any hardship, please know our thoughts and prayers are with you. If you would like us to pray with/for you please let us know. There are many ways to support people affected by leprosy support for you to consider. We are happy to discuss these with you any time.

May we encourage each other to turn to God and His Word for hope and comfort in these challenging times. We have put together a small devotional that you may find helpful here:

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/2020/03/being-a-follower-of-jesus-in-a-time-of-fear/>

If you have any questions or would like to contact us, please email us at hello@leprosymission.org.au

And may “the Peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

Blessings,

Sheldon Rankin – CEO

The Leprosy Mission Australia

You can make a difference. Even the smallest donation helps people affected by disease, disability and poverty around the world to transform their lives and communities.