

in**TOUCH**

MAGAZINE OF THE LEPROSY MISSION NEW ZEALAND

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Articles Include

- Healthier Communities in Bougainville • Quail Island, New Zealand
- Canonisation of Father Damien of Molokai • A Place to Belong, Ethiopia

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COVER PHOTO

The Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme is now integrated into the Government health system, which means leprosy education, diagnose and cure reaches more people.



Brent Morgan, the new Executive Director of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand, pictured here with his family

Director's Notebook



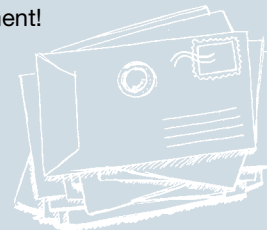
Welcome to this edition of **inTOUCH**, the Magazine of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand. This is my first message as the new Executive Director, having taken up the position on 1 July. Can I begin by saying what a wonderful privilege it is to be heading The Leprosy Mission New Zealand! It is an organisation that I have admired for many years and I look forward to committing the next chapter of my life to the goal of The Leprosy Mission – to eliminate the causes and consequences of leprosy.

Before looking forward, I believe that it is important to honour our past. I took over from David Hall, who served as Executive Director for sixteen years. David's passion and love for those affected by leprosy was obvious – so too was the love and respect for David from those affected by leprosy, our field colleagues, and those within The Leprosy Mission International network. David, we honour your wonderful contribution and service to The Leprosy Mission and wish you God's richest blessing for your retirement!

May I conclude by thanking you for your ongoing and faithful support for The Leprosy Mission New Zealand. I would also like to acknowledge the many letters, emails and cards I have received welcoming me to my new role. Thank you for these – they are a great source of encouragement!

With God's blessing,

Brent Morgan



VISION

A world without leprosy

GOAL

To eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy.

MANDATE

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand, relying on the grace of God and motivated by Jesus Christ, exists to join in mutual partnership with individuals, families, communities and organisations to share resources, experience and learning in order to eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy, and actively supports the right to a life of dignity for all people.

inTOUCH is published twice a year by The Leprosy Mission New Zealand



Brent is pictured here receiving a gift from a local girl in Siachatema, Zambia. Helping children all over the world has continued to be a driving force behind his work.

BY BRENT MORGAN

Choices: Brent Morgan's Story

One of my first experiences with poverty was seeing the plight of an eight-year-old boy in India.

One of my first experiences with poverty was seeing the plight of an eight-year-old boy I met in New Delhi, India (I will call him Sumit). Sumit had been sold by his parents into bonded labour for NZ\$80. He had run away from his new 'master' and been found, begging for food, by some of my friends. At the time, my own children were about the same age as Sumit, which made the plight of this young boy so real and heartbreaking for me. How could a value (\$80) be placed on Sumit's life?

I have met many people like Sumit, adults and children, all across the developing world. Their circumstances, gender, age, ethnicity, and beliefs are often different; what they all share is a lack of choices as they live their lives. Sumit did not have choices – he begged for food or he didn't eat. Maybe his parents didn't have a choice about selling him – I don't know. What I do know is that most of us in New Zealand have the luxury of making choices in how we live our lives, every single day.

“WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT MOST OF US IN NEW ZEALAND HAVE THE LUXURY OF MAKING CHOICES IN HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES.”

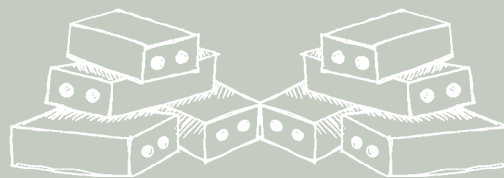
I have been a Christian all my adult life and I have always had a strong sense of calling to serve the poor. After qualifying as a medical radiographer in 1984, I worked in the corporate sector for nearly twenty years. For six of those, I worked in India. It was there I met Sumit. Through my experience of meeting Sumit, I chose to volunteer with a grassroots Indian organisation working with the urban poor in New Delhi. Prior to joining the Leprosy Mission, I served as Director of International Programmes at World Vision New Zealand.

My wife Tracy and I have been married for 22 years. We have three wonderful children: Hayley (18), Courtney (16), and Curtis (14) and as a family we attend Whangaparaoa Baptist Church on Auckland's North Shore.

The goal of The Leprosy Mission is to eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy. Those affected by leprosy are often the poorest of the poor; they are frequently marginalised by their families and the communities they live in, they are often robbed of the choices that we all take for granted. I count it a real privilege to be serving The Leprosy Mission, working under a gracious God, alongside a dedicated team of colleagues, and in partnership with a loyal group of supporters. Thank you for supporting our work!

A Place to Belong

BY RIC FOXLEY

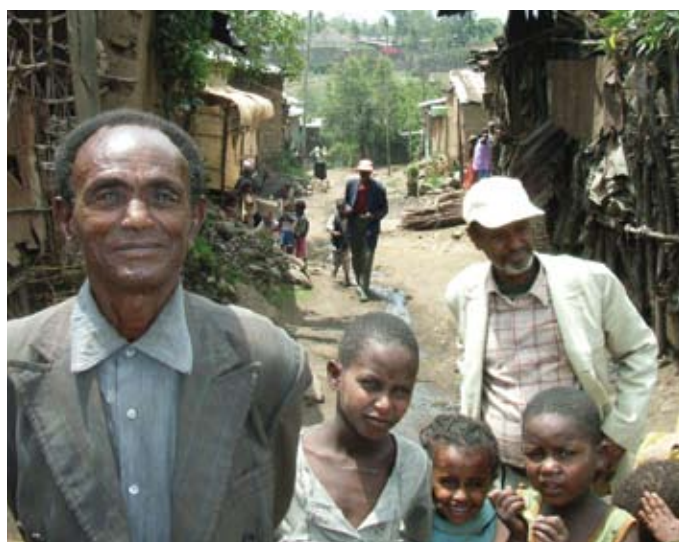


ENAPAL, our partner association in Ethiopia, is run from inadequate rented premises in Addis Ababa with no secure tenancy. From small beginnings in 1996, with just 30 leprosy-affected members, mostly beggars, ENAPAL is now a National Association with 15,000 members, spread among 63 local associations.

As I sat with the Board and staff members in June, what came across to me was this: they want 'a place to belong', a place that will give them an address, visibility, and credibility, which at the moment they struggle to attain. What they have achieved thus far is stunning, but now they need to move on to the next stage of their growth as an organisation.

Mr Cheru, ENAPAL Board Member: "If donors will put in building blocks (like the office building), then there will be a huge impact long-term. All members feel this. Even if we die, we will leave something to continue the work, benefitting future generations."

ENAPAL works with the Ethiopian Government, local authorities and overseas aid agencies – such as TLMNZ – to advocate for rights and identity, to secure adequate housing, and to set up income-generating activities. I visited housing projects funded by The Leprosy Mission, where families now live in homes, with



A view from the main path of a slum in Shashamene, Ethiopia. Houses here provide minimal shelter and the area offers very few opportunities for the children living there.

"EVEN IF WE DIE, WE WILL LEAVE SOMETHING TO CONTINUE THE WORK, BENEFITTING FUTURE GENERATIONS."



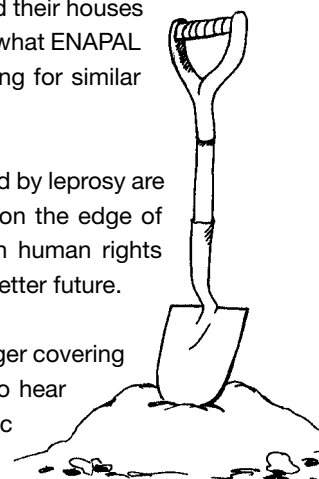
This is one of the beautiful families from a slum in Shashamene, Ethiopia. The community is tightly knit and child care is often the responsibility of an eldest child.

"WHAT ENAPAL HAVE ACHIEVED THUS FAR IS STUNNING, NOW THEY NEED TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STAGE OF GROWTH AS AN ORGANISATION..."

water and electricity... and secure tenure. They own the homes! I visited market stalls, where some members earn a respectable living by selling grains. Contrast this with another group of 80 families, all leprosy-affected, still waiting for this life-transforming intervention. Their street, in a slum, becomes a torrent in heavy rain. They could be evicted at any time, and their houses are often more hovel than home. They see what ENAPAL has done for their neighbours and they long for similar assistance.

Because of ENAPAL's work, people affected by leprosy are discovering that they do not have to live on the edge of society, that they too are Ethiopians, with human rights and dignity, and that they can hope for a better future.

Ric Foxley is the Donor Relationship Manager covering the lower North Island. If you would like to hear more about his project please contact Ric on: (06) 326 8318.





The opening of Lester House, Bara District Nepal, 2009

BY CHRIS EMSLEY

Lester Community House

New Zealanders have been supporting the work of The Leprosy Mission for almost 100 years, sometimes in special ways....

Jean Hunter, one of our supporters living in Rotorua, wanted to make a special gift towards the work of The Leprosy Mission in Nepal, in memory of her younger brother Lester, who died tragically several years ago.

Jean determined that some good must come from the tragedy and through discussion with her local Leprosy Mission Donor Relations Manager, decided that a Community House in memory of her brother was the most fitting way to bring this about.

"It is my way of responding to Lester's death so that it puts something positive and helpful back into the world in celebration of Lester's life," said Jean.

The poverty-stricken Bara district of Nepal is the focus of a five-year Community Active Participation (CAP) Project. The Leprosy Mission Nepal initiative is designed to significantly improve the

welfare of people suffering the causes and consequences of leprosy, physical disability and social marginalisation.

An official opening in May 2009 was attended by Leprosy Mission Nepal staff, local political representatives, and members of the community. Like most Community Houses, Lester House is a one-room, brick building suitable for a range of activities including community meetings, vocational training courses and the use of village self help groups, all of which help strengthen a community against a disease like leprosy, and help to overcome poverty.

"IT PUTS SOMETHING POSITIVE AND HELPFUL BACK INTO THE WORLD IN CELEBRATION OF LESTER'S LIFE."





Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme

Chief Jonah of Tonara Village

The impact of this programme is enormous. Community awareness of diseases such as leprosy has begun to snowball.

The Healthy Communities Programme in Bougainville has grown in an extremely positive way due to the integrated involvement of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand, the Bougainville Autonomous Government, community leaders, health workers, individuals and families. The impact is enormous. Community awareness of diseases such as leprosy has grown to the point that it has begun to snowball. Even schoolchildren are playing an integral role in making Bougainville communities' healthier places in which to live.

AWARENESS AND IDENTIFICATION

As a result of her training, Marinah Meuka, of Tonara Village in Kieta, noticed signs that looked like leprosy on the face of high-school student Elisabeth. When asked, Elisabeth talked of feelings of shame, and of how she did not know what to do.

REFERRAL

Marinah talked privately with Elisabeth and asked if she could take her to a Health Centre. She accompanied Elisabeth to the Centre and met Ian Jacob, the District Disease Control Officer. He confirmed leprosy.

TREATMENT AND ITS MANAGEMENT

Ian requested drugs for treatment. When the drugs arrived, Elisabeth began a six-month course of treatment. This treatment is continuing successfully.

ENHANCED AWARENESS

Elisabeth and her family are now much more aware of leprosy, and its signs and treatment processes. Elisabeth identified a school friend with the same symptoms and referred her to Marinah, who in turn arranged for diagnosis and treatment with Ian Jacob. This treatment is also continuing successfully.

CHANGED COMMUNITY PRACTICE

These actions, and their results, have been observed by Chief Jonah of Tonara, and the Village Health Committee, who are using these successes as part of ongoing awareness work in the Village.



Elisabeth, this side view shows signs of leprosy on her cheek



Ian Jacob providing MDT drugs

Quail Island

NZ's Leprosy

Quarantine Island

BY CATHY MCINTOSH



This is a replica of one of the residents' huts, built in exactly the same location as the original. Visiting this site gives one a strong sensation of the isolation resident felt.



In 1906 a Christchurch man, diagnosed with leprosy, was moved to a quarantine hospital on Quail Island in Lyttelton Harbour. Originally only a short-term solution it was made permanent a year later with the construction of the first house in what became New Zealand's most populated leprosy village.

Located on the south side of the 1.5-kilometre island, the leprosy village was home to as many as ten people at a time, sent to live in isolation because of leprosy. Care and assistance came in the form of regular doctor's visits, private houses, and a caretaker who provided meals and gave help with daily chores such as woodcutting. While historically in many other countries people diagnosed with leprosy were badly treated, New Zealand was relatively understanding of the needs of people in forced isolation, and so village residents often enjoyed visits from friends and family, and had regular church services.

An inspiring person from this time, whose selfless deeds are still remembered, is Mr Jimmy Kokere, sent to live on Quail Island in 1908. One year later he was declared cured and allowed to leave. Despite regaining his freedom, Mr Kokere returned to live in the leprosy colony in order to provide nursing care for a blind resident. He did not leave again until 1917.

“NEW ZEALAND WAS VERY UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN FORCED ISOLATION.”

The Quail Island leprosy village was closed in 1925 and the remaining eight residents were transferred to Makogai Island, Fiji.

A pleasant day trip, Quail Island is just a 15-minute ferry ride from the port at Lyttelton. The island is well equipped and signposted for visitors. If you visit, be sure to go and see the restored 'lepers' hut' and the peaceful hilltop gravesite of Mr Ivan Skelton, the only leprosy-affected resident to die on the island.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Department of Conservation publication

“Otamahua – Quail Island: A Link With The Past” (2nd edition)
Department Of Conservation, 2006.



Advocacy skills training workshops are held for Self Help Group leaders to share with their community

BY LISA MCLAREN + GILLIAN WHITLEY

Advocacy in Bangladesh



Advocacy is a form of problem solving designed to protect personal and legal rights, and to ensure a dignified existence.

A practical approach to asserting the right to a life of dignity is to help people affected by leprosy find their voice, and, when combined with other voices, to use them to effect positive change. The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh has developed a programme of workshops to teach advocacy skills, which help ensure people affected by leprosy are respected; and that they can actively participate in the economic, social, political and cultural life of their country.

The one-day workshops are a key feature of Chittagong's Sustainable Development Project in Bangladesh. The Leprosy Mission's project staff facilitate the workshops, training the leaders of community Self Help Groups (SHG). Then the SHG leaders are responsible for training their group members and the wider community. With the skills to articulate their rights and the understanding of who to approach and how, there is an increasing number of people advocating for change at local and national government levels.

“THEY CAN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THEIR COUNTRY.”

Advocacy skills enable people affected by leprosy to lobby the government for policy changes that reduce the stigma of leprosy and encourage inclusion in their communities. Mainstreaming the treatment of leprosy into the public health-care system in Bangladesh, and thereby reducing the stigma of detection and diagnosis, is one such change. Policies such as allotting khash land (government-owned unutilised land) to the landless for housing; and giving incentives to private business firms so there is a quota for employment of disabled people in the private sector, are two more.



View of the Halawa Valley, east side of Molokai, Hawaii. It looks quite beautiful, but the wind is incessant, the area quite barren, and even the most beautiful prison, is still a prison.



St Joseph's Church on Molokai, Father Damien made the steeple section himself, around 1876.

Father Damien to be Canonised 11 Oct 2009

On Sunday, 11 October this year, Pope Benedict XVI will canonise Father Damien of Molokai, Hawaii. Father Damien is recognised worldwide for his gallant and courageous work caring for people with leprosy. His selfless service has been an inspiration in the global fight against the world's oldest and most cruel disease.

All who knew Father Damien saw him as a loving man, full of integrity and resolve, one who recognised the dignity of all individuals. Father Damien in turn appreciated the kindly nature of those people affected by leprosy, and understood their situation, isolated on Molokai Island's Kalaupapa Peninsula, to which they had been banished in 1866.

On his arrival at Kalaupapa in 1873, Father Damien instantly recognised what he needed to do, both spiritually and practically, to make their lives as comfortable and uplifting as possible.

Joseph Dutton, who went to Kalaupapa in 1886, described how Father Damien's old, worn haversack was full to the brim of useful items: "Holy oils, baptismal water, cloth, towels, tools, crackers, fruit, leather, rope, strings, wire, nails, screws, nuts, washers, pens, ink...". Father Damien was a practical man. When he knew he had leprosy himself, and before he died, he insisted on working harder than ever to ensure that people affected by leprosy at Kalaupapa would continue to be cared for after his death. He was always a great advocate for their cause and persuaded others to assist, including members of the Hawaiian Royal family.

To mark the occasion of Father Damien's canonisation, The Leprosy Mission New Zealand is running a special screening of the Molokai movie (see page 11) and will run an appeal encouraging people to each cure one person of leprosy.

Throughout the centuries, people with leprosy have been treated shamefully. But there have been some shining exceptions – people who have followed the example of Jesus – Saint Francis, Mother Teresa and Father Damien among them.

The canonisation of Father Damien will be a day of celebration and will bring hope to many who suffer from this disease. People who support the Cure One programme will be continuing the work and example of Father Damien.



Father Damien de Veuster, a Roman Catholic Missionary born January 3rd, 1840, Belgium.



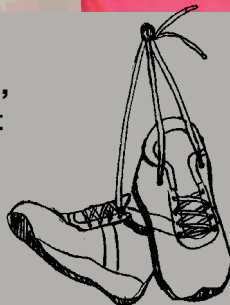
Acknowledgement to ILEP (www.ilep.org.uk) for information.

Running For Rights In 2009



Lisa McLaren, Sue Gross, Marcus McLaren, Chris Ison

Running for Rights is infectious! In May, we took on the lake in Rotorua, where we met up with local resident and Leprosy Mission supporter, Sue Gross. Sue was aware of the annual marathon, and was inspired to take part when she read in the March issue of inTOUCH about The Leprosy Mission's Running for Rights team:



"I have not only become more aware of the plight of leprosy patients, but also been inspired by the dedication, integrity and love exhibited by everyone involved with the Leprosy Mission... I had a great time meeting the other Leprosy Mission walkers; thank you all for your love and support."

Sue suffers from some serious physical injuries, so her efforts are greatly admired. Thank you Sue for all your hard work – you did it!

The Auckland Marathon takes place on Sunday 1 November. Brent Morgan, The Leprosy Mission's new Executive Director, is hitting the pavement and joining the team and taking on the challenge. Brent is running the full marathon, of 42 kilometres, alongside his daughter Courtney, who is taking on the half-marathon, of 21 kilometres. Brent is a seasoned runner, having, over the years, run ten marathons... so this will be a walk in the park!

Last year, the Running for Rights team raised over \$3650 to help people around the world who are experiencing leprosy. Together with your help, we'd like to exceed that amount this year. Please support The Leprosy Mission's work, and our new Executive Director, running for rights.

Interested in joining the Running for Rights team? Supporting them with a donation? Contact us on: enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz or 0800 862 873



Leprosy Mission Online



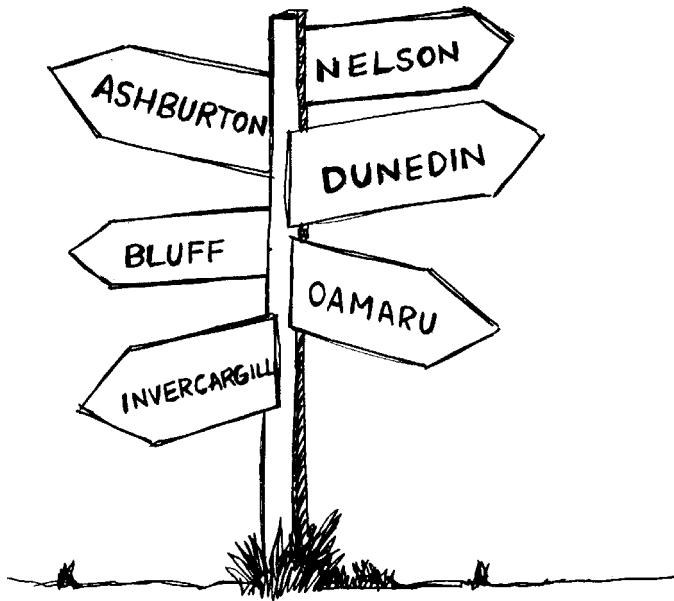
The internet is a significant source of information in today's techno-savvy world. At The Leprosy Mission New Zealand, we appreciate how important it is to ensure access via the most up-to-date information for our supporters all over the world.

The new website has been designed so that we can make changes in-house, which means more regular updates about projects and partners, and better cost saving so that more of donors' funds go to the field.

E-newsletters are the next move in this direction. We encourage all supporters, friends of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand and those who like to be kept informed, to subscribe to the low-meg e-newsletters. Visit the website or contact us directly to find out more and sign up for e-news.

www.leprosymission.org.nz

Chris Hill: Walking 4 Rights



Chris Hill, a volunteer teacher from Nelson, is taking on the challenge of walking the length of the South Island of New Zealand – a staggering 1000 kilometres.

Chris has been inspired by three people he met during the 1990s, while he was travelling throughout Asia and the Pacific:

“I met an old guy in the Sumatran jungle who walked from Holland to Indonesia through World War II Europe, then gave away his chieftainship to look after orphans. Then I met a leprosy-stricken lady on a train in Thailand, going from carriage to carriage begging. I can still see the look of anguish and strength on her face, which really touched me. Lastly, John Bradburne, a former commando who cared for people affected by leprosy... (he) walked the incredible distance from England to Africa. These people inspired me to take on this challenge.”

Chris will leave his hometown of Nelson on 26th December 2009. Heading over The Spooners and Lewis Pass, through towns including Christchurch, Ashburton, Oamaru, Dunedin and Invercargill before ending up at Bluff. Chris has planned a 30-day expedition, not including rest days, and has a dedicated cheering squad that includes his lovely wife, Mariko, and their two beautiful daughters, Emma, 10, and Elie, 1.

Please show your encouragement and support for this amazing challenge. You can sponsor Chris through the Leprosy Mission New Zealand website, or directly through: www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/ChrisHill If you would like to know more about Chris's journey please contact The Leprosy Mission New Zealand on 0800 862 872.

One Hour for Justice: Leprosy Awareness Week

CAN YOU SPARE ONE HOUR?

During the first week of February 2010, we will call on New Zealanders to give One Hour for Justice... whether it is an hour of your time, an hour of your salary or a presentation to your church or community group. There are many ways you can help raise awareness, to reduce the stigma of leprosy and the misunderstandings about it.

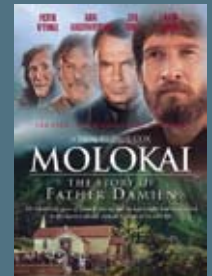


All money raised will help people affected by leprosy realise their rights, and live a life of dignity. In just one hour, you can help change lives.

Contact us for more information and to register your interest in receiving a resource pack: 0800 862 873.

Special Screening!

IN CELEBRATION OF FATHER DAMIEN'S CANONISATION, THE LEPROSY MISSION NEW ZEALAND AND NZ CATHOLIC PRESENT:



MOLOKAI – The Story of Father Damien

Written by Academy Award-winning writer John Briley (Gandhi) and starring David Wenham as Father Damien, this incredible motion picture is a true tribute to a man who dedicated his life to helping those who had been abandoned and forgotten. Co-starring NZ's very own Sam Neill, alongside Kris Kristofferson and Peter O'Toole.

Sunday 11th October, 6:30pm

Hoyts Cinema, Sylvia Park, Mt Wellington Highway, AKL. Tickets \$20 each (includes an item from the candy bar (soft drink, ice cream or popcorn). Tickets are limited so BOOK NOW with NZ Catholic to ensure a seat (09) 360 3049.



Book Review



FATHER DAMIEN... "A BIT OF TARO, A PIECE OF FISH AND A GLASS OF WATER"

<http://www.idealeprosydignity.org/book/IDEABookstore.htm>



This excellent book is most timely, coming as the Vatican prepares for the canonisation of Father Damien in October 2009. It is a unique contribution to our understanding of Damien the man. It brings to life his reality and those of the people he worked and ultimately died for. The book uniquely and vitally includes the voices and personal accounts of those who were most affected by Father Damien's presence and who worked alongside him on Hawaii's remote Kalaupapa Peninsula.

People affected by leprosy have so often been cruelly and unjustifiably separated from their communities. It is not surprising therefore that their voices have largely been absent from written history. This book goes a long way to redressing this injustice by ensuring that their words and their personal recollections can also illuminate the life and work of the simple Belgian priest who, 120 years after his death, still stands as a reminder of the need for compassion and justice in our society.

From a review by Doug Soutar, ILEP General Secretary



Isabelle Duff to Follow a New Path

TLMNZ farewells a long-time servant this month. Isabelle Duff has served TLMNZ, TLM International, field partners, and people affected by leprosy for 23 years. During this time she has performed a number of roles including PA to the Executive Director, Programme Manager, and most recently, Programmes Director. She is well respected with the New Zealand NGO community and has served a term as the Chair of the Council for International Development (CID).

Isabelle's passion for her work and community development is obvious. She completed a Master of Philosophy degree in Development Studies from Massey University while employed by TLMNZ. Her role has taken her to many different parts of the globe, often with much personal sacrifice. Her commitment to high professional standards has seen TLMNZ's work being well respected by NZAID and the NGO community alike.

Isabelle's energy and knowledge will be missed across the whole of The Leprosy Mission network. She has a wonderful heart for those affected by leprosy. We send her every best wish and God's blessing for the future and look forward to our continued friendship.

"The problem is not how to wipe out all differences, but how to unite with all differences intact."

Rabindranath Tagore

"All are experiences I profoundly treasure; they have truly enriched me."

Isabelle Duff

A Special Tribute to Maisie Titheridge 1917–2009



Maisie became interested in The Leprosy Mission through a family friend, more than 50 years ago... in fact, records show her first donation in 1955! Her parents both had very kind hearts and helped a number of families during the War and Depression, and so she learned from them.

Maisie was the Leprosy Mission representative for the upper half of the South Island for many years, a role that involved visiting churches and church groups, often travelling at night on narrow, winding and hilly roads, to tell the story of the work of the mission.

She was the powerhouse behind the Christchurch fundraising committee for many years. Every year a project was chosen, and the Christchurch Committee would run fundraising activities, such as an Annual Fair and the Woolston Mini-Market. Maisie had the ability to gather a team of enthusiastic and willing helpers around her, many of whom continue to help at the Fair, which is still going after 30 years.

Maisie's gentleness, kindness, love, and faith drew many to her and her work for the Lord and she was much loved by all. She died two weeks before the 2009 Fair, and we miss her.

Margaret Simpson – **Secretary, Christchurch Committee**

inTOUCH

Reader Survey 2009

Thank you so much for completing the Supporter Survey that went out with the March inTOUCH magazine. There was a fantastic response, 1300+, and we are greatly encouraged by our proactive readership.

Results from the survey will help us streamline our communications. This is important, not only to keep costs down, but also to ensure that you remain informed. Your prayers and support help us help those affected by leprosy, so we want to make sure you are kept up-to-date in the very best way possible.

HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS FROM OUR PRELIMINARY FINDINGS:

- 90% of respondents acknowledge that leprosy is curable. Fantastic! The average New Zealander doesn't, so please spread the word, tell your neighbour!
- 29% read all of inTOUCH magazine, 44% read most, and 24% read some. We have already taken this information on board, and hope you find this edition of our bi-annual magazine more interesting.
- 88% believe we communicate effectively about the impact of our programmes. This is good news, because we do strive to ensure that our audience is informed.
- And one last statistic you may be interested in: 24% of those who responded to the survey have been supporting The Leprosy Mission for 10 years or less, 15% have been supporters for 10 to 20 years, and **61% for more than 20 years!** You are incredibly loyal, and for that we are most grateful.



Welcome Matt Halsey



Matt Halsey is the newest member of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand (TLMNZ) staff, working as a Programmes' Manager. With three others in the programmes team, Matt manages development of programmes, projects, activities and relationships supported by The Leprosy Mission. Matt also helps internally to ensure Kiwis have the most up-to-date information on these activities, some of which you can read about in this issue of inTOUCH.

Matt is currently focussing on the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme in Papua New Guinea; TLMNZ's projects in the Chittagong region of Bangladesh; and projects run by HANDA, TLMNZ partners in China. This work will see him travelling at times to work alongside these partners and provide support where it is most needed.

With wife Michelle and their two delightful daughters, Matt recently moved back to Auckland after almost four years in Wellington working for the New Zealand government development agency, NZAID.

Matt's work in international development has also seen him living in Laos working for the United Nations, and consulting for the World Bank. Matt says, "It is a great pleasure for me to be working with TLMNZ, closer to the 'coal face'. Working alongside our partners – people affected by leprosy – that's what it is all about for me."



Pictured here are Matt and family: if you look closely, you can see Michelle is holding the latest addition!

Prayer & Praise

THE TOUCH OF JESUS ON A MAN WITH LEPROSY

A man with leprosy came to Jesus and begged him on his knees, 'If you are willing, you can make me clean.' Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. (Mark 1:40-42)

In his dealing with the leprosy sufferer, Jesus was breaking strong prohibitions. The man was 'unclean'. In touching him, Jesus was taking the uncleanness on himself. It was no accident. Jesus embraced it deliberately to show that the judgement which had rejected the sick man was human and flawed.

Jesus recognised both the humanity and the divine image in the man. It may be hard to recognise God's image in some people we meet but it is there, deep down. We need to be reminded, whether for our own sake, or for the way we see others, that we are all made only 'a little lower than the angels.' (Psalm 8:5)

The work of The Leprosy Mission is all about people who are human and flawed, including us. That is why we value prayer so much. We need divine intervention in our lives to enable us to serve as Jesus did.

Extracts from Eddie Askew's book 'Encounters'.

WILL YOU PLEASE JOIN US IN REGULAR PRAYER SUPPORT?

'Prayer and Praise' notes are available free. They can be posted bi-monthly or emailed weekly or monthly.

Please indicate on the reply coupon, phone 0800 862 873, or email ngaira.lynych@leprosymission.org.nz

Bequests

Norah Muir	Havelock North	Eva Hadjineofitou	Manukau
Alma Case	Auckland	William Sutherland	Wanganui
Violet Jones	Palmerston North	Valmai Thomas	Ashburton
Margaret Stark	Gore	Kevin Vaney	Levin
June Hammond	Wanganui	Lorna Peat	Mosgiel
Nellie Galt	Winton	Ruby Reid	Palmerston North
Lois Woollett	Paraparaumu	Vera Mott	Christchurch
Millie Hunt	Palmerston North	Kathleen Rogers	Gisborne
Christina Williams	Masterton	Norris Long	New Plymouth
Frederic Early	Auckland	Cicely Pierce	Invercargill
Iona Anderson	Alexandra	Mary Young	Wellington

Donations Received In Memory Of

Miss Betty Broad	Oamaru	Mrs Ruth McKay	Lower Hutt
Mrs Olwen Cauldwell	Mt Maunganui	Mrs Henrietta Mitchell	Christchurch
Mr John Haigh	Christchurch	Miss Maisie Titheridge	Christchurch
Mrs Helen Holland	Auckland	Mrs Edna Ellis	Havelock North



***"I feel the Lord has truly blessed us with a healthy family. I feel donating to the Leprosy Mission is passing on the blessing that we have received and it feels good to help in some way."
Mr and Mrs Blackler, Geraldine, New Zealand***

How Your Money Has Helped



CURE ONE CAMPAIGN

Thank you so much for your commitment to our work in Bangladesh – the work you read about in the Cure One Appeal in May. Your decision to Cure One person of leprosy over the next year is undoubtedly one of the most important decisions you have made. You are supporting a person through each of the five life-changing steps towards cure, and enabling lasting change in the lives of individuals, families and communities in the Chittagong area of Bangladesh.

Our goal is to fund the cure for 770 people this year. Together so far, we have cured 107 people, whose experiences very much echo Nalini's – the person you read about in May.

Your donations go to the Integrated Leprosy & Stigma Reduction Project in Chittagong to support a broad programme of work, ranging from the medical aspects of the cure – detection and diagnosis of leprosy – to issues of a more social nature – raising awareness of the facts of leprosy to reduce stigma and discrimination. All are integral to the cure of leprosy.

One of the key objectives of the Integrated Leprosy & Stigma Reduction Project is to work with and train government health workers to ensure that treatment of leprosy is mainstreamed into the public health-care system, so that all people living in the Chittagong area of Bangladesh can access treatment more easily. This is a vital project and you are part of these very important changes.

Each and every one of your kind messages of support was excitedly received by Leprosy Mission Project staff in Bangladesh. Your postcards were then delivered to Chittagong communities to share with people experiencing leprosy and to encourage them in their everyday lives. Thank you so much for touching their lives.

We cannot thank you enough, here in New Zealand and on behalf of our colleagues in Bangladesh – and all the people you have committed to help.

If you would like to Cure One person, or maybe a family within the Chittagong community, please contact us on Freephone 0800 862 873 or enquiries@leprosymission.org.nz

THANK YOU!

REALLY GOOD GIFTS CAMPAIGN



Thank you for your support of our Really Good Gifts campaign earlier this year for Mother's Day – it was our special celebration of motherhood. We were able to provide a variety of 269 gifts. Your gifts really do show how much you care, and on behalf of women affected by leprosy around the world, thank you.

So it's that time of year again... the clock has started ticking... and there is less than three months until Christmas. Well, not to panic, this year we have expanded our Really Good Gifts so there *really* is something for everyone. Look out for our catalogue in October and earmark your favourite meaningful gifts for your loved ones. This year, we are getting back to the true meaning of Christmas – which is often overshadowed by the increasing commercialism of the festive season.

Join us, and choose a Really Good Gift. COMING SOON...



The Leprosy Mission Project Staff in Bangladesh were (obviously) very pleased to receive all the personal postcards from supporters in NZ



These 4 people are currently receiving leprosy treatment from one of the Chittagong, Bangladesh city clinics



 **THE LEPROSY
MISSION**
Te Mihana Tuwhenua o Aotearoa

YES!



I WANT TO FIGHT LEPROSY

I would like to Cure One person of leprosy

I would like to give regularly:

Please accept my monthly

Cure One gift of \$36

I prefer to give \$_____per month

I would like to make a single donation of:

\$432 to Cure One person

\$1000

\$100

\$50

\$30

OTHER \$ _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Cheque

Automatic payment (we will send you a form)

Visa Mastercard Diners AMEX

Card Number

Expiry ____ / ____

Cardholders' name _____

Signature _____

- Please send me info on leaving a bequest
- I have already included TLM in my Will
- Please send me "Prayer & Praise" [bi-monthly]

MY PERSONAL DETAILS

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

Email _____

PLEASE SEND TO

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand
PO Box 10227
Dominion Road
Auckland 1446



Alternately you can donate on-line at
www.leprosymission.org.nz or phone
0900 900 44 to make an instant \$25 donation

**“Please stand up for
the poor and help the
children of the needy.”**

Psalm 72:4a (The Message Bible)



The beautiful smiles of children in Bougainville, a country that not only suffered years of civil war, but also has a high number of leprosy cases. The communities of Bougainville are healthier and the stigma and discrimination of those affected by leprosy has vastly improved, thanks to the Healthy Communities Programme, made possible through combined effort and support from: The Leprosy Mission, the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Bougainville health workers, the people of Bougainville and you the New Zealand donor.