

# SANGAI



Pemba has struggled to be accepted by her community since she was diagnosed with leprosy, but the counselling she has received at Anandaban Hospital is gradually restoring her confidence.

Pemba has piercing blue eyes and a gentle manner. She is 80 years old but travelled for several days to reach TLM's Anandaban Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal. She has some serious disabilities due to leprosy and her hands are very disfigured.

Pemba explains that she has lived with the consequences of leprosy for over 40 years. At the time she was diagnosed there was no adequate cure for the disease. But she did receive available treatment from a local charity hospital and a very caring doctor.

In the far west of Nepal, where Pemba is from, very little is understood about leprosy; many misconceptions and myths surround the disease. Because of this Pemba has suffered painful rejection.

She cries when she explains the hurtful way she has been treated. 'At the time people in the community rejected me, but my husband loved me and the doctor cured me. Because of the doctor's care and my husband's love, I am still alive, otherwise I would be dead.'

Things have improved slightly. 'Sometimes I've shared about how I'm feeling with my family, but not with the community,' Pemba says. 'They didn't want to talk to me.'

'Nowadays it's alright because in our community there are many festivals and now they invite me and if I can't go they bring me some things from the festival. Before, they didn't invite me.'

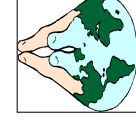
## Pemba's story continued

And Pemba has suggestions for how to reduce the stigma even further. 'I think maybe if some of our people from the village came to the Mission Hospital and met people with the disease, or heard about it on an FM radio programme, they would change their feelings.'

Pray that as The Leprosy Mission in Nepal attempts to do exactly as Pemba suggests; educating people about leprosy through as many means as possible so that misunderstandings and myths can be stamped out. In this way people-affected by leprosy can enjoy the same rights and quality of life as everyone else in their community.

## Samaria Village Tanzania 2010

- Please continue to remember the villagers who are living with the consequences of leprosy and in poverty.
- Uplift John Tuff as he makes plans and preparations for two teams to return to build more houses around June and November this year.
- Ask the Lord to inspire suitable volunteers with a wide range of skills to staff these teams.
- Pray that the Lord will smooth the path for visas and other necessary paper work so that Northern Ireland supporters may continue to help Hombolo.



## TLM International

- Please uplift the financial situation of TLM International which is facing a £3.5 million deficit. This is mainly due to the fall in value of the pound against the rupee. Ask the Lord to give wisdom and guidance to those who have responsibility for deciding which programmes will have to be reduced or cut over the next few years.
- Uphold the people of Haiti at this time. Pray especially for those with disabilities, some as a result of leprosy, who need special attention and assistance that they will not be at the bottom of the pile.
- Despite the economic growth in India, one third of the world's poorest people live here, many in severe poverty made worse by leprosy. Ask the Lord to continue to bless TLM's six vocational training centres as they strive to break the cycle of poverty.

### Miss Isobel Cairns 1928 - 2009

Many of you may remember Isobel who worked as finance officer at TLMNI in Ulsterville Avenue for 19 years. Give thanks and praise for her service and witness over these years and uphold her family and friends who mourn her passing in December.

## TLM in Northern Ireland

- Uphold Karen Bell and Rhoda Kelso who are going to Koltihara Hospital, India for a medical elective during September and October 2010.
- Also Rachel Manning and Ashleigh Martin who are going to Anandaban Hospital, Nepal again for their medical elective during July and August 2010.
- Give thanks and praise for the continued interest of medical students in the work and witness of TLM.
- Give thanks and praise that preparations for a second "See and Serve" India team are underway. The team is going out in August, and will see the work of TLM in Shahdara Hospital and Naini Hospital, and serving those with leprosy by building a house for a leprosy patient.

## World Leprosy Day Sunday, 31 January 2010



Please uplift our annual World Leprosy Day service on 31 January in Lisburn Cathedral at 3.30 pm. Remember our guest speaker Dr Tim Lewis, former medical superintendent of Anandaban Hospital in Nepal.

Ask the Lord to encourage a wide response to this day of thanksgiving and celebration of the work and witness of TLM throughout the world.

## Fairtrade Fortnight The BIG swap 2010

This year TLMNI has decided to hold a Fairtrade Coffee Morning on Thursday 4 March 2010, from 10 - 11.30 am in Lagan House, as part of Fairtrade Fortnight in association with Source2Resource.

Your prayers for this event would be very much appreciated as this is the first time we have participated in Fairtrade fortnight.

Further information about this event can be obtained from Lesley at the office.



Don't forget to pass this copy of Prayer Fuel on to someone else!



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