

# No Pain, No Gain

## Arati's Story



Even today, people are afraid of leprosy. Leprosy occurs mainly in very poor countries. People who have the disease are often rejected from their homes and communities.

But The Leprosy Mission follows the example of Jesus by curing and caring for people affected by leprosy, people like Arati. This is her story.

“Hi, my name is Arati. I am eight years old and I live in a country called Nepal. I have one brother who is five.

Nepal is a very beautiful country, with lots of mountains. Many people in Nepal work as farmers. My mum works for some of these farmers. Some days there isn't any work for her to do, which means she doesn't get paid, so we don't always have enough to eat.

A little while ago I noticed some funny-looking patches on my arm. I didn't want to worry my mum as we don't have much money; in our country we have to pay to see a doctor. But one day I touched something sharp with my hand - I didn't feel anything! So my mum took me to a skin clinic. It was a four hour bus drive! I'd never been that far away from home before.

At the clinic I felt very nervous. The doctor told me I had leprosy. That made me feel afraid. People in our village are scared of people who have leprosy. They avoid them and treat them differently; they are afraid of catching it. But the doctor told me not to be worried. She gave me some medicine that will make me better. She told me that it is not easy to catch leprosy and there is no need to be afraid of it. I don't feel worried anymore.

My doctor told us about The Leprosy Mission; it's an organisation that works in lots of different countries helping people like me. They can even help my mum learn a new skill, like dressmaking. It will mean that my mum can earn more money to pay for food and clothes. I might even be able to go to school. I would love that!”