

AUTUMN 2021

INTOUCH

Thank
you for
bringing
hope and
healing

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'FOR I AM THE LORD
YOUR GOD WHO
TAKES HOLD OF
YOUR RIGHT HAND
AND SAYS TO YOU,
DO NOT FEAR, I
WILL HELP YOU'
ISAIAH 41:13



“

'I THANK GOD EVERY TIME I REMEMBER YOU. AND I ALWAYS PRAY FOR ALL OF YOU WITH JOY. I THANK GOD FOR THE HELP YOU GAVE ME WHILE I TOLD PEOPLE THE GOOD NEWS... I AM SURE THAT THE GOOD WORK GOD BEGAN IN YOU WILL CONTINUE UNTIL HE COMPLETES IT ON THE DAY WHEN JESUS CHRIST COMES AGAIN.'

PHILIPPIANS 1: 3-6

Front cover picture:

When Friday was 11 years old, his life changed. After losing feeling in his foot, his mum took him to a TLM Hospital in Nigeria where his leprosy was diagnosed. His family thought his was cursed and unclean. They were afraid and left him at the hospital. A kind nurse took him in and cared for him. His leprosy was cured and he went back to school. Friday now has hope for the future. Because of your generosity, he has been given his life back.



TLMNI TEAM READY, WITH YOUR HELP, TO MAKE LEPROSY A THING OF THE PAST!

Dear friends,

I am always so thankful as I read through each copy of INTOUCH. It is a reminder of just how much you are doing to show the love of God in our broken world and to help change the lives of those who are in desperate need.

In this edition we feature some of the highlights from our recent Annual Trustee Report and what your critical support has enabled in a very challenging year. If you are interested to find out more, you can read our Annual Trustee Report & Audited Accounts in full by downloading it from our website, www.tlm-ni.org

Because of you lives have been saved. As COVID-19 has struck India, Nepal and surrounding areas devastating lives and crippling health services your generous support has provided oxygen, PPE and critical medical supplies. Your gifts have enabled front line services to continue and have brought hope in the midst of great despair. THANK YOU.

Because of you hidden cases of leprosy are being found and those who have suffered unnecessary disability are being supported and empowered to live life to the full. Over the past year, we have had to adapt our services and find new ways to reach out. Whether it is training others to spot the first signs of leprosy

or helping to care for leprosy affected hands and feet, your donations are helping to reach people in remote communities and find those who are in hiding with fear and shame because of the stigma of leprosy. THANK YOU.

Because of you those affected by leprosy have not been forgotten.

In a year when we have heard a lot about the importance of isolation, I am reminded of the strength of our connection. I am thankful, that even though we have not been able to meet in person, you continue to remember, pray for and generously give as we seek to transform lives and strive to see an end to leprosy.

I thank God for you every day. For without your sacrificial giving and prayers, the life changing work in hospitals and across communities in Africa and Asia would not be possible. THANK YOU.

Praying that you know more of God's love each day.

With every blessing

Joanne Briggs
National Director



To join us online via Zoom, call or email the office to register

Get your cuppa ready and join us to hear how your support is making a vital difference. Hear stories directly from the field and learn more about how you can pray & act to help defeat leprosy & transform lives.

2 NEW RECRUITS JOIN THE TEAM

As part of our new strategy, we have invested in 2 new roles to help increase awareness, extend our reach and raise significantly more funds which will help transform lives and see an end to leprosy in our lifetime.



Meet Stephen McCartney

– Communications Officer (Digital)

I grew up in Dublin and in my youth there was a real buzz and movement for justice issues. My faith always moved me into action and I found myself

involved in big events or campaigns, but often found that difficult to reconcile with mundane daily life. In my 20's I was a Youth worker and I tried my best to mobilise the youth into action. It was my real hope that they would be transformed through their faith to make an impact in the world. We led a team of youth to Uganda and were really impacted by what we saw and did our best to serve the local community. Afterwards as we debriefed we felt we had done some good work, but at the same time felt overwhelmed by the need we saw. That was hard to process and really started a journey for me of how better to serve and work in mission everyday.

Since youthwork I've worked in a number of different fields; building websites, tree surgery, customer service and most recently working for Belfast Bible College doing Communications and Recruitment.

Communications really is my dream job - where I can use the skills God has given me and connect all the bits of the puzzle behind the scenes to make a big impact that raises awareness about the needs and how we can all be part of the solution. I love to think strategically and would really value your prayers as we seek to grow awareness and funds among a new generation of supporters.

My prayer as we move forward is that we would have a strong sense of God leading us, and we would be surrounded by His protection as we try to connect with new supporters in person and online. I'm so aware that we are a global fellowship, a family, and we need that strong fellowship to bind us together as we work towards Zero Leprosy Transmission, Zero Leprosy Disability and Zero Leprosy Discrimination.



Meet Pam Gaston

– Programme Funding Officer

I was born in Scotland but grew up in NI. Over the last 10 years God has taken me to 6 continents - and I don't even enjoy travel, I'm a homebird at heart! After seeking God on how I serve Him here, the role came across my path and

I was inspired by the incredible work of The Leprosy Mission in seeing leprosy defeated and standing with people the world would rather forget. My career was in corporate banking and during the last financial crash I was driving to Cookstown to train some staff. While driving I had a real God encounter and, out of that encounter, I wanted my life to be wholly surrendered and solely invested in what God was doing. This began a deeper journey of surrender - here's my life God, use it however you want.

The idea that there were still unreached people in our world broke my heart. I had to respond. God gave me a heart for the forgotten and those society disregards. God began to open doors of service overseas - Papua New Guinea, Mozambique, South Africa, Brazil, Senegal, Peru. It was there, sitting in the dirt, serving and helping people, who were often the poorest of the poor and those that society considers worthless, that I really understood what love is and what God's Kingdom really looks like. While working in banking I used my holiday allowance to serve on short-term missions and later spent several years serving in overseas mission throughout Africa and beyond. I love to engage with people who are on the margins, to hear their stories and witness their lives transformed and that's one of the things I'm most looking forward to in working with TLM.

I'm praying that God would extend our reach and impact to see more lives transformed and ensure no-one is left behind. My role is pursuing institutional and grant funding - seeking to raise more funds that support and develop our projects in Africa and Asia and that will ultimately help see an end to leprosy. Please pray for God's guidance in forming our plan and fuelling successful applications - and as we depend on Him to establish and build those key relationships with people within institutions so we can extend our reach together.

We are delighted that Pam and Stephen joined the team in August. Why not send them a welcome message at info@tln-ni.org or pop into the office to say 'hello'.



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PRAYER POINT

We give thanks for you, our faithful supporters. Through your prayers and generous support, God has provided and enabled us to continue to serve people affected by leprosy. Praise the Lord!

NOT FORGOTTEN: BECAUSE OF YOU

This past year has been difficult for everyone. COVID saw daily life change beyond recognition across the globe, cruelly robbing many of life itself. COVID knows no borders, race, status or class. Life as we know it in Northern Ireland or across the countries where we work in Africa and Asia was turned upside down. Like so many of us, the people we serve have suffered from this indiscriminate virus and many went through heart breaking loss.

The pandemic has had a massive impact on our people and programmes. We wondered how we would continue and cope both in our personal lives and in the life of the mission.

A deep COVID related financial crisis left our hospital staff struggling to find funds to feed their patients. The cost of providing isolation beds for COVID patients and securing PPE for front line staff further depleted hospital budgets.

But thanks to you, and your incredible generosity, front line staff got the essential medical supplies they needed.

Your support provided hospital beds, PPE, critical care and treatment to the most vulnerable.

Lockdowns to control the spread of the virus had a devastating effect on the communities we serve. Day labourers were unable to work and feed their families. Communities

affected by leprosy are always the most vulnerable and therefore among the first to go hungry.

But because of you those with leprosy, and their families, have not been forgotten!

Thanks to your incredible heart of compassion, even at a difficult time of real hardship throughout UK, you fed and kept hundreds of families alive. **Your care has helped so many.**

Thank you for funding COVID-19 awareness activities. The communities we work with have learned the importance of social distancing, good hand hygiene, self isolation and how to spot the symptoms of coronavirus.

Leprosy diagnosis and treatment stopped in most government primary health centres and lockdowns prevented patients from accessing treatment. Your support not only kept hospitals open but provided necessary funds to help innovate and provide alternative ways to deliver health services. Hospital teams contacted patients by phone to monitor MDT completion (the cure for leprosy), changes to symptoms and to offer counselling support for their wellbeing. Continuity of care, for managing reactions and disability was provided via mobile clinics. Innovations like these have been a lifeline to many. **Thank you for making it possible.**



Wheels that Heal project in Nigeria is a specially equipped van that brings health workers and essential medication to people affected by leprosy. Medical workers clean wounds, provide new bandages, and offer advice. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the clinics also provided a practical way of getting information and practical help about the virus to communities in remote areas.





“THE KING WILL REPLY, ‘TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.’”

MATTHEW 25:40

LIVES TRANSFORMED: BECAUSE OF YOU

Early detection of leprosy and getting treatment quickly is key to preventing unnecessary disability and discrimination. Where disability has already occurred, it is important that people know how to look after themselves to prevent further damage.



Because of you, health and community workers can receive vital training to spot the first signs of leprosy, support people affected by leprosy related disabilities and provide critical services to treat leprosy complications.

Last year your ongoing support and critical donations enabled:

- 29,916** Training Days
- Self care groups to provide support to members on how to care for leprosy affected limbs and help prevent further disabilities
- 229**
- People to have reconstructive surgery
- 1,110**
- People to receive prosthetic devices and protective footwear
- 18,094**

Those affected by leprosy tell us that when they are able to contribute towards household incomes, it gives them confidence, dignity and a voice within their household and wider community.

Because of you

- 1571** People received vocational training or apprenticeships
- 4,173** Children received educational support
- Members of self help groups were able to learn new skills and establish sustainable livelihoods that increase independence
- 16,422**

PRAYER POINT

Give thanks for those like Samir who have been cured of their leprosy and empowered through training and livelihood support. Pray for others who are still to be found and helped.



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Thanks to you - people with leprosy are being found, diagnosed and cured early so that they can enjoy opportunities that otherwise leprosy would steal from them. People like Samir (pictured with his daughter).

Samir was diagnosed with leprosy as a teenager and received treatment quickly. Years later he received education and training from TLM and now he is a local business owner who provides for his family and offers employment to members of his community. When asked about TLM training centre he attended, he said "Bankura is helping people to set up in the community." Speaking about his faith Samir said "I think everything happened because of my faith so far, because of Jesus"

**BECAUSE OF YOU PEOPLE
ARE BEING SPARED A
LIFE OF DISABILITY AND
REJECTION AND HAVING
OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE
LIFE TO THE FULL**

CELEBRATE A LOVED ONE'S LIFE

A gift in memory of someone you love and miss is a wonderful way to help the memories of them live on.

There are lots of different ways that you can celebrate your loved one's life. You may like to give in lieu of flowers at a funeral, on a special anniversary or perhaps through a regular gift in memory.

However you choose to remember your loved one with The Leprosy Mission, their love will live on in the lives of people affected by leprosy for generations to come.

We know that giving in memory is very personal. So if there is anything we can help you with please get in touch with us at our office on **028 9262 9500** or at **info@tlm-ni.org**

We would love to support you, help answer any questions you may have and hear more about your loved one's story.



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Mission**
Northern Ireland

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