

# INTOUCH



'BUT I WILL RESTORE YOU TO HEALTH AND HEAL YOUR WOUNDS,' DECLARES THE LORD...

JEREMIAH 30:17

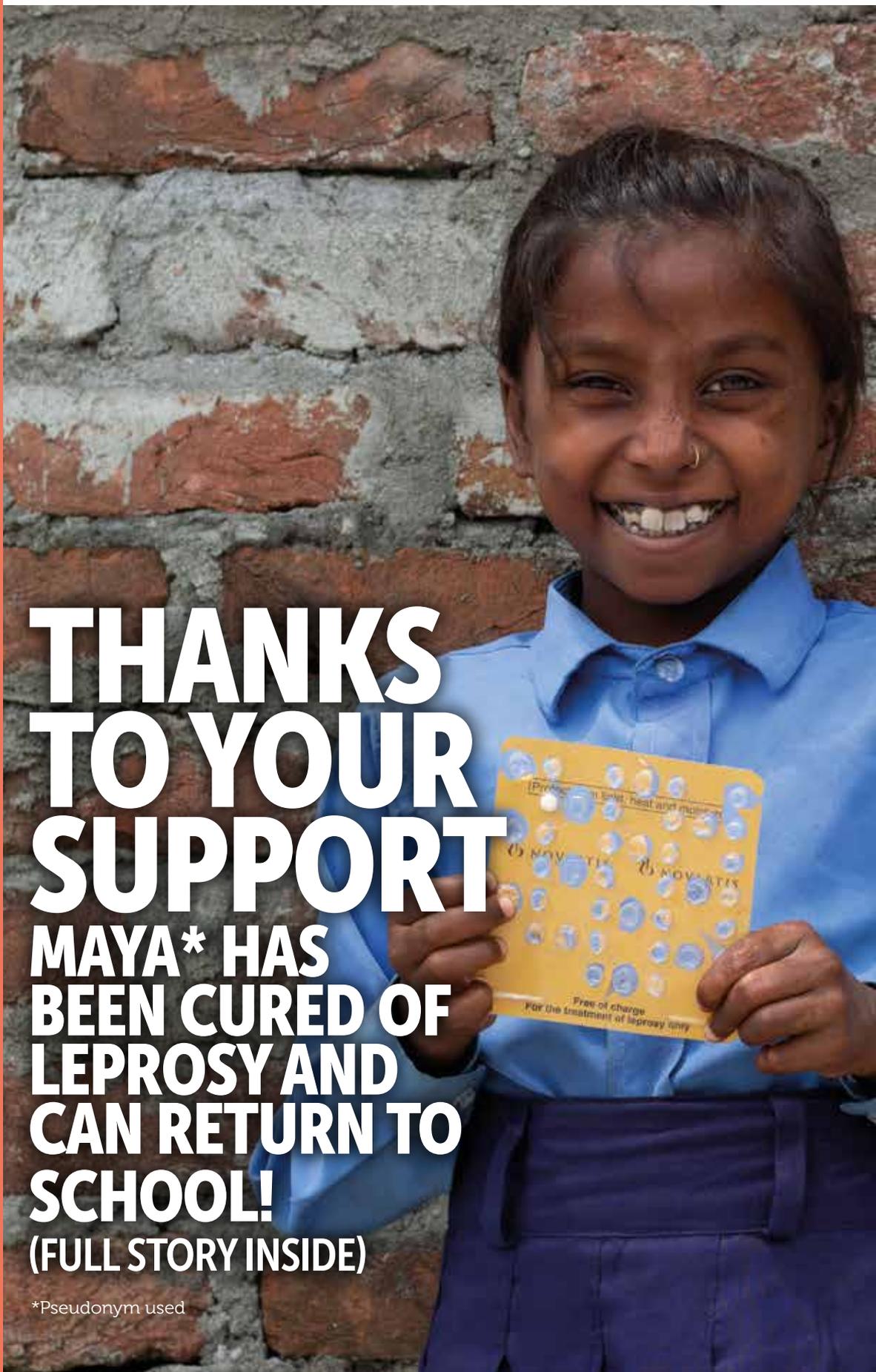
**YOUR KINDNESS IS RESTORING LIVES**

**THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT**

**MAYA\* HAS BEEN CURED OF LEPROSY AND CAN RETURN TO SCHOOL!**

**(FULL STORY INSIDE)**

\*Pseudonym used





“

I HAVE NOT  
STOPPED GIVING  
THANKS FOR YOU,  
REMEMBERING  
YOU IN MY  
PRAYERS.

EPHESIANS 1:16

# DEAR FRIEND

A cost of living crisis; the continuing impact of covid; an ongoing war in Ukraine; civil unrest and natural disasters around the world; a new prime minister; the death of our Queen and a new King ..

With the backdrop of so much change and uncertainty, I pray that this edition of INTOUCH will remind you of how much good you are doing in the world. Your love in action is enabling positive change in the lives of the vulnerable and needy. **Your kindness is restoring lives, bringing hope and helping us all to end leprosy. In the midst of constant change, I am so thankful for your faithful commitment to those affected by leprosy. What a blessing you are!**

Over recent weeks, I have watched the local farmers bring in their harvest. As the seasons change, they gather in the fruits of their labour after sowing and nurturing for many months. As you too have sowed in to and nurtured the work of The Leprosy Mission, people affected by this devastating disease are reaping the fruits of your faithfulness and generosity. What a blessing to be the hands and feet of Jesus in such a special way! In this edition of INTOUCH, you can read of some of the achievements over this past year (see pages 4-5) – work that is only made possible because of you!

Your support means that children like Maya and Shakti, featured in the magazine, have the opportunity to learn and flourish. It is only because

of you that we can dream of finally seeing the last cases of leprosy diagnosed in our lifetime.

In the late 1800s, Wellesley Bailey, the founder of The Leprosy Mission, travelled to India. The Irish missionary was shocked to the core when he came across a community of people with leprosy. Their bodies were broken. They had been rejected by their communities and left to fend for themselves. It must have felt as if he was living in Biblical times, and I'm sure that he recalled how as followers of Jesus we are called to care for the broken and shunned. At that time, Wellesley and the early pioneers could only offer love and care for people with leprosy. It is that same love that compels us today. It is that same love that compels us help make it zero (see pages 6-7).

Wellesley Bailey famously said The Leprosy Mission, God's Mission, was born and cradled in prayer. Our team continues to meet for prayer at 9.30am every day, to ensure that God is at the centre of the work you support. And how does He answer our prayers? By touching your hearts, a community of faithful servants for whom **I thank God every day. God bless you and the difference that you continue to make.**

**Joanne Briggs**  
National Director

# MAYA'S STORY

This was Maya\* when we first met her aged 7. Maya\* had lost a lot in her young life, her father was affected by leprosy and he died, and then her home was destroyed by flooding. This left Maya\* and her sisters homeless as their Mother searched for help. Thankfully Maya's\* Uncle made space in his home for her family but then Maya\* started to feel unwell. It was discovered that she had leprosy, the same disease her father had. She had to stay home from school as the signs of leprosy became more visible, her health worsened and Maya\* experienced discrimination.

Thankfully your kindness reached Maya\*. She was able to get help from TLM Nepal who gave her the cure for leprosy. They were also able to support the family through hardships with food and school fee costs.

Maya\* has since been able to return to school. Her joy is contagious as she is able to return to her friends and learning in school. Her symptoms have eased, and she feels such a relief to be able to make new friends in school. Her family are so grateful for your support and she's so glad to be able to go to school with her sisters. **Your love in action has helped restore her life.**

*\*Pseudonym used*



## PRAYER POINT

Thank you God for restoring Maya\* – be with her and let her be assured of your great love and care for her and help us to quickly find children affected by leprosy, that they can be cured and restored in Jesus name.



**MAYA\* SAYS**  
"THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING HELP AND SUPPORT AS THIS HAS ALLOWED ME TO GET WELL AND CONTINUE MY EDUCATION"



MAYA\* (LEFT) AND HER SISTERS ARE OVERJOYED TO BE BACK AT SCHOOL TOGETHER

# YOUR LOVE IN ACTION: A YEAR IN REVIEW

“

IF I SPEAK IN THE  
TONGUES OF MEN  
OR OF ANGELS,  
BUT DO NOT HAVE  
LOVE, I AM ONLY A  
RESOUNDING GONG  
OR A CLANGING  
CYMBAL.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1

As we look back over this past year, with all its challenges and uncertainties, we are so thankful for your love and kindness. Your care and compassion have reached out and brought healing and restoration to so many people.

## PRAYER POINT

Give thanks for all that has been achieved over this past year – for those found, cured and for lives restored. We pray for the continuing impact of covid on leprosy mission projects – for the protection of front-line staff & that more resources would be released to help deal with delays in case finding.

In 2021, the uncertainties due to Covid-19 continued to impact us all. Last year only 140,594 leprosy cases were diagnosed in comparison to 210,000 in pre-covid years. This didn't mean there was less leprosy in our world, but that the vital work of finding and diagnosing was affected. Lockdown restrictions in some countries didn't allow leprosy detection and resources were diverted to the priority of helping those with covid. Despite these challenges, front line workers in community projects and hospitals persevered in difficult circumstances. The hope you provided shone though the darkness and uncertainty as global projects were supported:

## INDIA

In India 355 new cases of leprosy were diagnosed and treated in Purulia hospital with a total of 10,918 consultations for persons affected by leprosy there.

## NIGERIA

In Nigeria training has been given to more than 200 general health workers and traditional healers to help them identify and refer leprosy cases to get proper care.

## TANZANIA

In Tanzania leprosy screening continued to find new cases – 21 new cases of leprosy were diagnosed at DCT Hombolo hospital.

## ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia transportation was provided to 22 people affected by leprosy in rural areas to help support and reintegrate them into their families and community. You also provided a place of refuge and security to 133 leprosy patients as they awaited treatment or recovered from surgery in ALVRA project in Addis Ababa.



**Nigeria** – Community health sessions are vital for spreading awareness and finding those affected by leprosy so they can get treatment. Pray for all who have been trained, that they can find cases quickly and get help to those in need.



**Bangladesh** – Covid precautions including masks, temperature checks (pictured) and social distancing all added to the work of finding and treating people affected by leprosy.

## NEPAL

In Nepal Anandaban hospital was at the frontline of Covid-19 in Nepal, treating patients, providing more than 7000 PCR tests and administering the first vaccines. You also helped provide over 1000 surgical interventions and 400 counselling sessions.



**Nepal** – Shakti\* was treated for leprosy but the damage to her leg was too great and she had to have an amputation aged 16. Thanks to you she has been able to recover well and receive counselling and help to rebuild her life. She hopes to get a prosthetic leg fitted. \*Pseudonym used

## BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh 23,580 people attended community awareness sessions to understand leprosy and how to stop transmission.

This is only scratching the surface of what you have enabled. Each number represents an individual, a family who has been shown love and care because of you. Those affected by leprosy are often the lowest of the low in their communities. They are cast aside, abandoned and forgotten. However, you hold an outstretched hand and help. You are the hands and feet of Jesus today. The Leprosy Mission only exists because of you. Thankyou! Your kindness makes a difference. Your love in action restores lives and communities.

ANNUAL  
IMPACT



To watch Rebecca share the impact your love made in 2021 scan this QR code or go to [www.tlm-ni.org/stories/global-impact](http://www.tlm-ni.org/stories/global-impact)

“

THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SUCH A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS AND THE SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES. AND LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE PIONEER AND PERFECTER OF FAITH...

HEBREWS 12:1-2

## PRAYER POINT

Thank you God for supporters throughout Northern Ireland who are helping to see an end to leprosy. We pray for new supporters and new connections with local churches, groups and businesses who will help to raise awareness and vital funds to help make it zero.



# IT'S TIME TO MAKE LEPROSY A THING OF THE PAST



# HELP MAKE IT ZERO

**In May we held our first large in-person event since the pandemic, in the T3 conference centre Lisburn. Over one hundred supporters, staff and volunteers joined together to hear stories of hope and transformation and to hear the call to make leprosy a thing of the past. We were delighted that Brent Morgan, TLM International Director, was also able to be with us.**

Brent shared powerfully about the vision and the pathway to seeing leprosy defeated. The challenge is stark but **the hope is strong that we can see leprosy defeated by 2035.**

Every two minutes someone in the world contracts leprosy. 10% of these cases are in children. Today 50 children will hear the words 'you have leprosy'. Time is running out. It is time to make leprosy a thing of the past and **we need your help to reach that goal.**

We are calling for **500 new regular donors, 50 new Churches** to become connected with TLM-NI through prayer, advocacy and giving and **5 new partnerships** with businesses or Trusts. **And we need every supporter to pray and tell someone of this great need. Could you be the one to help us end leprosy?**

We want to help make it zero. That zero children would contract leprosy and that this ancient disease would be consigned to the history books. Will you join us? Will you tell your family and friends? Will you share the hope of a leprosy free world?



FIONA DAVIDSON (TLMNI BOARD CHAIRPERSON) INTERVIEWED BRENT MORGAN, TLM INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR



JOANNE SHARING THE URGENT MESSAGE, TIME IS RUNNING OUT



MANY CHURCH LEADERS WERE PRESENT, REBECCA IS PICTURED HERE WITH REV NEWELL AND REV GRACIE



WE WERE SO THANKFUL TO BE TOGETHER AND FOR OUR VOLUNTEER STEWARDS WHO WERE A GREAT HELP



BISHOP DAVID MCCLAY OF DOWN AND DROMORE DIOCESE WAS ABLE TO ATTEND, PICTURED HERE WITH JOANNE AND FIONA

Regular giving is the best way to support people affected by leprosy. A monthly regular gift through standing order enables us to better plan and finance projects over the long term, knowing that we have a strong stream of support. Also Regular Giving reduces admin costs ensuring that funds go quickly to where they are needed most.

To find out more about becoming a regular giver, connecting your local church, group or business please get in touch on [info@tlm-ni.org](mailto:info@tlm-ni.org) or give us a call on **028 9262 9500**. You can also sign up to become a regular giver on the enclosed response form.

If you would like to watch a replay of the event you can watch it on our website - [www.tlm-ni.org/stories/helpmakeitzero](http://www.tlm-ni.org/stories/helpmakeitzero)



Your kindness is bringing help and healing to people like Shakti\* - pictured here with her grandmother in Anandaban Hospital, Nepal.

To hear her story go to our website [www.tlm-ni.org/stories/shaktis-story](http://www.tlm-ni.org/stories/shaktis-story) or follow this QR code to video

*\*Pseudonym used*



Many people in Northern Ireland think leprosy doesn't exist. It does – and it devastates lives. Why not take 2 minutes today to share Shakti\*'s story – either tell a friend or send them this link – and help us make leprosy a thing of the past.



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Northern Ireland

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