

ACTION



**50 YEARS OF TELLING STORIES
OF YOUR IMPACT**

EDITION 2, 2017



**COVER:
Walking again
and winning
awards...
thanks to you!**

**Meet the
visionary
man with a
big heart**

.....
Burns victim
can dream
because
of you

.....
**Join us
in prayer
during the
National
Prayer
Weekend**



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia

In your ACTION magazine

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We see Transformation:
People healed and living in community with dignity, opportunity and hope

VISION:
Leprosy Defeated. Lives Transformed.

MISSION:
Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission strives to break the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Thanks to Daniel Christiansz Photography for many of the photos and videos featured in this edition of Action Magazine.

Giving feedback or making a complaint:

You can provide feedback or lodge a complaint with us:

By telephone (Freecall): 1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767)

By email: tlmaust@leprosymission.org.au

By Post: Feedback / Complaint, The Leprosy Mission Australia,
PO Box 293 BOX HILL VIC 3128



The Leprosy Mission
Australia

The Leprosy Mission Australia

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The Leprosy Mission Australia is an international organisation that works in partnership with governments, public health officials, non-government organisations, the World Health Organisation, churches, Christian partners and others to achieve its vision of a world without leprosy. The Leprosy Mission is the oldest and largest leprosy-focussed organisation in the world today.



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50 years of Action Magazine with the stories you made possible!



It's Action Magazine's 50th Birthday. For 50 years, you've been reading about the impact your prayers and support have had in the lives of people affected by leprosy.

When I was told of this milestone, I had a look at the precursor to Action Magazine. It was called Without the Camp and it was crammed with stories of the leprosy-affected people helped since the early 1900s. Take this story from 1910 in India.

"A young wife is stricken with leprosy, and forthwith her husband turns her out onto the street. She finds her way to the asylum, and some months afterwards gives birth to a little baby girl. 'I named her Pyari, which means love.'"

This young mum was forced to give up her child, who was then sent to a "Home for Untainted Children".

How far we've come since then! A century ago, there was no cure for leprosy but today Multi Drug Therapy has changed the face of leprosy treatment. Had this young mother been able to receive MDT, she could

have raised her own baby. Instead, she was reduced to begging to see little Pyari from afar.

Today this kind of suffering is unnecessary. Yet suffering, pain, poverty, stigma and even death from leprosy still occurs. Just read what happened to Emiliana (centrespread) and Alfredu (page 10)!

The good news is your generosity means people affected by leprosy are being diagnosed, treated and forging new lives. Thanks to you, children with leprosy are being cured and go back to school with dreams of getting jobs and helping their families.

Because of you, people are treated and join self-help groups where they learn how to prevent disabilities. They receive training and go on to start small businesses. Some of them, like Joel (page 6), even join The Leprosy Mission to fight for the rights of people affected by leprosy.

I thank God for people like you who have been so faithful in supporting this ministry. But I don't want us to

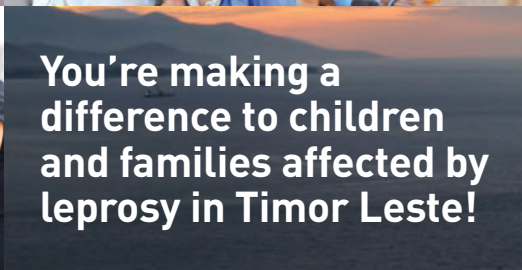
be complacent. Leprosy is still a very real problem today.

When Action Magazine turns 100, I hope you'll be reading stories of leprosy eradicated — no new cases throughout the world. Or stories of people affected by leprosy being treated with compassion and respect — not excluded, shamed or ostracised.

We still have a way to go. But in the name of Jesus, we will continue to fight for a leprosy-free world.



Sheldon Rankin
Sheldon Rankin
CEO, The Leprosy Mission Australia



ACTION | Edition 2, 2017



REMEMBER PARBATI?

**Once trapped inside her home...
but now she's living her dream
and winning awards!**

It's hard to imagine 27-year-old Parbati without a smile on her face.

This beautiful young woman is so thankful for people like you. Because you've helped to transform her life!

In fact, she was recently honoured at the 19th International Respect and Dignity Day celebrations in Nepal for her courage and perseverance. Her award recognises the impact of her spectacular personal transformation both within her village and on the status of people affected by leprosy more widely.

What a change for Parbati! Once she thought she'd never walk again because leprosy had left her without the front half of both feet. Now she uses special prosthetic shoes to walk — thanks to you.



Once she thought she'd never achieve her dream of running her own shop. Now she sells cosmetics and lovely children's clothes and toys. And knitted hats, socks and jumpers made with her own hands.

This is incredible given that Parbati also lost many of her fingers to leprosy. But she learned how to knit and sew — thanks to you.

Once Parbati was dependent on her brother and only able to crawl around their home. Now she is the one supporting her elderly father — thanks to you!

She smiles as the people in her village buy from her. They're amazed to see how she's overcome leprosy and disability. She no longer faces stigma from her community. Instead there is respect... thanks to you.

Parbati has exciting plans to grow her business and stock more products. This will give her a greater income and means she can contribute more to her community.

Parbati can't stop smiling — and it's thanks to you.

This is a far cry from her life several years ago. You may remember her story.

Leprosy began to destroy her feet and hands at age 13. Eventually they became ulcerated and seriously infected from cuts and injuries while working in the fields. That's how she lost her fingers and the fronts of her feet.

Parbati felt so isolated... and left with no hope.

That is, until she went to The Leprosy Mission Anandaban Hospital in Kathmandu. After eight months of ulcer treatment, some corrective surgery and then rehabilitation, she was fitted with prosthetic boots. What a joy it was to take those first steps!

While in hospital, the other women there taught her how to read, write, knit and sew. Her lack of fingers hasn't held her back!

The 8 months of rehabilitation gave Parbati the life skills she needed to return to her village — to WALK into her village — and create a new life.

She's so thankful to all the people — including you — who have played a part in her recovery from leprosy and making her dreams come true.

"It would not be possible to stand on my own without support of people in my life," says Parbati.

2 WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

1. Your generosity means we can treat patients like Parbati at the Anandaban Self-Care Unit and help them to create their own livelihoods.

You can give by filling out the back page of this magazine and sending it back to us.

2. Would you like to talk about the work of Anandaban Hospital at your church or small group?

Contact 1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767) to get the presentation with the latest photos and info from this work in Nepal!



Parbati (middle) receives an award for her achievements on International Respect and Dignity Day. Here she celebrates with The Leprosy Mission workers Joanne (left) and Arianna (right).



Thanks to you, Parbati can walk again with special prosthetics! Here she is with Sally Martin, wife of Dr Colin Martin, The Leprosy Mission Australia's Board Chair.



Because of you, Parbati was able to spend 8 months in hospital healing from the damage of leprosy — and even learnt to read, write and knit too!

Use your phone to scan and view the feature 360 tour of Anandaban Hospital.
<https://tinyurl.com/y7jsvqqm>



Restored... because of you

Once shunned due to leprosy, now Joel is a man with a vision

"I want to see people with disabilities access everything — education and their rights!"

Joel's experience was like so many with leprosy — one of loss.

In 2005, he found leprosy patches on his face. He lost movement and sensation in his hand as it began to claw. His friends abandoned him and even his family wanted to have nothing to do with him.

But thanks to supporters like you, his life turned around. Through The Leprosy Mission, Joel received the treatment he needed. He also found new friends and he found a new mission in life!

Multi Drug Therapy cured his leprosy. Surgery and physiotherapy means he now has better movement in his hand.

And although he had to drop out of college, The Leprosy Mission field workers encouraged him to work instead to help others with leprosy and disabilities in Timor Leste.

This has become Joel's new vision. Now working as the head of your Rights for People with Disabilities project, he works to show people how to care for leprosy-affected limbs and prevent permanent disabilities.

He is also passionate about helping people affected by leprosy and disability to access their rights. This includes the right to be accepted and included within their communities and not be shunned or ostracised. To be given the treatment they need and not be hidden away. To be educated and follow their dreams. To earn an income and be self-sustaining. To live with dignity.

"In Timor Leste, people believe that those with disabilities cannot do anything. I explain to families and local leaders that in the future people with leprosy and disabilities can be included in the community."

Today, Joel is married. His family has accepted him again as they better understand the disease of leprosy.

What a joy to see Joel restored in his body, restored to his family and now working to stop others suffering as he did!

TAKE ACTION

.....
Would you like to support people like Joel affected by leprosy and disability in Timor Leste? Simply fill out the back page of this magazine and send it back to us.



Now cured from leprosy, Joel is fighting for the rights of others affected by leprosy and disability.



You're giving them hope

*Your
Cards of Hope
brought
smiles of
joy!*

Did you send back a Card of Hope during the Easter Appeal? Delivered during a recent project visit in Timor Leste, it was such a delight to see the happy faces of the children who received your lovely messages. These are children with disabilities who you are helping support to attend school.



"Because of Australian supporters, I can dream now."

From burns to a bright future... with your prayers and generosity

TAKE ACTION

.....
Share the enclosed DVD of Emiliana's story with your friends or at church. Or use your phone to scan the QR code on this page.
<https://tinyurl.com/y96p6dco>



1

YOU CAN HELP FIGHT POVERTY AND MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT LEPROSY

"My father left my mother before I was born. My mother works six days a week as a seamstress but still earns very little money. When I first noticed I had white patches on my skin, I thought it was fungus... My mother cared so much about me. When she saw how sick I was she spent all her money trying different treatments. But nothing helped."



2

YOU CAN HELP STOP NEEDLESS PAIN

"One day my mother found a local healer who told us that he could help. He wrapped my arms and legs in banana leaves and put my arms and legs over a fire. It was so hot and painful. I could feel it in my bones... My skin became black... I thought I was going to die."



3

YOU CAN HELP STOP THE STIGMA OF LEPROSY

"My friends told me I was cursed and received this disease because my father left us before I was born. I started to believe them. No one wanted to be friends with me. They would run away from me because they thought they would catch leprosy from me."



4

YOU CAN HELP A CHILD AFFECTED BY LEPROSY TO FINISH SCHOOL

"My hand was clawed and it was hard to write. I had to take my friend's notes home to copy them because I was so much slower than everyone else. I love it when the teacher gives us homework because I have lots of time to work on it... Even though I experience pain, I want to go to school and learn."



5

YOU CAN HELP CURE, CARE FOR AND RESTORE A CHILD WITH LEPROSY

"When the Leprosy Mission staff found me, my arm was fixed in one position. They told me about a clinic where I could get medications which treat leprosy. They massaged my hand and showed me exercises which would help the movement of my limbs. They prayed for me and treated me like a human being."



6

YOU CAN GIVE A GIRL LIKE EMILIANA THE CHANCE TO ACHIEVE HER DREAMS

"My arm now has greater motion and I can write faster now at school. If I study hard I might be able to go to university, get a good job and help my mum. With an education I can have a bright future. One day I want to become a midwife so that I too can help others."

Spotlight on Timor Leste

Rejected and left to die... lack of awareness about leprosy meant Alfredu was badly neglected. He's one of those who didn't make it but let's work together to stop such a tragedy from happening again.

! WARNING: Distressing details in this story

After 15 years of living in a shack with pigs and rats, it was too little, too late for Alfredu

This is why your support is so important

It was a government health worker in Timor Leste who found Alfredu.

Because something smelled bad. Very bad. And it was coming from a shack behind the house the health worker was visiting.

Here Alfredu was found lying naked. He had a fever and had not eaten for four days. He had terrible, infected wounds on his feet.

It was in 2002 when the ulcers started appearing. His family thought Alfredu was cursed so they hid him in the shack.

So for 15 years, Alfredu shared this shelter with pigs. Rats would come and eat his toes but he could not feel it because he had lost all sensation in his feet.

Too frightened to come near him, his family would leave a plate of food on a bench in the shack. That was the only human contact he had during those long years.

When Castro, a Leprosy Mission worker, first saw Alfredu he was shocked and horrified at his condition. He helped to clean and dress Alfredu's wounds. He was the first person to touch this neglected man since he was banished from the family home.

As Alfredu's condition worsened and he stopped talking, Castro arranged to have him transferred to hospital. But although he received treatment, it was too little, too late. Alfredu passed away on May 9, 2017, just four days after being found. He was believed to be in his fifties when he died.

Although it was too late for Alfredu, it doesn't have to be too late for others. Castro will now arrange leprosy screening for Alfredu's family and neighbours. He will also organise leprosy training for other community health workers in the district.

This is why your prayers and support of The Leprosy Mission are so important. To stop others affected by leprosy from suffering the same fate as Alfredu.

This man should have received proper treatment for leprosy and lived a full life — like Emiliana, Joel and Parbati in the earlier pages of this magazine.

But at least Alfredu was found in time to spend his last days with dignity and was properly cared for in hospital. Instead of dying alone and neglected in a shack with pigs and rats.

TAKE ACTION

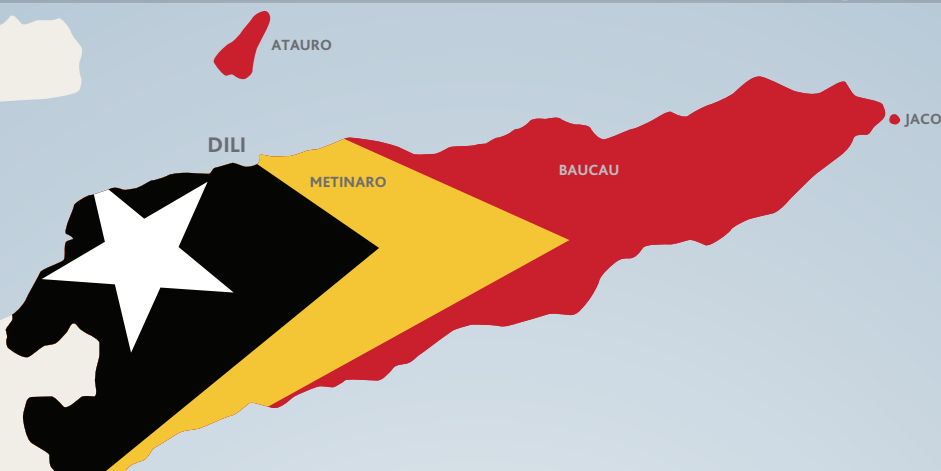
Let's stop others with leprosy from dying as Alfredu did. Because leprosy IS treatable and curable! Early diagnosis and treatment is vital. To donate, please fill out the back page of this magazine and send it back to us.

Rats would come and eat his toes but he could not feel it because he had lost all sensation in his feet. His family thought he was cursed and hid him in a shack without any treatment.



**In Jesus' name...
ministering with love
to Alfredu.**

TIMOR LESTE UPDATE



BETTER HEALTH PROJECT

Your support helps with the early detection and treatment of leprosy:

- training doctors in leprosy diagnosis and management
- screening schools and communities for leprosy
- training in how to care for leprosy-affected limbs to prevent disability
- community education sessions to improve understanding and reduce the stigma of leprosy



RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY PROJECT

Your support helps people with disabilities (including those caused by leprosy) by:

- providing small loans and training to start small businesses
- building disability accessible toilets in communities
- providing scholarships to children with disabilities
- building disability access ramps in schools
- training teachers and parents on how to include children with disabilities in schools



COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION PROJECT

Your support helps leprosy-affected people by:

- providing better access to health care and mobility devices like wheelchairs
- modifying homes to be disability accessible
- building disability accessible toilets in communities
- helping to start small businesses

MEET NELSON, ONE OF YOUR FIELD WORKERS IN TIMOR LESTE



Nelson is Timor Leste's Community Based Rehabilitation Project Coordinator. His own experience with disability has inspired him in his work with The Leprosy Mission. He wears orthotics due to polio which left his legs damaged when he was three.

"My condition drives me to help others. In some leprosy self-help groups, the people say 'we cannot do anything'. They feel useless. But when I show them my leg they are surprised. They think I just use a cane, but I have metal on my leg. It helps them know they CAN work."

Nelson will be visiting Australia in October. If you'd like to hear him speak, contact Pam Lake on 1800 LEPROSY (1800 536 767) to see if he'll be visiting a church near you!

Your prayers are needed

“Let us pray...”

Join us in prayer during the National Prayer Weekend from 26–27 August

Can you spare a little time to pray during the National Prayer Weekend?

Because no matter where you live in Australia, we'd love you to join with us in prayer. Schedule a few minutes or an hour during those days to meet with like-minded people and pray for the work you're supporting.

Together we can partner in prayer and make a real difference. Prayer joins us together as the body of Christ and invites his presence into the work we do together. God is our provider — and he'll equip us with all that we need to help vulnerable people affected by leprosy.

As followers of Christ, prayer places God at the centre of all we do. In the words of Wellesley Bailey, one of the founders of The Leprosy Mission:

“The Mission was born and cradled in prayer, it has been brought up in prayer, it has been nourished in prayer, and prayer has been at the bottom of its success since the first moments of its life.”

FREE PRAYER TOOLS TO HELP YOU

National Prayer Weekend Guide:

Includes facts and prayer points listed for each country The Leprosy Mission is working in, a short bible study with discussion and a brief look at what Jesus said about prayer.

ASK Diary: A one-year diary of prayer points that covers the work of The Leprosy Mission all over the world.

KIT newsletter: Sign up to our KIT newsletter to receive prayer points via email.

TAKE ACTION

Whether it's a few minutes or an hour, commit to praying some time during 26–27 August. To get your free National Prayer Weekend Guide, simply tick the box on the back page and send it back to us or call 1800 LEPROSY (1800 536 767).



A life of love

In Memory of Christine Howard



“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” — 1 Peter 1:8-9

This was the Scripture reading for the day Christine passed away. It's from the daily devotional book she and her husband shared. It's a beautiful expression of the love she had for her Saviour.

Christine was a keen and faithful supporter of The Leprosy Mission Australia for many years. She had a strong faith in Jesus and took to heart his teachings about caring for others. Christine herself had multiple sclerosis and used a wheelchair. This gave her a special empathy with those affected by leprosy or disability.

She recognised that these people often do not have access to all the help that she had. All this combined to give her a passion to support people with leprosy or disability in other countries.

Christine was a well-loved face at a Victorian Support Group for The Leprosy Mission Australia. She will be greatly missed.



TAKE ACTION

Would you like to connect with a The Leprosy Mission Australia Support Group in your local area or state? Help raise funds, share stories of the difference you've made and meet others like Christine who care about helping people affected by leprosy. For more details, contact your state representative below.

LOCATION	NAME	NUMBER
Adelaide	Jenny	08 8388 8790
Brisbane	Denise	07 3294 3114
Perth	Anne	08 9454 6973
Sydney	Chrisy	02 9436 2988
Townsville	Audrey	07 4779 1960
Tasmania	Maggie	0400 093 844
Victoria & Other	Pam Lake	1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767)





Suwaiba says thank you!



Do you recall Suwaiba from Nigeria? Thanks to your generous support to last year's May Appeal — she received her medicine.

Her symptoms developed over a period of 15 years. But she is thankful she has not experienced any stigma.

Without proper treatment her symptoms got worse. The ulcer on her foot became infected. But once diagnosed with leprosy she received proper Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) treatment.

Suwaiba received training in self-care and the ulcer has healed well. She finishes her treatment soon, thanks to you!

Pius from The Leprosy Mission Nigeria read to her your messages. Many of these messages include bible passages, and being from a Muslim community these are new to her. So Pius had the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus and the Gospel with her in her local language.

After receiving over 200 messages from Australian supporters, Suwaiba says:

"I am very touched that so many of you have taken the time to write to me, and have been thinking and praying for me! It is such an encouragement, and I am very grateful for all your messages — thank you!"

Pius Ogbu Sunday, Operations Manager of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria will be coming to Australia in October. If you'd like to hear him speak, contact Pam Lake 1800 LEPROSY (1800 536 767).

"You are not forgotten. I hope this gift helps."
— Meredith, NSW

"I will pray for you and for your healing from leprosy. God bless you."
— Elaine, VIC

"We care about you and we want to help. Our prayers are with you."
— Anne, WA

TAKE ACTION

The Kuga women need to raise \$2,750 by the end of August.

You can support people affected by leprosy in Nigeria! Make an investment in the Kuga Women's Self-help Cattle Business crowdfunding campaign. 100% of your donation will help leprosy-affected women in Nigeria to generate other forms of income besides begging.
<https://tinyurl.com/y9hy52uv>



You have the power to Cure One

You can still Cure One like Nutan

Thank you if you're one of the amazing supporters who decided to help Cure One person like Nutan from leprosy!

Her family spent all they had to heal their beloved child... but nothing worked. Until someone like you decided to Cure One by giving \$432 — that's \$36 a month for 12 months.

It's such a blessing and privilege to see how Nutan is progressing on her Cure, Care and Restore journey. And it's not too late to become a Cure One supporter and follow Nutan through these stages over the next year.

1

CURE.

Where Nutan receives the Multi Drug Therapy that will cure leprosy.

2

CARE.

Will Nutan be able to walk properly again after surgery?

3

RESTORE.

After ostracising Nutan, will her friends and community accept her back?

In Matthew 8, you can read how Jesus took the time and effort to cure one from leprosy. Please, will you help to Cure One too?

TAKE ACTION

Become a Cure One Supporter today by filling out the form on page 15 and sending it back to us!



Gifts in Will

Generosity that Cures, Cares and Restores

"He that gives unto the poor lends unto the Lord, and he will give him his reward." — Proverbs 19:17

Thank you to these brothers and sisters in Christ who left gifts in their wills to The Leprosy Mission.

- Natalie Bearup left a \$99,894.19 legacy. A great blessing!
- Olive and Walter Duncum left \$26,000. We honour their generous hearts.

These bequests will help to Cure, Care and Restore many more people affected by leprosy and disability.

TAKE ACTION

To find out how you can leave a gift in your Will to support the healing ministry of The Leprosy Mission, tick the Gifts in Will box on the back page and send the form back to us.

Cure One today!

YES! I will Cure One like Nutan!

I want to walk with Nutan on her Cure, Care and Restore journey of healing.

- I will **Cure** one person from leprosy with a year-long course of Multi-Drug Therapy
- I will **Care** for nerve damaged limbs and other after effects of leprosy
- I will **Restore** a person to independence and their community.



Thank you for your heart to Cure One — just like Jesus did! Discover what happens to Nutan after her family sold what little they had to help their little girl...

I will commit to: (please tick)

☐ **\$36** a month for 12 months to Cure One! ☐ **\$432** upfront payment for the year

Sorry! I cannot commit to Cure One. But please accept my one-off gift of \$ to help cure someone like Nutan today!

My contact details: PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss Name: FIRST NAME LAST NAME

Address:

Suburb: P/code State:

Phone: () Email:

My payment details:

(please choose between Credit Card and Direct Debit for regular monthly gifts and once off / upfront payments)

☐ **Cheque / Money Order** (My once off / upfront donation) payable to The Leprosy Mission Australia

☐ **Credit Card** (My regular gift processed on ☐ 1st ☐ 8th ☐ 15th ☐ 22nd of the month)

Please charge my ☐ regular gift or my ☐ once off / upfront payment to:

☐  ☐  ☐ 

Card Number:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Expiry Date: /

Send back your completed form:

Please mail to The Leprosy Mission Australia, Reply Paid 83988, Box Hill, VIC 3128.

Do you want to make your monthly gift via direct debit?

For a direct debit form, please go to www.cureone.org.au or call us on 1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767) and we'll email or post you one!

**Thank you for your commitment to
Cure One today for a world without leprosy tomorrow!**

The Leprosy Mission
Australia

Tick the areas that interest you below and send it back to us in the envelope provided.



1800 537 767

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm AEST



www.leprosymission.org.au

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss

First Name	
Surname	
Address	
Suburb	State
P/code	Phone ()
Email	

**You can
TAKE
ACTION
NOW!**

☐ Please send me your monthly prayer newsletter **Keeping in Touch (KIT)**

via ☐ Post ☐ Email

☐ Please send me the **National Prayer Weekend Guide** – specific facts and prayer points, country by country

☐ Please send me the **Ask 2017 Prayer Diary** – international prayer guide

☐ **Cure One Catalogue** – I want to shop from the gift catalogue (including Gifts of Love)

☐ **Gift in my Will** – Please send me information on leaving a gift in my Will through The Leprosy Mission Australia to those affected by leprosy.

☐ **Cuppa for a Cure** – Host Pack. Contact me first for my specific requirements.

☐ **Regular Gifts** – Please send me information on how to make regular gifts via Direct Debit or Credit Card

☐ I enclose my Cheque / Money Order payable to The Leprosy Mission Australia OR

☐ Please charge my Credit Card:



Card Number:

Name on Card:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Expiry Date:

Signature:	Expiry Date:			/	
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5 Thank you. We are so truly blessed to have supporters like you. Whatever you can give is gratefully accepted. Please return this entire donation slip, with your gift, in the Tear-off Reply Paid Envelope in the centre pages. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

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TEAR ALONG HERE, INSERT THE COMPLETED COUPON WITH YOUR GIFT INTO THE ENVELOPE LOCATED IN THE CENTRESPREAD AND RETURN IT TODAY