

ACTION



overturning
the
STIGMA
of leprosy

From stigma to success

Thanks to you!

Thanks to people like you, Mangla has overcome the stigma of leprosy! Here she is pictured with her husband, Suresh, and 5-year-old daughter, Sparsh.

Mangla, from India, has faced stigma from the day she was born.

Her father, who wanted a son for his first-born, hated her from the moment he knew she was a girl.

Then he tried to give her away to an orphanage because she had a cleft lip and palate.

After growing up unloved by her father, Mangla found out she had leprosy when she was in high school.

"I cried a lot when I was told I had leprosy. My mother asked me not to tell this to anyone. And my father hated me even more."

Mangla's dad even wanted her to leave the house because he believed her leprosy would affect her sisters' marriage prospects.

Despite being a bright child, Mangla was so distressed and overwhelmed that she failed her school exams... as a result, her father did not speak to her for six months.

But all Mangla needed was some love and encouragement. She joined The Leprosy Mission's Vocational Training Centre in Nashik, which runs with the support of generous donors like you.

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**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia

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Under Kamless' sweet face and bright smile is a fighter against discrimination and stigma.

Diagnosed with leprosy at 12, Kamless learned the facts of his disease while receiving treatment and surgery at Muzzaffarpur Leprosy Hospital in India. So when others try to tell him his leprosy is due to a sin or a curse, he says, "No, it's not, it's due to bacteria. It attacks the main nerves and affects the hands and feet!"



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(...Continued from page 1)

Here she completed studies in stenography, secretarial practice and computer operations, winning a trophy for Best Student.

Mangla says it was at the VTC that she found the love and encouragement she needed to succeed.

"Nashik VTC was the turning point in my life. In Nashik VTC, I learnt many lessons. My attitude towards life changed. I decided not to bow down before the challenges in life. I knew leprosy and other problems couldn't stop me from making a career and having a life I wanted."

Several years later, Mangla made the brave decision to go back to school again. This time she passed with marks of 80%. She has completed a business degree, masters in social work and is now working towards her MBA. Today she is working in administration for TLM's Kothara Hospital.

Mangla says her earthly father might have rejected her due to leprosy but her Heavenly Father has given her the strength to face life bravely. With God, there is no stigma.

"He guided my every step and helped me to be successful, despite my father's hatred towards me and social isolation due to leprosy.

"On seeing my success, my father had a change of heart. God brought me honour in front of my father."

It's your ongoing support that makes it possible to overturn the type of stigma that Mangla faced. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and generosity to this ministry.

HOW TO ORDER:



MAIL your coupon to
The Leprosy Mission Australia
Reply Paid 83988 Box Hill VIC 3128



1800-LEPROSY
1800 537 767

Stigma does not have to kill... because of you

A big thank you from the heart to everyone who donated to last year's appeal to stop unnecessary suicides due to leprosy.

Some people find the stigma of leprosy to be so painful that they try to take their own lives. Here are some of the leprosy-affected people who are still here today because of your generosity.



Thank you for Buddhi's life...

"I am so much thankful!"

Buddhi was thirteen when he was diagnosed with leprosy. He was so depressed he attempted to take his life.

Thankfully, a neighbour found him and took him home.

Soon after Buddhi was admitted to Anandaban Hospital in Nepal, funded by Australian supporters like you. Here he received treatment for leprosy... and heard the Gospel. When he "felt God's love deeply gripping him", he made a commitment to follow Christ.

Now Buddhi has found new hope. With help from TLM Nepal, Buddhi has taken driving lessons so he can earn income from driving a taxi.

Buddi is so grateful you've made this possible for him.

"I am very much thankful to you for having transformed my life."



Thank you for Muthu's life!

Muthu was just a teenager when his hands began to claw and patches started to appear on his skin.

Sadly, the rejection he experienced due to leprosy was so overwhelming he decided to hang himself.

But by the grace of God, Muthu survived.

And because of you, Muthu was able to receive treatment for his leprosy and hope for a better life. He is now a leader in his village, leading self-help groups to help other leprosy-affected people.

"A big thank you for supporting us and helping people affected by leprosy! You have made us proud because we are fighting for our rights!"



Thank you for Ram Chandra's life!

Ram Chandra had made a decision. He was going to commit suicide because he had leprosy.

But then, one night, he heard a voice calling him. "Ram Chandra!" There was nobody there but he felt a strong compulsion to know Christ. He went to church and has never looked back.

Ram Chandra now runs his own pesticides business and is the chair of his local self-help group to help other leprosy-affected people.

Ram is so grateful for supporters like you.

'Because of you, I have a blessed life now and am able to lead by example. I nearly killed myself one day but the Lord leads me well and now my life is full of worth and meaning. I am beyond thankful!'



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The Leprosy Mission
Australia

Host a World Leprosy Sunday service at your church!

World Leprosy Sunday 2018

Start the conversation...

overturning
the
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All over Australia, churches are helping to overturn the stigma of leprosy by holding a World Leprosy Sunday service during January-April 30, 2018.

It's not too late to run a World Leprosy Sunday event now! Enclosed in your pack is a poster to promote your event and a special *Overturning the Stigma of Leprosy – Every 2 Minutes* DVD.

Or, like some churches, you can choose to host a Cuppa for a Cure event. We can send you everything you need – sermon notes, slides and a six-week Lenten Bible study that will challenge you to think more deeply about overcoming stigma today.

The heart of Jesus is to reach out, heal and restore people affected by leprosy. You can encourage your local church to be a part of this life-transforming ministry.



"What I am today, this is due to the amazing grace of my Lord... I pray that may all the friends affected by leprosy around the globe, like me, feel the love of Jesus and enjoy new and regenerated life."

– Amar, who has himself overturned the stigma of leprosy in his own life and now wants to do the same for others.

