

**"I have come
that they may
have life, and
have it to the
full."**

John 10 v 10

**"Charity does
indeed
begin at
home ...**

... and home is the globalised world in which we live. To think otherwise and to turn our backs on the needs of others, and on the promises we've made to them, is to lose sight of our core values and our once globally admired capability of living by them."

*Hans Zomer,
Director of Dochas
(Irish Association of
Non-Governmental
Development
Organisations)*

Gifts for life

Aid has been one of the budgets hit worst by Ireland's recession. Since 2008 overseas funding has fallen by almost 25%. Nepal Leprosy Trust (NLT) is one of many small charities which no longer benefit from government support. The number of needy cases and worthy causes, both locally and internationally, is rocketing. There are compelling arguments to support every one. NLT's most compelling arguments are the tens of thousands of people whose lives have been transformed by treatment, care and Jesus' love.

People like Indra Kala Kaper ...

'Cursed' and 'witch' are not accusations that the average Irish teenager need fear. But 17 year-old Indra Kala faced them daily. In Nepal, where leprosy is still widely regarded as a punishment from God, her visible symptoms turned her into an outcast.

Both her hands were frozen into claws. Her eyesight was failing and she'd lost feeling in the front of her foot (foot drop), causing her to shuffle. Her family took her to a 'healer' who demanded payment: a chicken, then a goat, then a pigeon ... all to no avail.

Despite being treated for leprosy at a local clinic, Indra Kala lost permanent feeling in



Indra Kala's
ulcerated foot

Services Centre (LLSC) in south eastern Nepal. Her ulcers were so badly infected that one of her feet had to be amputated. With the help of a tailor-made boot, and surgery to reverse her drop foot, Indra now walks, smiles - and lives - again.

her feet. Over the next 15 years she developed stinking foot ulcers and could hardly walk.

Humiliated by the 'shame' of her leprosy, Indra Kala's family banished her to a tiny space at the back of the house, from which she could only emerge at night. For 12 years her only human contact was her mother. She was effectively dead.

Last year Indra Kala was brought to NLT's Lalgadh Leprosy



TENLEP leap in leprosy treatment

Spotting the first signs of nerve damage can hugely improve the treatment of leprosy. LLSC has been chosen as one of 6 sites for a study to improve detection, even before noticeable nerve damage. The TENLEP (Treatment of Early Neuropathy in Leprosy) study should lead to better prevention, treatment and management of the disease. LLSC will be the biggest sample site (the others are in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia) for the 2 trials of the study.

Trial 1: 210 leprosy patients with no visible signs of nerve damage (but showing changes in nerve conduction and temperature) will take the drug prednisolone, or a placebo, for 20 weeks. The results will indicate if the drug reduces long-term nerve damage.

Trial 2: At least 160 leprosy patients showing nerve damage will take prednisolone, or a placebo, for 32 weeks to test if this longer treatment restores nerve function more effectively.

'A force for good'

Losing both parents by the age of 10, and suffering a foot amputation soon afterwards, would be enough to reduce most children to despair. But Mainudin Dafali faced his losses with such courage and hope over the years that he has won the 2011 International Wellesley Bailey Award for his outstanding contribution to society.

Mainudin grew up facing rejection and poverty because of his leprosy. But on admission to LLSC, he met compassion and care. He learned how to prevent further disability and look after his wounds. By managing his leprosy, he found that the disease no longer controlled him.

Training as a self care facilitator, Mainudin began to motivate others in

his group. They set up schemes to benefit the wider community: those neighbours who had once cast him out.

Mainudin's passion to help led to his election as president of a network in southern Nepal. He now represents 75 people affected by leprosy or other marginalising conditions.

Under Mainudin's leadership:

- 81 people have received educational help
- 9 houses have been built
- 17 disabled people have started small businesses
- Cooperative farming has been encouraged
- Last year many leprosy-affected people gave blood to the Red Cross.



Mainudin Dafali (R) and Anjan Dey (L), winners of the 2011 Wellsley Bailey Award, with Dr. Hugh Cross of The Leprosy Mission and founder of NLT's Stigma Elimination Programme.
Photo: LLSC

Strides against stigma

Mainudin's success is encapsulated by a simple statistic. A recent survey showed that 98% of leprosy-affected people in his community said they face no restrictions in social activities - a miracle in a country where leprosy is still widely viewed as a curse.

Local Links

The high incidence of leprosy in parts of Nepal has surprised even some Nepalis. At a meeting of the Nepal Ireland Society earlier this year, some Nepali members were shocked to hear about the prevalence of the disease in areas such as the southern Terai where NLT's centre at Lalgadh treats thousands of leprosy-affected people annually.

With around 2,000 Nepalis now living in Ireland, the Nepal Ireland Society was set up 10 years ago to strengthen links between the countries. At the meeting NLT representative Emma Lynch outlined the

work of the charity in Nepal. She highlighted not just the physical disease but the stigma associated with leprosy.

NLT is delighted to have forged links with the society, with Emma taking part in new year celebrations in April and acting as MC at the launch of the Nepal Tourism Year 2011.



Emma Lynch with members of the Nepal Ireland Society Photo: Nepal Ireland Society

The Society has also kindly advertised NLT fundraising events on its website:

www.nepalireland.org

Growing with the need



Unpacking JOAC equipment.
Photo: LLSC

It's almost 2 years since leprosy was eliminated as a public health problem in Nepal. Despite the national drop to below 1 case in 10,000, pockets of high prevalence remain, such as the Terai region of south eastern Nepal. Here NLT runs the world's busiest leprosy centre at Lalgadh. Last year 53,000 patients visited from as far away as India, of whom 7,000 were affected by leprosy. 1,060 new cases were diagnosed, bringing the recorded national total to 124,000.

The demand on LLSC is huge, not just for leprosy treatment but also for dealing with other diseases including typhoid, pneumonia, dysentery, malaria and tuberculosis.

Thanks to a grant from the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, services have been expanded and improved to help meet the growing needs at LLSC.

This year has seen the provision of:—

- A 25-bed ward
- A 5-bed isolation ward. This allows the separation of patients with highly infectious diseases such as drug-resistant TB, cholera and typhoid, from leprosy patients whose weakened immunity leaves them susceptible
- An improved operating theatre, maternity delivery room and accident and emergency room
- Ultrasound and ECG machines and other essential equipment

(L & R) Hand out: a little girl's claw hand is repaired by transplanting tendons.
Photo: LLSC



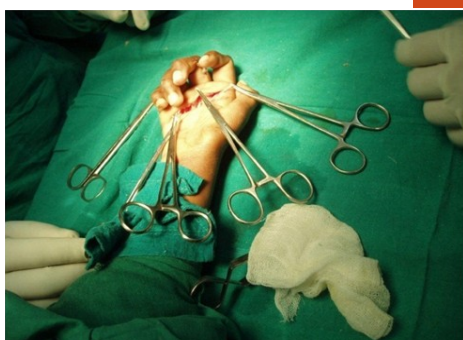
LLSC's new isolation ward.
Photo: LLSC



Let there be light: a new power supply ensues that equipment keeps running even when mainline power is cut. Load shedding currently cuts off power for 16 hours a day at Lalgadh.
Photo: LLSC



14 year-old Soudagar tries out a new adjustable bed. Photo: LLSC

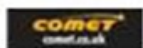




Nepal Leprosy Trust Ireland
Calm Waters
Russellstown
Mullingar
County Westmeath
Phone: 00353-(0)44-9335707
Email: info@nlt.ie
www.nlt.ie

Raise funds for NLT while you shop online:

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www.shop2fundraise.co.uk

If you shop on online, using Amazon, eBay or other sites, you can raise funds for NLT. Go to: www.shop2fundraise.co.uk and choose Nepal Leprosy Trust as your favoured charity.

Many thanks!

Standing against stigma

For as little as €10 per month you can help transform lives in Nepal, supporting those affected by leprosy and other disadvantaged people to care for their wounds, earn income and bring practical improvements to their villages.

'I am blessed'

Not a comment you might expect from a man who's lost toes, friends and a longed-for education because of leprosy. But Ashok Kumar Pal is so grateful to God that he's leading a church in his home.

At the age of 11 Ashok developed ulcers on his foot. He was treated for leprosy at a hospital in southern Nepal but further ulceration led to the loss of several toes. He was ostracised from his friends when their parents refused to allow him to play with them. Although leprosy is hard to catch, Ashok's teacher feared he might infect others and banned him from school, despite his eagerness to learn.

10 years ago Ashok was admitted to LLSC. Along with treatment, counseling and self care education, he learned about Jesus. 'Every day I was listening the word from the Bible which was very encouraging and giving full of happiness inside me.'

Now 26, Ashok runs a ministry from his home, where 'love, togetherness and enthusiasm is present.'

He dreams of building a church for his *Swatantra Mandali* (Independent Congregation). 'I could imagine if there would not have been these kind of services at LLSC, leprosy affected people's condition would have become poorest of the poor. But LLSC staff have given love, concern, proper care and, most important, peace through sharing the truth from the Bible.'

Standing Order Form

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