



Punam (r) and her sister Neelam as they prepare for another school year. Punam had been an in-patient in Lalgadh Leprosy hospital at Easter with a foot infection but is now doing well. Neelam has adapted very well to her new prosthetic leg. The education of both sisters is being sponsored by private donation.

How you can help:

- Sponsor a Night - in a hospital bed for as little as €5
- Lydia Fund. Sponsor a child's education - €15 a month
- Shuttle Bus. Help us to buy a vehicle for transporting patients to and from Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital, Nepal. Out-patients currently walk from the main road up a long steep hill to reach the hospital in order to receive medical care and attention. All donations are welcome. Contact vera.mcevoy@nlt.ie



Join the fight against stigma

By setting up a standing order for as little as €10 per month, you can help in the fight against leprosy and stigma in Nepal.

Contact: vera.mcevoy@nlt.ie about this or any other item covered.

Diary Dates 2014

- 2nd June - Flora Women's Mini Marathon Dublin
- 13th June - Abba Night Fundraiser, Celbridge Manor
- 12th July - Nepal Ireland Trekking & Mountaineering Fair, Radisson Blu Hotel Golden Lane, Dublin
- 21st September - Nepal Day at Farmleigh, Dublin.

NLT is a signatory to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. We welcome feedback about our communications. Contact us at info@nlt.ie.



Nepal Leprosy Trust would like to thank all those who support our work. We are deeply grateful to the donors, churches and individuals who strengthen our mission in a wide variety of ways.



Dayo Adjikavi joins the VAP Women's Group in Harsahi.

The Village Alive Project (VAP)

Drinking clean water, washing your hands, seeking treatment for infections: such procedures may be second nature in Ireland. But for many villagers in rural Nepal, a lack of education hinders their knowledge and ability to live healthily and ward off preventable diseases.

Thanks to a 3-year grant from Irish Aid and the Canada Leprosy Mission, Nepal Leprosy Trust (NLT) is now supporting some of the very poorest in Nepal to live more productive lives. NLT has organised groups in 2 Dalit (low caste Hindu) villages to effect and promote health improvements. After 2 weeks' training, a volunteer in each village qualifies as a Rural Health Facilitator, who helps the groups to identify major health problems and tackle them through health education; the use of clean water, and improved sanitation.

Reunited, Reaccepted

Gita Sada was born into a poor, low-caste family. She faced further challenges because of a congenital defect in her hand. She was married in childhood but abandoned by her husband who

VAP - Reunited, Reaccepted (contd.)

left without telling her. When neighbours in her village noticed she was pregnant, she began to suffer discrimination, as single motherhood is frowned upon in Nepali society.

A VAP team, visiting the self-help group (SHG) in Birta village, persuaded members to support Gita. With the help of a women's group Gita gave birth to a boy. SHG members then found Gita's husband who has returned to look after his family. Gita joined the VAP women's group of Birta village and is planning to secure a loan from the group for an income generation activity. Thanks to the Village Alive Programme Gita is experiencing a better life with her husband and beautiful son.



Gita Sada

Easter at Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre

An NLT Ireland team is just back from an Easter trip to the workshops in Kathmandu and the Leprosy Services Centre in Lalgadh (LLSC). Two patients in LLSC, Najarana (r) and Nilu have stolen everyone's heart - look at those smiles.

Nilu, aged 16, developed leprosy two years ago when she first noticed pale patches on her skin. Even though she has been treated and cured of the severest form of leprosy she suffers repeated allergic Type 2 reactions. This can be quite common among patients previously affected by leprosy. Treatment requires hospitalisation and steroids. Some of Nilu's friends have already left school and are married but she wants to study to become an accountant or a bank manager. She was regularly seen studying by her bedside.

Najarana was diagnosed with leprosy and treated a year ago when she was 5 years old. She is currently on steroid treatment for a Type 1 reaction. Najarana's left hand is displaying signs of nerve damage which may require corrective surgery. She is a quiet child and continues to give the biggest smile ever. At times there is no awareness of her presence until you spot her big bright eyes beaming at you.



Best friends: Nilu Chaudhary and Najarana Kathoon

1,193 new leprosy cases in LLSC in 2012

1,170 new leprosy cases in LLSC in 2013

Support us as we continue our mission against leprosy

Mike's Return to Lalgadh after a ... long ... break

Mike Winterburn, NLT Ireland's new Chair of Directors, visited Nepal recently after many years away. From 1990 to 1995 he was the rehabilitation officer at LLSC.

Well, after a break of 17 years I returned to Nepal! I found it a profoundly moving and healing experience to reconnect with so many good Nepali brothers and sisters. The work at Lalgadh has grown immensely in the hospital and the community. Children have grown up and gone to college, others have married, but many of my old friends are still working with NLT. It is like a family and I can keep up to date with everyone now on Facebook! The highlight for me was that I was reunited with Harka Man Tamang, one of the patients that I knew who now lives in the Care Haven. There were tears in our eyes when we met and grasped each other's hands. Many things have changed: there are brick houses everywhere, electricity, motorbikes and even the internet, but the hearts of everyone are still focused on caring and bringing healing to some of the poorest people on Earth.



Mike Winterburn in Harsahi, part of the Village Alive Project

Goodbye and Hello

After 5 years with NLT Ireland, Emma Lynch has taken up a post as Tearfund's Church and Supporter Relations coordinator. We are very sorry to say goodbye to Emma whose link with NLT began in 1992 when she moved to Nepal to help develop the craft business for NLT's Kathmandu workshop. As NLT coordinator since her return to Ireland in 2000 she has been a constant source of ideas, enthusiasm and commitment, and her love and friendship are hugely treasured by all NLT staff in Ireland, Nepal and the UK. We wish her great success and happiness in her new job. God bless you, Emma Didi!



Emma Lynch

We are delighted to welcome Vera McEvoy as our new NLT Ireland coordinator. Vera is a graduate of the National College of Art and Design, Dublin. She has a wide variety of experience and has worked with adults and children in community projects promoting Arts & Health. Vera brings huge creativity, energy and compassion to NLT. We look forward to working with her enormously.



Vera McEvoy

NLT is hugely grateful to Mary McElhinny and Chartsand for their continued support and generosity.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29 v 11