NLT Celebrates 40 Years

Since 1972 NLT has been working to empower people affected by leprosy, disability and other marginalising conditions in Nepal. To celebrate the past 40 years, a Thanksgiving Service was held in Mullingar in October. There were presentations about NLT past, present and future with Deepesh Man Shakya, President of the Nepal Ireland Society saying a few words on behalf of the people of Nepal. Former Director Gary Hill gave the keynote address on the theme ‘Why we do what we do’. Read on to find out more about the history of NLT, current programmes and future plans.

Demolition Threat to NLT Kathmandu Workshop

New dual carriageways are being built all around Kathmandu. To make room for them, buildings along the routes are being demolished—often with no compensation to the owners. The NLT workshop and offices are on one such route. As they were only built in the late 1980s NLT will not be entitled to any Government compensation and will have to pay for the demolition of the building. Together with local businessmen, we are petitioning the government to adjust their plans. The workshop can be temporarily transferred to NLT’s Long House accommodation nearby, however building new facilities would be necessary. Please join us in prayer that the government will alter their plans.

Interested in seeing the work of Nepal Leprosy Trust for yourself? See page 4 for more
Many thanks to...

Other families were resettled with livestock and tools on Government land in the Bardiya District of far western Nepal. In the early 1990s, after 8 years of negotiations, NLT was given permission to build Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre (LLSC) in South East Nepal. Today LLSC diagnoses more new cases of leprosy than any other leprosy centre in the world.

Where NLT began - the Early Years

Eileen Lodge, founder of NLT first went to work with people affected by leprosy in Nepal in the early 1950s. She and her friend Betty Bailey set up Nepal’s first Leprosy Hospital, Green Pastures in Pokhara.
In the early 1970s the Government of Nepal invited Eileen to help with the rehabilitation of leprosy affected families in the Khokana Leprosy Colony in the Kathmandu Valley.

Eileen set up Nepal Leprosy Trust and started to move families out of the Colony into the community. She then set about finding ways of helping them make a living. Early income generation projects included making candles, pottery and leather goods.

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Photos of Early NLT Activities: candle making in the 1970s, pottery making, families preparing to resettle in Bardiya, one of the first houses built in Bardiya, Eileen Lodge with early plans for Lalgadh Hospital c1990

Photos: Brother Kaleb and NLT UK

NLT Focus 2012—2016

Development of Lalgadh Hospital Services as a good standard leprosy referral and community hospital
Capacity building of NLT/Nepal as a self-governing, self-supporting, community serving organisation
Supporting the Government of Nepal’s National Leprosy Strategy
Leprosy research with a patient-benefit focus
Developing and extending the Community Programme
Developing the scope and impact of NLT’s Training Capacity Building Information Education and Communication Programmes

Introducing new NLT Ireland Director Mike Winterburn, see here with his son Kevin. Mike is married to Anne, and spent 4 years working in Nepal with NLT in the early 1990s

I am come that they may have life and they may have it to the full

John 10:10
Khirkhire Dada Village Comes Alive

Community Working Together

Planting Trees, Cleaning the local pond Photos: LLSC

Improvements in Sanitation

Health and Sanitation Group Meeting, new toilet Photos: LLSC

3 Year Integrated Health Project
supported by the RTÉ One World Fund

The numbers:
1 Village Health and Sanitation Group (HASG) established and empowered
1 Village Health Representative trained
1 Savings and Loan group established
1 Village group meeting house constructed
2 toilets installed in the local school
17 households receive electricity with more to follow
22 receive Non Formal Education
28 toilets installed in village households
11,000 trees planted across the Ratu river to prevent flooding

Access to new Services

Mrs Babita Bhujel Village Health Representative with young mothers Photos: LLSC

In 2012....
20 new self support groups established
51 original self help groups supported
42 disabled people received Disability Cards to access Government Services
20 Staff members received social mobilisation training to implement RECLAIM community based activities effectively
200 people participated in a common feast in Belghari, Sindhuli District
72 men participating in adult literacy classes
435 women participating in adult literacy classes
13 children with disability are attending school regularly
Self support groups refer 21 suspected cases of leprosy to local health centres

Mother and Child Health

Jali Maya Kyapahhaki receives an electricity connection Photo: LLSC

Leprosy Affected People
RECLAIM their lives

Releasing the Energy and Capabilities of Leprosy Affected Individuals and Marginalised people

RECLAIM Programme Community Based Activities
- Regular weekly meetings
- Regular savings
- Credit management
- Book-keeping
- Social action programs
- Community health and development programmes
- Awareness and Non-Formal Education
- Networking with relevant local agencies
- Monitoring and supervision
Two new doctors have joined the team at Lalgadh hospital. Dr Yamuna Rai has come to NLT from Rukum Hospital in the far west of Nepal, and Dr Bijay Shahah has come from Okhaldhunga Hospital. Dr Shahah is originally from nearby Janakpur which makes it very easy for him to relate to the patients at LLSC.

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.

Standing Order Form

To: Bank _____________________________________________
Branch: ___________________ Sort Code:_____________
A/C Number: ____________________________
A/C Name: ____________________________

Please pay to Bank of Ireland, Naas, Co. Kildare
Sort Code 90-12-39 A/C Number 35708885
A/C Name: Nepal Leprosy Trust (Himalayan Handicrafts)

The amount of €________ each month/quarter/year
With effect from: Date_____________________________
Signature:_____________________________________ Date:_______

NLT is a signatory to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. We welcome feedback about our communications. If you have any comments, please contact us at info@nlt.ie.