

## How you can help

NLT works with many resilient people such as Marichman and his wife Radika Maya. If you would like to support our work in this area please consider setting up a standing order with your bank

## Standing against stigma

For as little as €10 per month you can help transform lives in Nepal, supporting those affected by leprosy and other diseases of poverty to understand their own care needs, earn an income and bring practical improvements to their family and village.

## Standing Order Form

To Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Sort code: \_\_\_\_\_

From A/C Number: \_\_\_\_\_ A/C Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay to Ulster Bank, 44 South Main St., Naas Co Kildare,

To Sort Code: 986190 To: Account Number: 13104021

To IBAN: IE49ULSB 986190 13104021

To account name: Nepal Leprosy Trust (Himalayan Handicrafts)

The amount of € \_\_\_\_\_ each month / quarter / year

With effect from \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NLT is a signatory of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. We welcome feedback about our communications. You may contact us at [info@nlt.ie](mailto:info@nlt.ie)



Nepal Leprosy Trust Ireland would like to thank all who support our work. If you would like more information on any item covered in this edition please contact us by email: [info@nlt.ie](mailto:info@nlt.ie) or telephone: 086 2584367. Irish Registered Charity No 14810. CLG No 342733. Registered address: Killeline, Newcastle West, Limerick



## Nepal Leprosy Trust News

Beating leprosy, breaking stigma and building lives

Winter Newsletter 2020 Issue 22



Fresh clothes, medicine, new glasses, pension ... and a cup of tea. Marichman and Radika Maya recover at Lalgadh before being taken back home. October 2020

## A Lifeline from Lalgadh

Old age, disability, hunger, local thieves, the monsoon, a disintegrating house, Covid-19 anxiety, lockdown, no caring family: all these make life so very hard when you are elderly.

Community staff at Lalgadh Hospital heard about a leprosy-affected couple living about an hour's drive from the hospital. Marichman, aged 85, and his wife Radika Maya were struggling with food shortage, blindness, leprosy,

disability and ill health. A couple of months earlier the hospital outreach team had delivered rations to them and others (pandemic support; rice, lentils, oil, soap and masks). After their visit, however, someone entered the monsoon-damaged house through a hole in the back wall and stole the food.

A medical team then brought both Marichman and Radika Maya to Lalgadh Hospital. They





Marichman and Radika Maya telling their story to staff at Lalgadh Hospital.

were given a good meal and a full medical check-up including X-Rays and blood tests.

The ophthalmic officer examined Radika Maya's infected left eye. After cleaning and treatment, her eyesight is now restored. Staff gave them medicines and a change of clothes and set up a small Lalgadh Hospital fund, from which they will receive a pension every month, before taking them back home.

Marichman has quite severe leprosy deformities and disabilities. He first caught leprosy 40 years ago. Without treatment the disease progressed and affected his eyes, hands and feet. He first came to Lalgadh Hospital about 25 years ago, by which time he already had advanced deformities. He is blind in his left eye and only partially sighted in his right eye. He has lost his fingers and some toes, and wrist-drop has made his right hand almost useless. He also suffered pulmonary tuberculosis 20 years ago.

Radika Maya is stiff with arthritis and, because of her eye infection, she has been unable to open her left eye for the past 2 months.



Marichman and Radika Maya at home, prior to treatment and care at Lalgadh Hospital. Thank you to Dr Graeme at Lalgadh for the information and the photos, October 2020



The back of Marichman and Radika Maya's house – disintegrating and a hole in the wall

The monsoon has continued to weaken their home, accelerating its collapse. NLT wish to fund the building of a modest home for them.

Two rooms and a toilet will cost in the region of €2,500. For information on how you can help with this or other projects, see back page.

Bible quote: 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' Hebrews 13 v 5 (NIV)

## Covid-19 Update

Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital staff and patients are doing well despite Covid-19, monsoon rain and mosquitoes. The national lockdown since March has been very difficult for many. Death, disease and disability rates have risen from other causes including leprosy as people in remote villages can't get to health posts or hospital. Many poorer people rely on hand-to-mouth daily labour and income for survival, which has all ceased.

Nepal has been hard hit by Covid-19 infection. Total numbers are currently 215,020 cases and Covid-deaths of 1,276 (November 20<sup>th</sup> 2020). Testing takes place only in the main centres. With more remote areas unreachable the numbers are likely to be an

underestimate and causes of death are often undiagnosed. NLT's area of work, Province 2, with its 6.01 million inhabitants, is the worst-affected area, adjacent to the Indian border.

As transmission and infection rates continue to rise in villages around Lalgadh Hospital, our front-line staff keep their guard up, wearing protective masks, gowns, gloves, (PPEs) despite the current monsoon heat.

The hospital is a safe haven in the midst of the pandemic. Entry is allowed only after fever-testing at the double-barrier gate. It is a great blessing that no staff have been affected to date, although quarantine was required for one nurse, one doctor and one health worker.