Leprosy: Forgotten Disease Still a Cruel Reality

- Every two minutes someone is diagnosed
- Destroys nerves and can lead to loss of extremities and blindness
- 3 to 4 million people have disabilities as a result of leprosy
- 75 children a day are diagnosed with leprosy
- 95% of the world population has natural immunity to leprosy
- Also known as Hansen's disease
- Can be cured with Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) in 6 to 12 months
- Early diagnosis and MDT can prevent crippling deformities
- Cost to cure and care for one person with leprosy is $348
- Estimated 150 new cases diagnosed in the U.S. each year
- Affected people often suffer shame and isolation, even after they are cured
Buruli Ulcer: Flesh-Eating Disease Attacks Mostly Children

- Destroys flesh and sometimes bone
- Can cause deformity, disability, permanent scarring and fatal infections
- Thousands of cases each year in more than 30 countries, mostly in West Africa
- 50% of victims are under the age of 15
- Caused by a bacterium related to leprosy
- 40% of those infected already have some disability at diagnosis
- Treatment is 8 weeks of daily injections of antibiotics
- Severe cases require surgery and skin grafts
- Cost to treat one person is $600
- Disease is feared - thought to result from a curse or witchcraft
- Affected people are ostracized

You can transform a life! Join us in providing the cure and ongoing care for children, men and women. You can free them from the suffering, shame and isolation inflicted by leprosy and Buruli ulcer. More information about these diseases and the ministry of American Leprosy Missions is available at www.leprosy.org.