

Bringing Healing and Hope to Suffering People

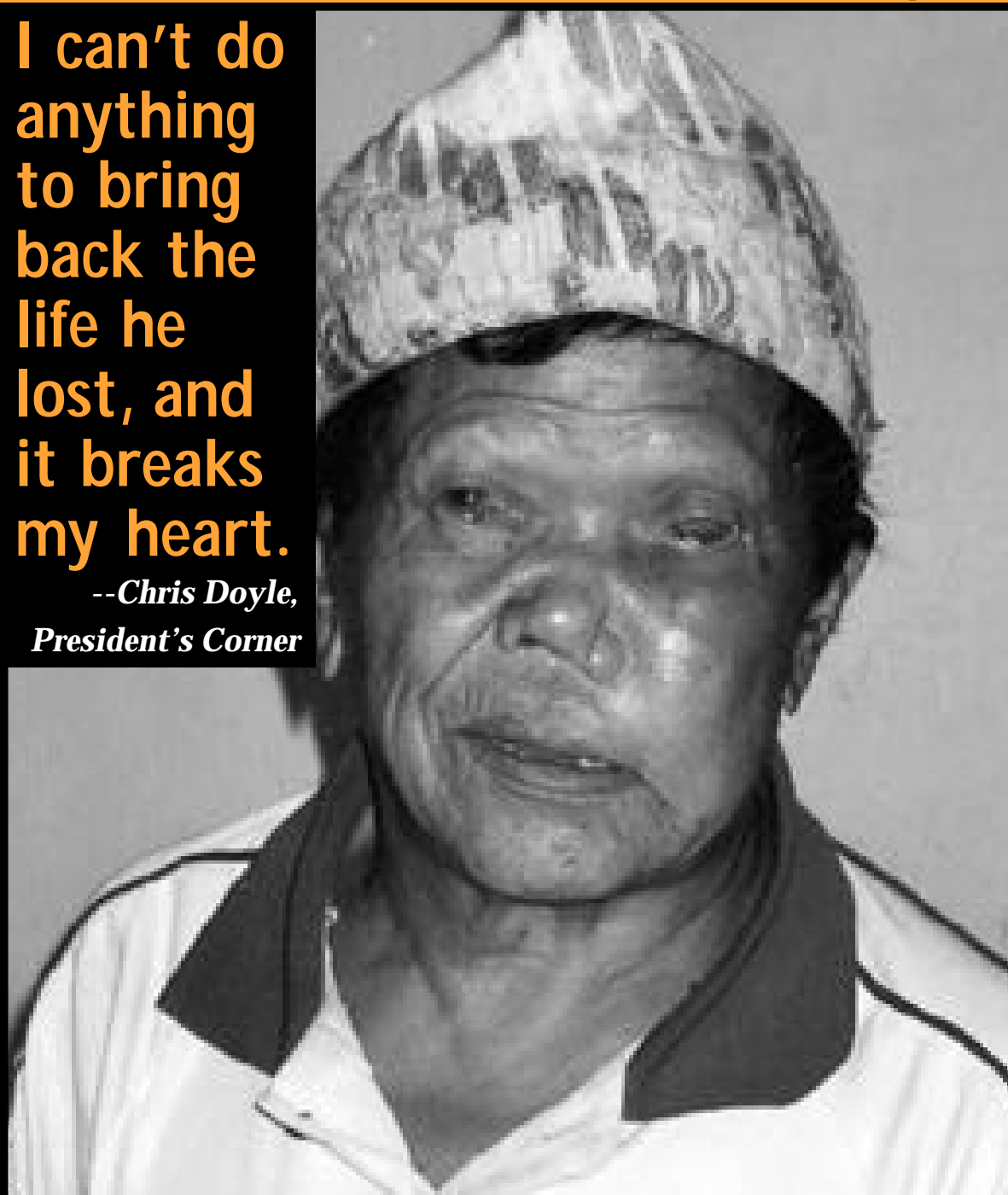
Word & Deed

American Leprosy Missions

Volume Fifteen, No. 2, April 2004

I can't do anything to bring back the life he lost, and it breaks my heart.

*--Chris Doyle,
President's Corner*



You can fund an ALM challenge match!
see page 2

Dumka's foot would have been destroyed.
see page 3

Someone else must fix her hair.
see page 4

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." I Peter 4:10



Christopher J. Woyle

Why I give to American Leprosy Missions

Together we can stop the pain and suffering for thousands such as this Nepalese patient.

He lives in Nepal where there are more than 16,000 people for every one physician. (I live in the USA: 419 people for every physician).

He is almost blind. I can tell just by looking. His nose is sunken and twisted. His face droops.

His photo tells me even at a quick glance that leprosy did not stop with his face.

It penetrated deep into his heart. It ripped away tender memories and it shattered hopes and dreams. It left shards of loneliness, heartache, helplessness, and failure. I see this pain as clearly as I see a lifetime of suffering in his vacant eyes.

His pain penetrates my heart, as

well. He's probably not much older than I am. Does he have kids? A wife? Does anyone love him?

I can't do anything to bring back what he lost, and it breaks my heart.

But I can do something for kids like Dumka (*read his story on page 3*) and other young people just starting their struggle against leprosy.

I can change a life. Take away some of the pain. Restore hope.

That's why I give.

I give because it is a joyful discipline. God uses my gift to keep Dumka's eyes bright and clear. That blesses me.

I give so Dumka will know the touch of Jesus on his wounds and in his heart.

My wife and I include ALM in our tithing and our budget. Sometimes I even ask my kids to forego something they want so they can cure a child in Nepal or India or Angola. This is not sacrifice. It is love.

I tell you this because I want you to give, too. I cannot ask you to do something I don't do myself. Or grieve for people whose photos grieve me.

I sit in the ALM president's office and manage our ministry. But it is not the big office that inspires my giving. It is the small photo of the unnamed leprosy patient.

I manage a busy staff. But it is not even their commitment that motivates me.

It is the pain of one man.

And the pain of one man changed my life.

Christopher J. Woyle

This Easter season, please consider a gift to resurrect health and hope for young people with leprosy. Deliver the promise of abundant life to kids like Dumka.



IT NEVER HURTS TO ASK ...

ALM seeks two \$40,000 - \$50,000 challenge grants

Two of ALM's most successful fundraising efforts in 2003 were the result of Matching Challenges:

- In July, a generous donor offered to double all gifts up to \$30,000 for leprosy work in India.
- In October, another donor issued a \$50,000 "match" challenge to help victims of Buruli ulcer in West Africa.

Together, these appeals raised over \$170,000 to aid hundreds of people with leprosy and Buruli ulcer. Individual donors who responded to the challenge were able to see their gifts doubled. Twice as many people experienced healing!

Do you have the resources and desire to fund a challenge match in 2004? If God has

blessed you with wealth beyond your own needs and desires, will you consider becoming an ALM Matching Challenge Champion?

Can you issue a \$40,000 challenge? Or even \$50,000? Place a confidential call to Carol Masters toll-free at 1-800-543-3135 or email Carol at cmasters@leprosy.org.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK: Dumka says he would have remained handicapped for life.

Without your help, Dumka's foot would have been destroyed

When Dumka was ten years old, his family took him to a doctor. "What are these skin patches?" they asked. "He's had them for two years."

Dumka's first tragedy was that no one in his family or village knew about leprosy. They did not recognize the earliest signs ("patches"), and they did not know where to seek help.

He wasn't even a teenager yet; but already his life was taking a horrible and frightening turn.

By the time one doctor referred him to another, and another referred him to the hospital, he was wearing a hole in his insensitive right foot. The constant dragging, bumping, and injuring might have destroyed his foot completely if he'd not found help.

He wasn't even a teenager yet; but already his life was taking a horrible and frightening turn. He was becoming an illiterate,



DUMKA

helpless, disabled, impoverished, heart-broken victim of leprosy – just like the unnamed man in the photo (see President's corner).

Today Dumka is recovering at an ALM-supported hospital in Nepal. He had tendon transfer surgeries to correct his claw hand and "drop foot." His wounds are healing. He's even attending the hospital school. Little by little, he is being restored to health.

Please continue to help kids like Dumka recover from leprosy' wounds and heartaches. Send a gift for cure+ today

Quiz: Is there such a thing as a leprosy vaccine? (Answer on back page.)

CURE+

Leprosy medicine by itself cannot restore Dumka to health and hopefulness. He will need surgery, hospital care, schooling, vocational assistance, and years of rehabilitation and therapy.

He needs Cureplus (Cure+).

The CURE kills the bacilli in a young body; but it is only the

beginning of the restoration ALM believes God wants to complete in each troubled life. It does not equip a young man for work or fill a troubled spirit with Christ's comfort. It does not pave the way to a future of promise and possibility.

But Cure+ does.

Your gifts to ALM provide Cure+ -- medicine and much more -- for young people like Dumka. More than cure. Hope for a life restored in body and spirit.

Use the enclosed envelope to provide Cure+ for a young person or adult in need of leprosy care. The needs are great!



Your gift of Cure+ provides hope and a new future for leprosy patients and their families.

What People Tell us About Leprosy

What's so bad about leprosy?

Leprosy damages nerves that help people feel injury and pain.



But that's not the worst thing.

Deadened fingers and feet are easily injured.

But that's not the worst thing.

Repeated injuries cause maiming and deformity.

But that's not the worst thing.

Injuries take away work, money, and mobility.

But that's not the worst thing.

Maiming causes others to fear you,

Hate you,

And finally isolate you.

You are alone, unloved, unwanted.

Hopeless.

That's the worst thing.



At the hospital, someone else must fix my hair.

Sansharri is ALM's April Child of the Month. Her photo will be enclosed with all April gift receipts.

Sansharri is a 12-year-old leprosy patient at Green Pastures Hospital in Nepal where she had surgery to repair a "clawed" hand. She dreams of the day her cast will come off and she will be able to use her hand again.

Please continue your vital support so Sansharri and others will be able to dream of using their hands, attending school, and helping their families.

Return your Easter card!

ALM donors recently received an Easter card and a request to return it with a message of encouragement for kids like Sansharri. There's still time to return your card for distribution during the Easter season. (If you need another card, please call 1-800-543-3135)

Please return your Easter card today. Send a message of love to kids like Sansharri.

Quiz Answer: ALM is engaged in a \$6.9 million campaign to develop a vaccine against leprosy. To learn more about this campaign, visit www.leprosy.org

I want to help kids recover from leprosy!



YES!

Here is my gift to stop disfiguring and heartbreak:

- \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____
- \$240 to provide care for one child with leprosy.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____/_____ Email: _____

IMPORTANT REQUEST FOR DONORS WHO MAKE MONTHLY PLEDGES

Kindly check the correct box so we may process your gift correctly:

- Apply this gift to my regular monthly pledge.
- This is an EXTRA gift, above and beyond my monthly pledge.



Thank you! Please make your check payable to American Leprosy Missions and mail it with this reply form to ALM, 1 ALM Way, Greenville, SC 29601. To give a gift using your credit card, please call 1-800-543-3135 or visit www.leprosy.org.

4W41