

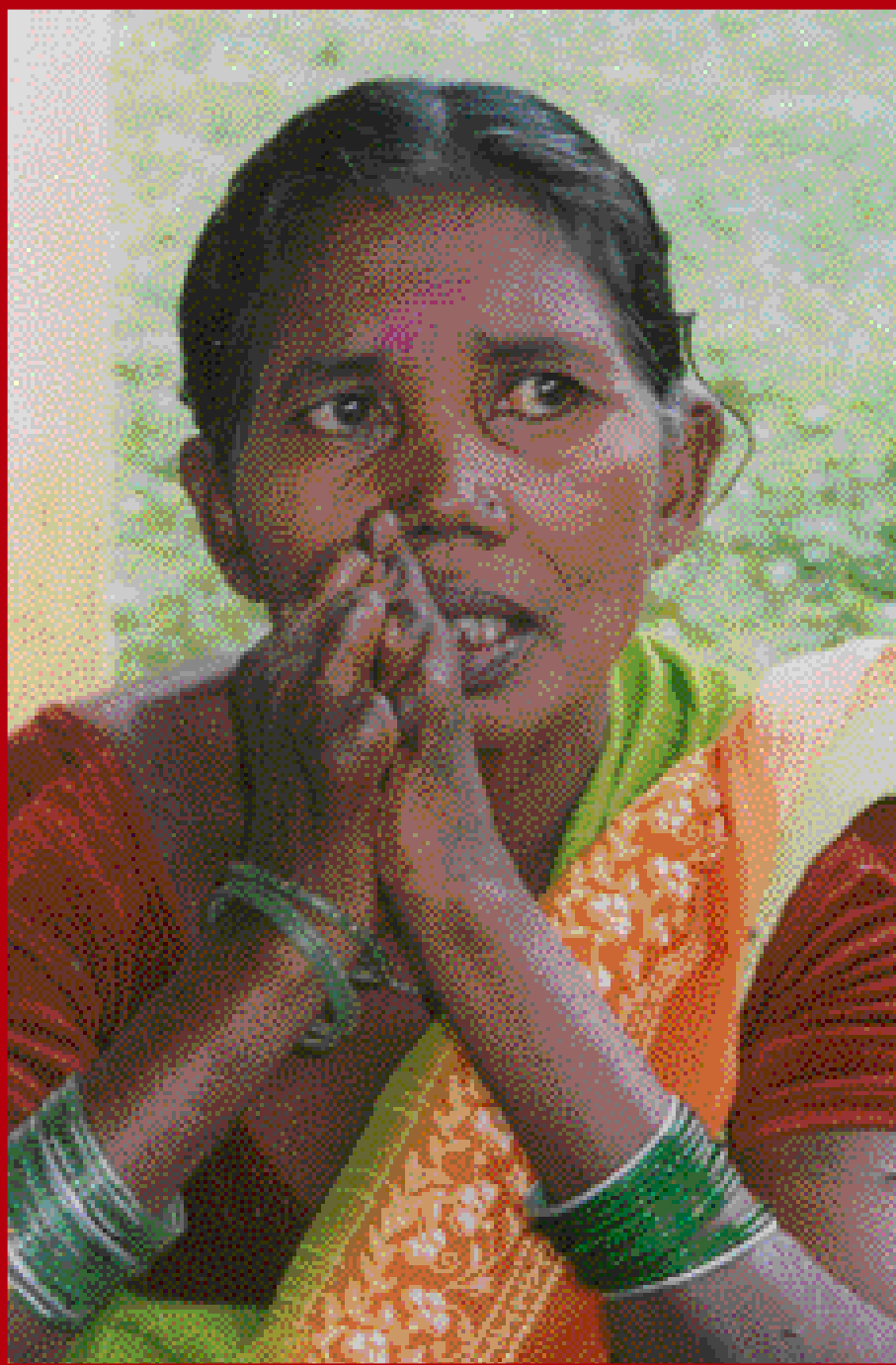
Healing and hope for suffering people

Word & Deed

American Leprosy Missions

Volume Fifteen, No. 5, Christmas 2004

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10



They
shoved
me
away
like
an
animal.

An Indian
woman's
painful story
of life
with leprosy

INSIDE: PANO'S STORY:

"I had to leave my village. They cursed and hit me.."



Alex lay in a shack, rags for his bed

Each month, American Leprosy Missions sends a

“child of the month” photo with its gift receipts. January’s child was Alex in Peru.

As I think of our dear Lord, humble and poor, I think also of Alex.

Jesus Christ touched our hearts and changed our lives.

This is my prayer for Alex, as well. That he will touch our hearts and change our lives. Alex’s leprosy was found very late. He already had a clawed hand. His nose was becoming flat where leprosy attacked his face.

The biggest tragedy is that nobody found Alex in time. They weren’t looking for him. They didn’t know that deep in the jungles of Peru in a small riverside village lived a little boy dressed in rags. A small boy who slept on a dirty mat and shivered during the rainy season.

We missed Alex. Despite all our prayers and missionaries and friends like you – despite it all – we missed him. We missed the chance to mend his hands and promise him that leprosy would never hurt his future.



Alex was found too late to prevent deformities.

Can there be any greater heartache?

The only thing greater, would be to miss the child Jesus Christ in our lives. He is not hidden, as Alex was. He is not unapproachable or distant.

I have two special prayers this Christmas. One is that we will rid the world of leprosy...that never again will we miss a child like Alex. The other is that Alex – and every one of you – will find Jesus Christ and know the miracle of His birth, the power of His love, and the hope of the gospel. I wish you a blessed Christmas.

GIVE A CURE CERTIFICATE.

Experience the reason for the season.

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift?

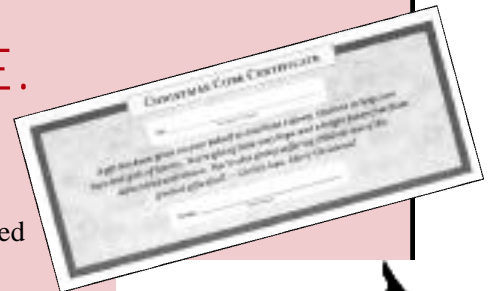
How about a gift to rescue kids like Naresh and Kusum from maimed hearts and lives?

You can make the gift on behalf of a friend or family member.

Simply mail the enclosed reply form with your gift to American Leprosy Missions and give the Cure Certificate to someone you care about this Christmas.

It’s a perfect stocking stuffer. Roll it up; add a bow. Feel the joy.

Please act today to make this Christmas even more meaningful for a loved one or child suffering from leprosy. Thank you!



Remember: All gifts post-marked before Dec. 31 will be tax-deductible for 2004.

They shoved me away like an animal.

Banned from her village, Pano now lives in a leprosy colony

Pano says, "I had to leave my village. The village people were enemies. They cursed and hit me and shoved me away like an animal.

"People didn't like my children because of my leprosy. They yelled at them, *Go away from here!*"

Pano's hands are deformed from cooking burns. "I couldn't feel the pain. I just burned them and burned them. Most times now I can hardly strike a match. I can't put on my own bangles. My hands were ugly. My feet were wounded. Soon everyone was against me.

"I went to a Baiga (magic healer). He said I was victim of an evil

spirit. He told me to bring him 5000 rupees. I had to sell my land to pay. He covered my hands with bandages and said they'd get better.

"For three months my family had to feed me and bathe me. I wanted to die.

"The Baiga said I'd get better, but I got worse.

"Finally my family told me: If you stay here, your son will not get a wife; your daughters will not get husbands.

"I left home and have been living in the leprosy colony.

"My dream is to return to my village...but they will never permit me."



Pano lives in a leprosy colony now, far from friends and family. Her eyes cloud with tears when she remembers her beloved village in Orissa.

This Christmas please send a gift of cure so that no more children will have to suffer as Pano did. The cost to cure one child is \$240. Perhaps your family would like to give a gift of true Christmas joy.

Thank you! ALM donors have contributed \$68,000 to drought relief in India.



Your gifts cured 11-year-old Naresh.

The sacrifice of the father will change the future of the son

Chhattisgarh, INDIA: Naresh attended an ALM-sponsored "skin camp." Skin camp is a huge day-clinic for impoverished village families.

Posters and radios announce the event. Camp day, hundreds of people show up to see the traveling doctors and to show them their rashes, wounds, and "patches."

Naresh's father has leprosy so he recognized the early signs. He knew he had to get his son to the skin

camp, even though he would have to sacrifice work for a day. This wasn't easy.

"Sometimes I work three days. Sometimes four. I earn 30 rupees (less than \$1) for one day. There are some days I don't have anything to eat. Yes, today I am not working. We may go hungry. But Naresh must get cured."

Your gifts fund skin camps where children like Naresh are diagnosed and receive free medicine. The average cost to get a child to the critical diagnosis stage is \$25. The cost to complete the cure and treat any disabilities is \$240. Around the world, children like Naresh dream of school and games and soccer. Please keep their dreams alive with a Christmas Gift to Cure. Thank you.

In Memoriam: James Cockman 1932 - 2004

American Leprosy Missions mourns the death, in September, of board member and friend, James Cockman.

Jim loved to help others.

One of the people Jim met in India was Pattu.

When she was just 20, Pattu became a leprosy beggar, struggling with her infant son to keep body and soul alive. Over the years, she lost her fingers and then her eyes and finally her son. The boy was placed in an orphanage when Pattu became unable to care for him.



Pattu

In 1997, Jim traveled to India and met Pattu, now an old woman with a broken heart. He returned to the USA determined to raise funds, cure leprosy, and reunite families.

He never forgot Pattu.

Today she is reunited with her son and living at an ALM-supported hospital. She will never forget Jim.

He was God's faithful servant.

Jim Cockman's greatest joy in life was creating ways to make life better for others...especially the downcast and broken-hearted. He was a leader in ALM's drive to find a vaccine against leprosy. He wanted to get rid of this loathsome disease once and for all. If you share Jim's passion, please consider a gift to relieve suffering from leprosy. Help make Pattu's sad story a thing of the past.



Kusum

"IN OUR SOCIETY LEPERS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS WIVES..."

Kusum arrived at a "skin

clinic" too late to prevent leprosy damage to her hands. The fingers on one hand were already contracting. Claw hands, the doctors call it.

Imagine these words ringing through Kusum's heart. "Claw hands."

As if that weren't pain enough, this quiet

little girl heard her father say: "I will face many problems regarding her marriage. In our society, lepers are not accepted as wives or husbands."

Your Christmas gift could be the one to diagnose another shy 10-year-old before leprosy robs her small fingers of their shape and strength. Before she says, "I feel useless."

This Christmas I want to help kids recover from leprosy!



YES!

Here is my gift to stop disfiguring and heartbreak:

- \$50
 \$75
 \$100
 \$240
 \$300
 \$600
 \$_____

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.



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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.