

Bringing Healing and Hope to Suffering People

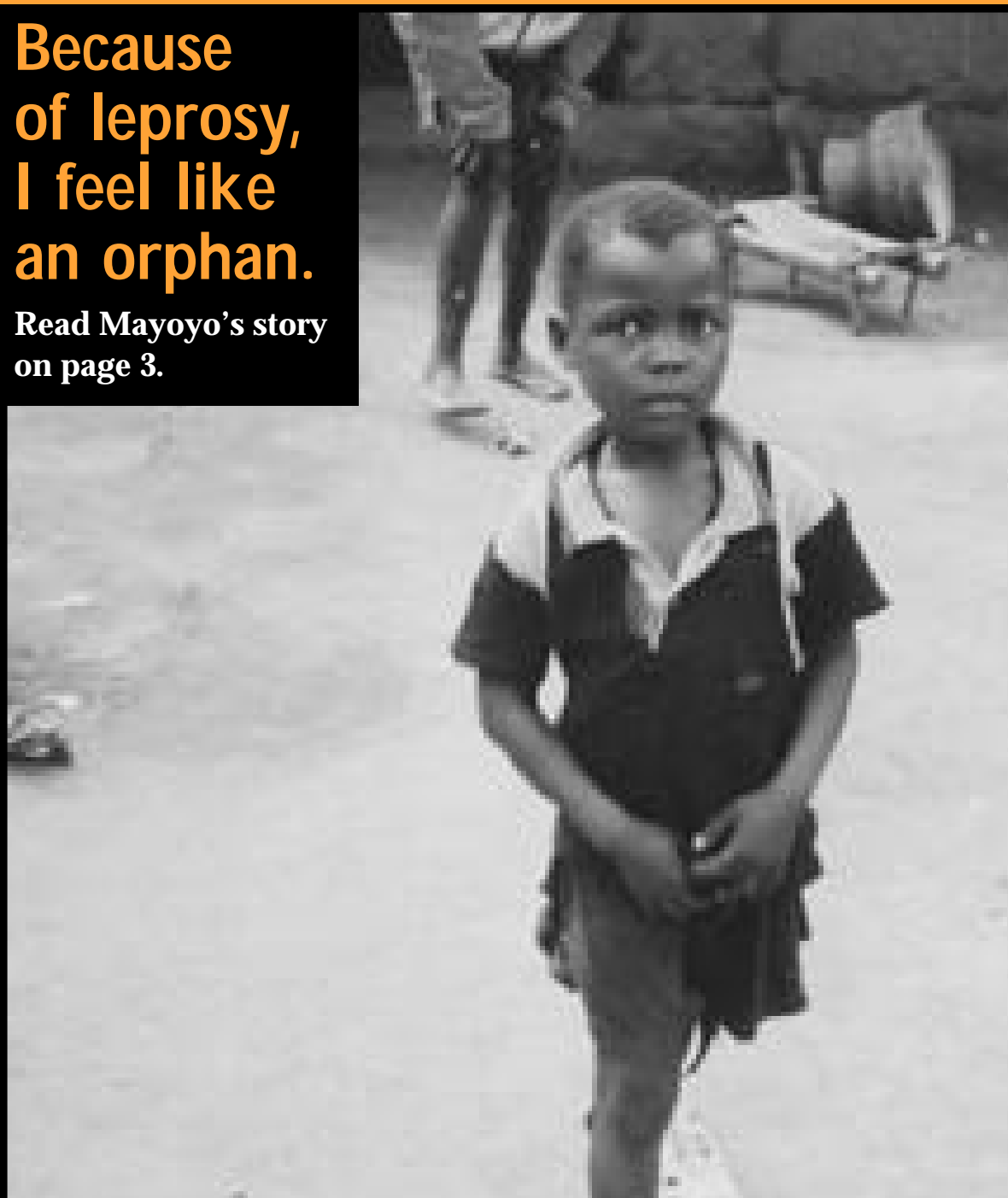
Word & Deed

American Leprosy Missions

Volume Fifteen, No. 1, February 2004

**Because
of leprosy,
I feel like
an orphan.**

**Read Mayoyo's story
on page 3.**



**What causes drop foot
and can it be fixed?**
see page 3

**Kidi: "My fingers
have fallen off..."**
see page 4

**URGENT: Pray for
Joga's eye!**
see page 8

"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



President's Corner

Christopher J. Woyle

Your gifts prevent blindness, maiming, and heartbreak. That's POID.

Please join me in saving children throughout the world from the heartbreak of disfigurement.

One of our jobs at ALM is to prevent blindness, helplessness, maiming, and crippling from leprosy-related injuries. That's POID.

The words sound clinical: Prevention of Impairment and Disabilities.

The work, though, strikes at the very heart of our mission.

MDT (multidrug therapy) cures leprosy. But it doesn't save the sight of a woman whose stiff ingrown eyelash scapes across her insensitive eye – scrape, scrape, scrape, like a dry windshield wiper dragging a pebble across a dry windshield. It doesn't take a medical degree to know that the eye will become scratched and blind.

ALM specialists teach healthworkers around the world to teach their patients to lubricate eyes. Cover them in the wind. Check them for foreign particles. POID.

MDT cures leprosy, but it doesn't prevent a hot metal teacup from burning through flesh. ALM's POID experts

When leprosy maims bodies, it breaks hearts.

teach healthworkers to teach their patients to wrap hot cups in cloth. To avoid contact with leprosy-insensitive skin.

Recently, an ALM POID specialist showed me a photo of a deep round, jagged-edged hole in the bottom of a woman's foot. A hole clear to the bone. It

was the size and shape of the bottle cap that had fallen into her patient's shoe. The lady walked on its sharp, serrated edges all day. All day, cutting a hole into her foot.

POID teaches people to check their shoes and to examine insensitive feet.

When leprosy maims bodies, it breaks hearts. It breaks spirits. It robs incomes and it frightens neighbors. It cripples hope.

God's plan is for wholeness, not brokenness. When you make your gifts to ALM, you not only cure leprosy, you keep bodies and hearts from breaking beyond repair.

You do POID.

Please send a gift today to prevent blindness, crippling, and helplessness from leprosy. Thank you.

Did you resolve this year to write a will? Did you make the same resolution last year? The year before?

- **DON'T** put it off.
- **DON'T** let probate courts determine the distribution of your estate.
- **DON'T** leave your family with the leftovers.

- **DO** send for ALM's free brochure today.
- **DO** learn how you can provide gifts for your family and for your favorite charities.
- **DO** remember favorite friends and relatives with special gifts of jewelry or furniture.
- **DO** minimize tax burdens for yourself and your family.
- **DO** return this form or call Carol Masters at ALM (1-800-543-3135).



Please send me ALM's free brochure, "Your Christian Will."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Date of Birth _____

Email _____

Do it now. Leave a legacy of love.

Mayoyo's parents don't want him any more

D.R. CONGO: When Mayoyo's parents learned their child had leprosy, they chased him away. "We don't want you near us," they told him. "Go live with your uncle who has leprosy. You probably caught this disease from him."

"I feel like an orphan," says the 5-year-old, "but my parents are alive."

"Thank God we found Mayoyo when we did," says ALM missionary, Dr. Jacques Kongawi. "He already had foot drop from the leprosy. His right foot dragged along the ground, destroying his toes."

Mayoyo is sad that he can no longer play football or run with his friends. His greatest sadness, though, is his parents' rejection.

"My parents who loved me very well before began to keep distance with me," he told Dr. Kongawi.

Thanks to ALM donors, Mayoyo is receiving medicine to cure his leprosy. Dr. Kongawi gave him shoes and taught him how to care for his foot. Dr. Kongawi will visit the local Christian pastor and seek his help in reuniting Mayoyo and his parents. Finally, because Mayoyo's family is too poor to afford school fees, Dr. Kongawi will arrange scholarship help for the lad.

The average cost to cure a child of leprosy and provide continuing treatment is \$240 – far beyond the means of families like Mayoyo's. Please send your gift today to provide treatment and hope for a child in need. Thank you.



ASK dr. paul

Q. What causes drop foot? Can it be fixed?

Drop foot occurs when the nerve supplying the muscle which raises the foot becomes damaged because of leprosy. Leprosy lives particularly in cooler parts of the body; nerves which are most affected are those that run close to the surface of the body. The peroneal nerve in the leg happens to be one that is commonly involved, as it winds around the outside of the leg, just below the knee. When the nerve stops working, the muscle no longer functions and in the case of a drop foot, no other muscle can take over and compensate.

When this first occurs, there is a period of six months or so, when the nerve damage is reversible – if the problem is spotted in time, treatment with steroids will often lead to full recovery.

Unfortunately, sometimes the damaged nerve is neglected and the drop foot becomes a permanent disability. In these cases, it is possible to make a special shoe that uses a spring to compensate for the non-functioning muscle. Another more sophisticated possibility is to do what is called a tendon transfer operation.

There is another muscle which turns the foot inwards and surgeons can cut off its attachment to the foot and re-attach it at a slightly different place – then when the person tries to turn the foot in, it turns in slightly, but is also raised.

Physical therapy is an essential part of this treatment, as the person needs to learn to walk in a slightly different way, using the "new" muscle to raise the foot.

--Dr. Paul Saunderson



"My fingers h

"Without this hospital, my whole hands would have fallen off."

NEPAL: "My fingers have fallen off," laments Kidi.

But another, greater pain tears at her heart: "People in the village shun me. They won't permit me in their company."

A feeling of helplessness engulfs this grieving woman: "Leprosy has changed my life. I am very poor," she says. "Poor and alone."

Kidi's husband has left their impoverished hut in western Nepal to seek work in India. She does not hear from him.

"I am crippled," she says. "I can not farm and do daily tasks. Nobody wants to help me or provide for me, but I am too weak to help myself."

"I am low caste, as well."

Kidi's leprosy-ravaged hands and legs no longer sweat. They are dry, cracked, and ulcerated. By the time she found help at an ALM-supported hospital, she'd already lost one finger.

By then, more deep cracks cut through her hands. Another finger was ulcerated beyond repair and had to be removed.

"This is tragic," according to ALM's POID specialists (see the President's corner, p. 2). "With POID training, Kidi might have saved her hands from these maiming disabilities. She might have learned how to soak and lubricate her hands and feet."

"My hands have fallen off and I am crippled."

The tragedy is that healthworkers did not find Kidi earlier. And that nobody in this tiny rural village knew how to help her.

Help came late to 35-year-old Kidi. Too late to wipe away her years of shame and helplessness.

Not too late, though, to experience the care of ALM healthworkers.

"The fingers of my hands have fallen off, but without this hospital, my whole hands would have fallen off. I didn't have money, and I can't travel to other places, and my husband is in India seeking work. He can't help

me financially. But here at the leprosy hospital, I have free shelter and food. Otherwise, how could I have been cured?"

Her problems have not defeated her. "I am happy now that I am receiving treatment. I was very discouraged and sad, but now I am happy. Now I am saved."

Please help ALM workers reach every remote village in Nepal and around the world. Help us find kids with leprosy before they become maimed and crippled like Kidi. Send a gift today! Thank you.



American Leprosy Missions will not share your name.

Rest assured...ALM will not sell, trade, or share your name with any other agency. This is our way of saying, "Thank you for your love; thank you for your trust."

What else should you know about ALM?

- Annual reports and audited statements are always available upon request.
- Donors are always welcome to email concerns or to call us on our 800 number (1-800-543-3135).
- We meet the charitable guidelines of The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.
- We were established in 1906. We're almost 100 years old!
- We are a praying staff. Let us know if you'd like us to include your prayer concerns in our weekly devotions.
- ALM works in 16 countries sharing Christ's healing love with people with leprosy and with Buruli ulcer.

Please call if you have questions at 1-800-543-3135. Or send us an email at amlep@leprosy.org. Thank you for the love you share with desperate families. We pray you will be blessed by the love you give.



LEPROSY LESSONS ... questions people ask

Q: You talk a lot about STIGMA. What does this mean?

A: Even though it is curable, leprosy still leaves many of its victims rejected, hated, and feared. Over and over people tell us, "It's not the wounds, it's the loneliness." There are many reasons for this:

- **Superstition.** In some parts of the world people believe that leprosy is a curse. To avoid this curse, you must avoid leprosy-affected people.
- **Lack of Knowledge.** Many people still do not understand that leprosy is curable. They worry they will catch the disease and become mutilated and helpless.
- **Fear.** Nerve damage can lead to ulcerated fingers and feet and facial deformities. Clawed hands, drooping faces, and bloody feet scare people away.

Radika's story



Radika is a patient at Green Pastures Leprosy Hospital in Nepal. She says, "When I got leprosy, I hid it from everyone except a few family. I did not tell my neighbors. They would hate me.

"I had an operation here for footdrop. I never went to the government hospital nearer my village. I told them, NO! I don't want people to find out. They will hate me.

"I tell them I injured my foot working in the fields. I have hidden my disease to keep away the pain."

Radika can have a more normal life thanks to surgery provided by gifts from friends like you.

May the Lord bless our ALM parents and replenish their resources



Emmanuel Y is 26 years old and a native of Ndu-Ndonga-Mantung, Cameroon. His father is a former leprosy patient. Both mother and father are illiterate. They have nine children.

Emmanuel says, "Leprosy began gradually and lumpy nodules developed on my face and other parts of my body, making many people and even myself to be frightened."

A report from the leprosy hospital states, "When he was diagnosed in 2001 in Ntumboh, his morals were crippled." Emmanuel says, "I vowed to take away my life because neighbors and friends ran away from me. While under-

going internal ache, I equally faced stigmatization and dejection."

"I am no longer Humaro as I was called in my former Muslim faith, but Emmanuel because in Christ there is hope," he says.

In 2002, he was counseled and referred to an ALM-supported hospital because of eye problems and a relapse. "They reactivated my life," he says. "The sight problem was taken care of and the nodules on my face disappeared. May God bless the people here."

During his treatment at this Christian hospital, he converted from his Islamic faith. "I am no longer Humaro as I was called in my former Muslim faith, but Emmanuel because in Christ there is hope," he says.

Today Emanuel is satisfied with his medical progress and psychological health progress. He says, "May the Lord bless our ALM parents and replenish their resources."



Around the world, your gifts are enabling Humaros to become Emmanuels. God bless you!

You can give a gift to help people with leprosy. Turn to page 8 for more information.

Help cure kids!

Renewal gifts struggle towards goal

Have you sent in your 2004 renewal gift?

A request for support went to ALM donors in January. "We must raise \$62,000 in renewal gifts," according to chief financial officer, Jim Lyon. "A strong response will enable us to renew vital leprosy programs such as MDT delivery and POID training (see president's corner) worldwide."

ALM seeks to raise over \$5 million from public contributions during 2004. Nearly all of this will come from individual contributions.

American Leprosy Missions' mission statement is to be a channel of Christ's love to people with leprosy and disabilities, helping them to be restored in body and in spirit.

ALM projects also treat people affected by Buruli ulcer, a flesh-destroying disease which affects mostly children. Healthworkers use every possibility to share Christ's love in word and deed.

If you haven't renewed your support yet, please do so today.

You can give the cure today!

"I have totally lost my one eye and I properly cannot see from the other eye too."

URGENT: Pray for Joga's eye

NEPAL: "I caught leprosy at a young age. My one eye is lost due to leprosy. The another eye was again near to destroy after an accident two years ago when I fell in my own ground and was attacked by a corn pin.

"I am always afraid of becoming totally blind in any time. This is all curse upon me. My husband has leprosy and my brother also. My brother is losing his eyesight by leprosy."

Joga lives in one of the least developed areas of far western Nepal. She has a little daughter and a new baby. She lives on a small parcel of government land

and receives treatment at an ALM hospital supported by your gifts.

She tells us, "The most bitter thing is that I have totally lost my one eye. I am afraid for the other. I am living very miserable condition."

Please join the ALM staff at home and around the world in prayer for

Joga. Pray that doctors will be able to save the sight in Joga's damaged "good" eye.

Joga lives with her husband and children. They have been given a pair of oxen to plow the land and a tin roof for their shelter. She says, "If I did not get help [from ALM friends] I cannot imagine the day."

Please pray for Joga's eye. And, if you can, send a gift to help others suffering from the ravages of this ruthless disease.



" I am afraid for the other [eye]. I am living very miserable condition."

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: _____



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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.

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.

