

Pete the Pig

In 1913 a little boy named Wilbur Chapman wanted to help children with leprosy. He took three silver dollars his friend Mr. Danner gave him and bought a little piglet that he named Pete.

Every day Wilbur fed Pete and took good care of him. Wilbur's friends and neighbors gave Pete scraps also.

Finally, when Pete was big and fat, Wilbur took him to the market and sold him for \$25. Wilbur sent the \$25 to Mr. Danner who worked at American Leprosy Missions.

"Please use this money to help a child with leprosy," Wilbur said.

Soon other children learned about Pete. They wanted to help children with leprosy too. But they couldn't raise a pig like Wilbur did. They decided to save their coins in pig banks instead.

Today children all over the country collect coins to cure kids with leprosy. Sometimes they collect \$29 to start a child's treatment for leprosy. Sometimes they even collect \$348 to pay all treatment costs.



What is Leprosy?

- Caused by a germ, or bacteria, called *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- Damages nerves and often causes loss of feeling in hands and feet. Sometimes the nerves are so badly damaged that a person's muscles in their eyes, hands or feet stop working.
- Curable with three antibiotics called multi-drug therapy. If treated early, permanent disabilities can often be avoided.
- Spread through the air but not easily caught. You won't catch leprosy by touching or shaking hands with someone.
- Makes life very difficult for those affected by it. Sometimes no one wants to talk to them, they might lose their jobs or their families might not want to know them any more.
- American Leprosy Missions works to help people who have leprosy get the medicine and care that they need as well as get jobs, training and education, and get back into their communities.



How can YOU help?

Become a Pete Pal!

1. Make a bank

You need something to collect your coins in. Some children make pig banks from plastic bottles. They paste cloth ears on the pig and make feet out of corks. Some make their banks from oatmeal cartons and some make them out of coffee cans. Use your imagination!

2. Make a plan

Decide how you will collect coins. Here are some ideas:

- Sell lemonade or cookies. Maybe you can shape your cookies like pigs!
- Pass the bank around during class at church and put quarters in to feed the pig.
- Put a pig bank on your dinner table. Drop a coin in at every meal.
- Pass the pig bank the next time your church has a meal together.

3. Make a goal

The average cost to care for a child with leprosy is \$348. Maybe your class can cure one child this year.

- Ask other classes to help you. Tell friends and family that you are collecting coins for cures.
- Invite people to visit ALM's website for information about leprosy: www.leprosy.org.
- Pray that people around the world with leprosy will be healed in body and spirit. Pray that God will use you for this special project.

