

Lydia Children's Fund

A good education is one way to better your life, wherever you live in the world. But for many of the poor people we are in contact with, it can be very hard without some help. For any of the three children below, £12.00 a month from someone like you would enable them to receive an education which could change the course of their life.

Please contact Mildred on 020 8940 1200 or mildred@nlt.org.uk



Ayusha is 9 years old. His father is wheelchair-bound and his mother can only do occasional work in farming and housework. They have very little income and it is difficult to pay for his education. Sponsorship for this boy would make a great difference in the life of the family.



Sarita is 10 years old. Her mother died when she was a baby, and her father left her with her grandmother who is not able to work hard due to poor health. She has a little income from spinning wool, but depends on hand-outs of food. The family really need support to allow Sarita to continue her education.



Amosh, aged 9, lives with his grandparents, who are both leprosy-affected. His mother left because of his father's mental illness, and the small income from his grandfather's work in a button factory is not enough to continue to support Amosh's education.

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To order an Easter bunny please contact us on 020 8940 1200 or info@nlt.org.uk



TC016

£5.50 p&p £0.60



TC002

£7.50 p&p £0.60



TC003

£7.50 p&p £0.60

Please Pray with us

Please continue to pray for Pramod (a man who was badly injured in a serious motorbike accident and is now slowly learning to walk again) and his family.

We have asked for prayer for Pramod before and his health was improving but we recently heard that his son, Bipin, has died as a result of a motorbike accident similar to that suffered by his father. This tragic loss has set Pramod back badly.

The online shop

Many of our products are now in our online shop. Please do visit our website and start ordering!

Help in the office at Richmond is still needed, and we would be thrilled to hear from anyone who would like to spend a few hours a week regularly helping with various administrative tasks, and/or helping at fairs and events locally.

Please ring or email us.

NLT building still under threat

Please remember that our Kathmandu office still faces demolition. We are not sure yet how much money will be needed for the rebuild, but we have started a fund that currently has £2000 in it. Please consider donating towards the new building, or perhaps doing a fundraising event for it.



Thank you very much

SpeakingTeam!

We have a group of four people, Enid, Mildred, Naomi and occasionally Mike who are all happy to form a small team to visit your church, school, club or group and give a talk, drama and/or slides. We do not make a charge for this, but we do like to bring NLT handicrafts to sell!

For Information
Phone Enid on 020 8940 1200,
Email: enid@nlt.org.uk

If you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter by email to save NLT some postage, please let us know by emailing us on: info@nlt.org.uk

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Nepal Leprosy Trust

Changing lives

Eye clinics at Lalgadh boosted by new equipment



The old-fashioned way (courtesy Tom Bradley)

Leprosy is a significant cause of blindness in Nepal and so it is important for our staff to carry out eye tests to check on the level of damage that may have occurred. Up until now we have used old fashioned lens frames, like those in the picture on the left, to test eyesight, but recently a charity called Mission for Vision (M4V), established to set up eye clinics and share the gospel in Africa, has kindly donated some spare eye-testing equipment to Lalgadh. M4V is regularly given spare equipment and glasses from UK opticians and suppliers, when firms merge,

close shops, or update their equipment. Most older optical equipment is robust and will work for decades after it has become unfashionable in the UK high street, and is perfect for use in our situation.

Up until now a phoropter and a lensmeter have arrived safely at Lalgadh, and are already in use at the regular eye clinics. A slit lamp has been dismantled and is starting its journey to Nepal, and a tonometer has joined the queue, waiting to be stripped down and carried out to Nepal.

These items have unusual names, but each time you visit an optician for regular eye testing, you probably have used all of them, without realizing it!

Since we cannot send the accompanying arms and stands for most of this eye equipment (they would be too heavy and expensive to ship to Nepal), our maintenance department improvises. You can see how the phoropter on the left has been attached to an arm previously used for a surgical lamp.



Eye problems are one of the secondary effects of leprosy; but many other people have regular eye problems and need glasses as well. Lalgadh usually refers patients with complicated eye problems to Lahan or Janaki eye hospitals, but with better equipment we can offer more services at Lalgadh.



Lensmeter

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Kunal - a story with hope



Kunal Kumar is six years old and lives with his mother and a younger brother in the Siraha district of Nepal. Kunal is a funny, energetic, happy, caring, and loving little boy; and his mother says that he is highly gifted. He apparently learned to speak at a very young age, and demonstrates his knowledge with great confidence, using vocabulary that would be typical of children 3 or 4 years older than he is. His

teachers all love him and have allowed him to continue in school even when his mother could no longer afford to pay the fees. His mother works hard selling artificial ornaments in the village market, but his father is an alcoholic who gives a lot of trouble to his mother and continues to terrorize the family.

In late 2013, Kunal injured his hand with a small piece of bamboo. This developed into an ulcer, and then the outer fingers on his right hand started to claw. A nodule also appeared, and the people in the community suspected that it might be a cancer. Kunal's mother was impatient and worried for her son, but her husband and other family members would not do anything about it. She took Kunal to a faith healer, who told her that her son was being attacked by a witch, so he chanted mantras to overcome the effects of the witch. She also made offerings to various gods and goddesses, so that her son would heal fast; but all these activities brought no improvement in Kunal's condition. Then a Muslim lady in her village suggested that Kunal should be taken to Lalgadh for the staff there to look at him. She took Kunal and was surprised by the caring way the staff looked after her child.



On 10th March 2014, Kunal was confirmed as having a mild leprosy infection, and was given a six-month course of medicine to deal with it. His mother was counselled about the disease and its effects, and given advice about how to care for her son. She also learned that the clawing of Kunal's fingers was caused by leprosy rather than by the injury from the bamboo. She agreed to allow him to join the two-week self-care training course, and this really helped Kunal to learn exercises to strengthen his hand, and the best ways to help his ulcer to heal. His mother says that the ulcer on his little finger healed due to the self-care activity and she is very happy with the way her son has improved. Like so many other people whose lives have been affected by leprosy, Kunal and his mother still face many challenges, but at least they know where to find help if they need it.

Do please pray for this little family

NLT Nepal

Mike visited Nepal in December. It is like going home for him, as many of the NLT staff he knew while living there, are still working in NLT today.

There are always challenges for the work and the demolition of the main office in Kathmandu is one of those, but it has still not happened - perhaps it won't....we keep praying.

At Lalgadh the work is growing both inside the Centre and outside in the community. There are now many groups of people affected by leprosy in the villages, successfully working together to reduce the stigma of this terrible disease and to prevent disability.

Dr Clugston and his wife are in Australia while their new visas are being arranged, and Dr Hugh Cross also needs a new visa soon. Please pray.

Future Events in 2015



9th May, Richmond Fair



13th June, Ham Fair



20th June, Strawberry Tea



11th July, St. Margarets Fair



19th September, sponsored walk in Richmond Park

Marking World Leprosy Day

We were a bit late because World Leprosy Day was officially on 25th January, but we wanted to do something to mark the occasion. A meal and a presentation in Ham Christian



Centre seemed a good way to do it. Quite a few NLT friends came along, and those of you who didn't missed some delicious soup and an update on all the wonderful things going on in NLT Nepal. At Lalgadh in 2014, we had over 80,000 visits to our services; people with leprosy, people with other skin problems, people injured in road accidents, and lots of people who were just ill or hurt. Lalgadh was built 20 years ago as a little leprosy centre and was never expected to handle this level of patient demand. But people need help, and they like our services, and so we do our best. Lalgadh is now one of the busiest leprosy centres in the world.

Please keep praying for the work there.

Christmas at Lalgadh Hospital

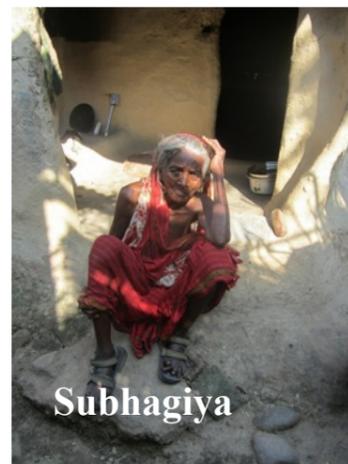
Graeme and Meena Clugston, along with all the staff at Lalgadh, put on a wonderful Christmas for the patients there, young and old...

Many of the patients couldn't undo their presents themselves, because their fingers don't work properly - so they had to be helped - but that didn't spoil the fun.

They played games, had lots to eat, and also had a little Christmas service to remind them of where all the love and care comes from - our Faithful Heavenly Father.



Adopt a Grandparent



Subhagiya

In the last newsletter, we highlighted the very hard lives that some elderly people, damaged by leprosy, face as a result of poverty and lack of family support. They want to be independent, but are not strong enough to work to support themselves. Traditional family support networks are becoming weaker in Nepal, just like here, and so NLT helps where it can. Poverty and leprosy have taken so much from these people, so we would like to make things a little better by giving them a small income to make sure they have enough food and basic clothing.

The team at Lalgadh have worked out that £20 a month would be an appropriate amount to cover food, with some left over for clothes, and would allow people like Subhagiya (shown in the photo) to live with more dignity. Perhaps you could join with someone else in supporting one person between you. Do consider it; as Jesus said, "...when you did it for one of the least of these my brethren, you did it for me" (Matthew ch25 v40).

Please contact us on 020 8940 1200, or email us at info@nlt.org.uk

Thank you.