

Mission Lines

“For I was hungry
and you gave me
something to eat, I
was thirsty and you
gave me something to
drink, I was a stranger
and you invited me
in. *Mt. 25:35 (NIV)*”

24th Mar, 2019 An occasional newsletter of mission news and activities

No.45

THE LEPROSY MISSION IN NIGER

In April 2018 Jenny Foster came to BRBC and told us of the Leprosy Mission (TLM) appeal for Niger. At the end of 2018, the figure raised totalled £186,000. This has enabled TLM Niger to really make a difference.

Two new wells have been constructed and a new secondary school has been commenced with 2 classrooms and separate toilets already erected and in operation. This has meant that teenage girls as well as boys can continue their education. Vocational Training has been instituted and also community visits to identify local needs.

Here are a few stories to encourage. These come as a result of a visit by a member of TLM England and Wales to monitor what is being achieved.

Thank you to BRBC for being a part of this life changing work.

Danja Community Visits

Hawwa Harouna is a 60-year-old widow with leprosy for whom a house was built. She has three children and 11 grandchildren. Her life took a catastrophic turn 15 months ago when her old house (made of mud) collapsed due to rains. Around that same time her husband, who also had leprosy, died. It was at that point that TLM-Niger stepped in and the house in the picture was built for her. The house and the latrine (with the blue door in the background) were completed in March 2018.



Hawwa's new house

Habsou, Mariama and Saoude are grandmother, mother and daughter. Mariama has been to vocational Training School where she has learned to be a seamstress. She has been provided with a sewing machine and she now sells clothes to the community. However, she would like to learn additional, different skills which would help her earn more money. She can now provide for her mother and daughter and maybe Saoude will be able to realise her ambition to be a nurse.

Vocational Training

Ayoubia is 24 years old and lives in Danja. Both his father and mother have leprosy. He has 19 siblings (his father has two wives). He left school after primary school and was selling water at the street corner. He started vocational training and has 1 more year to go. He is training to be a motor-



Mariama sewing

bike mechanic, and is especially interested in being an engine expert. Although his training is not finished yet, people come to him to get their motorbikes repaired.

25 young people are selected to receive vocational training for three to four years, full time. The training is usually via an apprenticeship to become an electrician, bike mechanic, carpenter or tailor. Each apprenticeship is arranged individually.

Danja Secondary School

Danja Secondary School used to have classrooms made of straw, which got destroyed by the rains each year and had to be rebuilt. This also meant the school year was dictated by the rains – if the rains started early, school would have to finish early. TLM-Niger is building two classrooms each year (a total of 6 in 3 years). The first two classrooms and a toilet block have been built in 2018, and is now ready for the new school year (term starts in October). The classrooms are built with passive ventilation principles and accessible. They are considerably cooler inside than any other building. TLM-Niger have delivered really good quality here!

GREETINGS FROM NATHAN AND ROSE*

Nathan and Rose are working amongst internally displaced families in an Asian country. They continue to be thankful to God for all His provisions to them. During the colder winter months they decided to introduce a project called " child-to-child " in the two areas where they are operating. Since most people are illiterate they sit with them, show pictures and explain the ideas. Subjects such as personal hygiene, the importance of clean water, diarrhoea prevention, proper care of eyes, ears and teeth, how flies transmit diseases and village cleanliness are all part of the program. The idea is that children pass on the information to others in their families since it is not possible for all children to attend the courses. Now that spring is not far off they are also starting a kitchen garden project, whereby vegetables the beneficiaries have chosen will be planted and grown underneath clear plastic tunnels. Again, the goal is that those who do not have this knowledge pass along the ideas to others in the communities. They are grateful to three donors who have expressed an interest in helping with the funding of this work. Please pray for the relationships they are making with potential donors for their work.

(*Nathan and Rose are pseudonyms to protect anonymity in a sensitive situation.)

NEWS FROM LIU LIU AND TEARFUND

Liu Liu is thankful to those who were praying for his trip back in January to Tanzania and Zambia. In both countries solar units are being introduced into households in areas where there is no electricity. In Tanzania the project had already been going for six months and there were already signs of good results.

Tearfund's partner, the Diocese of the Rift Valley has set up self-help groups in a number of villages, initially to save for shares in local small businesses. Later they began to save for solar power in member's homes. A group member is encouraged to save 50% of the price of the system, then once they have saved enough, they will receive a solar panel, a battery and five lights and will pay back the remaining 50% in instalments.

When we visited a couple of the villages, we were warmly received and villagers shared how grateful they are for the light that has come to them. They no longer have to buy expensive kerosene for lamps, children can read and study in the evening, they feel safer with light in the house, they can keep businesses open for longer each day and can think about starting other

kinds of businesses . Before the solar panels came to the village it was dark at around 6pm making it impossible to carry out many jobs or activities during the evenings. Now both the economic and the environmental situation has changed dramatically for the better.

Liu Liu can forward the full report to anyone interested in seeing it.



Light enables Paulina to cook in the evening

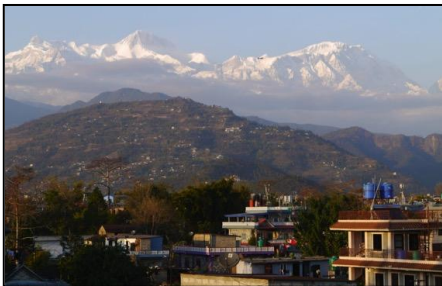


The panels that provide the light

NEWS FROM NEPAL

Breaking the cycle of poverty

Kalikot, a mountainous area in NW Nepal is one of the country's poorest regions - a place where it is hard for people to grow enough food for their families. INF has started working with communities in Kalikot to identify what practical changes are needed to break the cycle of poverty. But it is not just the practical help that makes a difference to peoples' lives. Often prejudice, stigma and discrimination create hopelessness for disadvantaged people. True transformation happens when hearts and minds change; learning to work together regardless of caste, gender or abilities. Funds given so far mean the work in Kalikot can go ahead from July; it will benefit 15,000 people. Pray for the INF staff who seek to bring God's Kingdom with its salt and light to the communities. As Christians in a Hindu kingdom they depend very much on God's wisdom and protection.



Management at Green Pastures

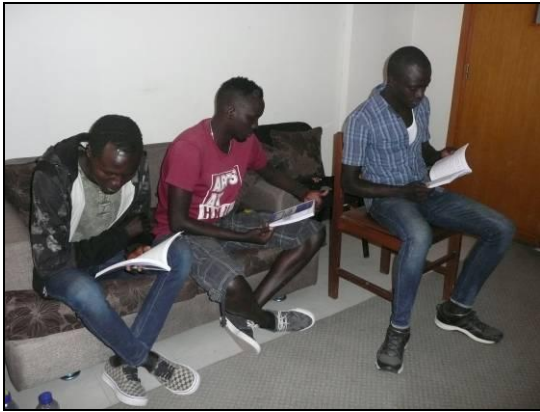
The hospital administrator is asking that you pray this month for a breakthrough in visa negotiations. Although there are only very few visa posts at INF, getting the visas granted is still a difficult and time-consuming processes.

The fight against leprosy continues...

At the end of March colleagues in Surkhet will run another health camp, together with staff from a rural health post. The aim is to detect new cases of leprosy whilst sharing knowledge and expertise with local healthcare professionals. The camp will run from 31 March to 2 April, so please pray for it.

BIBLE TRANSLATION WORK IN ETHIOPIA

The Bench Translation Team – Praise God for the provision of a new computer and that the new translation related programmes were able to be installed. Pray that the team may quickly get used to using the new machine and software and that they will be able to make good progress with the consistency checking process.



The Suri Team reading Genesis



Samuel getting used to the team's new computer

God's Word ready for other groups – Genesis has recently been printed in the Suri language and New Testaments have arrived for the Xamtanga people of northern Ethiopia and the Shekacho people of the south west. Pray for the dedication celebrations and that these scriptures will lead to transformation in many lives.

Continue to pray for our other friends involved in mission work overseas:-

Cally Magalhaes – The Eagle Project, Brazil – Pray for Cally coming to terms with the death of her father. Pray that the psychotherapy sessions in the adult women's prison will be able to start again soon. Cally will be visiting Horsham and BRBC in July.

Claire Bedford – Praise for the renewal of her visa in time for her to come to UK for her sister's wedding. Pray for continued health and strength for her busy and challenging role at Guinebor II Hospital in Chad. Pray for opportunities to encourage her Chadian colleagues in their Christian faith.

Peter and Louise Lynch – Praise for the granting of their Missionary Visas and pray that their longer term visas will be granted soon. Pray for them as they travel to many parts of Bangladesh encouraging the leaders of Baptist Churches in the country in different ways. Pray for the Christians in the country to remain strong in their faith in sometimes challenging circumstances.

Tara Geoghehan – Pray for Tara as she takes up the final challenge of her year of investigating issues facing the world today. From Vietnam she will travel to Australia to be involved in a project there. Pray that the Lord will give her the necessary strength and energy to complete the year well and that He will guide her as she processes all that she has experienced and guide her as to how she can use she has learned in the future.

If you have a news item for inclusion in the next edition of Mission Lines, send it to mission@brbc-horsham.org.uk