

## Another interesting opportunity

You may remember that last year we mentioned “An interesting opportunity”, when a trust that had supported NLT in the past invited us to take part in an initiative to encourage charities like NLT to find new sources of funding. It offered to double all donations received from new donors, subject to some conditions.

That same trust recently informed us that it plans to close down in early 2023, after 25 years of successful grant-making. Before it closes, it has decided to run a final ‘Matched Funding Offer’ and is prepared to double (or “more than double” it hopes), all new donations given to NLT up to 31 December, subject to:

- Donations must come from a person, company or charity that has not supported NLT before;
- The minimum single donation that will be matched is £500; and the total it will match is up to £20,000;
- It will not match funds coming from fundraising (e.g. coffee mornings) or sponsored events.

The aim is to encourage us to find new support from organizations or philanthropists in our local area, although new support from trusts or from further afield will still be matched.

Last year, sharing about the previous opportunity prompted a thrilling donation of £5000 from a new trust, which was eligible to be matched. This has been used to support NLT’s Village Alive and prevention of disability work in Nepal. And it also led to a later donation from another trust, which, although too late to be matched, was very welcome.

As we have been asked to take part in this trust’s final initiative, we think it is worthwhile pursuing it.

We would be grateful for your prayers as we consider who to approach. And if you have any suggestions, we would be grateful for those too. It is not easy to initiate meaningful new connections without an introduction.



NLT Trustee Sue Wells receiving the gift from the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

## A new X-ray machine is coming...

The X-ray department at Lalgadh has been struggling since the control panel of its old American machine packed up beyond repair. The second machine is an old Indian unit which is not fully effective now. So we were delighted to receive a gift of nearly £13,000 from the **St Lazarus Charitable Trust** which has a special focus on leprosy. St Lazarus members raised this money for a new X-ray machine for the team at Lalgadh. It is enough to purchase a portable and modern Indian unit that can back up the existing machine, take X-rays of patients who cannot move about, and support orthopedic surgical work in the operating theatre.

*Thank you so much to the St Lazarus Charitable Trust.*

## Encouragement in our Village Alive Programme

As many will know, NLT’s Village Alive project works with Dalit communities in extreme poverty, to bring about change and improvement in health, education, employment, sanitation, and village mindset, so that community members learn how to work together to bring positive change to their community.

This year has seen an unexpected breakthrough in that ten members of VAP groups - 5 men and 5 women - were elected to ward leadership positions in recent local elections. This gives a new voice to these Dalit communities and is a very significant development.

We have also heard that two of the VAP Rural Health Facilitators, who are chosen by their community for this important role, are Maithili Christian ladies! This is almost a miracle in such conservative Hindu communities. Please pray for these two ladies in their new role and also for those elected to ward leadership.



A Rural Health Facilitator taking Mike Winterburn’s blood pressure

## Flower Batik Cards



Price: £1.25  
each plus p&p  
(4½" x 6"  
approx)

10 or more will  
be reduced to  
£1.10 plus p&p

Please send your order requests to: [info@nlt.org.uk](mailto:info@nlt.org.uk) or ring 020 8940 1200

## Alternative gifts - small but practical helps



sandals £6

food £25

ducklings £10

goat £70

blanket £18

chickens £10

sewing machine £80

dressings £35

The Alternative Gift opportunity that we developed last Christmas has raised just over £600 so far and bought (or is buying) patient food, ducklings, chickens, patient sandals, PRF dressings for wound care, warm blankets, a sewing machine, and goats. We have had some encouraging stories back. Here are a few:



Chandra is 80 years of age and is leprosy affected and disabled, and lives alone. He is dependent on a small old-age allowance, and some assistance from Lalgadh hospital. He was surprised and grateful when the community team gave him ten ducklings, and he will raise them until they are big enough to sell, buy some more, and make some savings along the way.



Phulmaya is affected by leprosy and lives in Dhanusha by herself. She struggles in many areas but was delighted to be able to receive two big chickens. She aims to breed from them and sell chicks in the local market. She believes this will make her more independent, and increase her self respect and improve her life a bit.



Binata is a 16 year-old-girl from a leprosy affected family who are Dalits. Binata herself is not affected by leprosy, but has speech and some learning difficulties. She was so happy when she was given 10 ducklings and, like Chandra, plans to raise them, and then sell them and buy some more, and then do the same again. In this way she can help her family financially and feel more useful.

Thank you to everyone who has supported people affected by leprosy in this way.