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Dear Friends of Nepal Leprosy Trust,

Firstly, our apologies for the home-printed and smaller format newsletter. Time has got away from us for a shiny big one, but we hope this will not disappoint too much!

This year, NLT celebrated 50 years of serving people in Nepal, and we wanted to say a special “thank you” to you all for your care, encouragement, support and prayers throughout 2022. Although not without its challenges and sadness, it has been a good year for the work, and has seen progress in the projects in Nepal, with our colleagues there working hard to keep everything going strongly.

Although there is still some COVID around, and Dengue fever has been a problem, things in Nepal have normalised and this year has seen a steady increase in patient numbers so that there is likely to have been over 100,000 patient visits to Lalgadh by the year-end. This has reflected in the income from the non-leprosy cases who pay a small amount for their treatment, which helps cover about half of the running costs of the outpatient department. This is a very significant input, since all our leprosy work is provided free of charge (apart from a token footwear charge).

This year has seen significant improvements to the laboratory facilities at Lalgadh with the support of NLT Ireland, and the approval of a second USAID ASHA project with the support of American Leprosy Missions to develop further infrastructure improvements, including a new operating theatre and research and training facilities. This is becoming more important as Lalgadh is increasingly recognised by other national organizations as a good place to run training courses, and the current facilities are no longer adequate. The fifth Village Alive programme started in October 2021 and is doing well, with much recognition from local authorities and leaders, at a district and provincial level. This project, along with the Momentum Club, Jagruti (awareness) and Socio-Economic Rehabilitation (SER) projects are all having a positive impact in extremely poor and deprived communities, reducing poverty, changing attitudes, and improving health outcomes - particularly for women and children and people affected directly by leprosy. Some of this work has funds provided through grants, but some areas, especially the SER and self-help group work, rely on gifts from our supporters to achieve the good outcomes that we see.



As you are aware, our long-time medical director at Lalgadh, Dr Graeme Clugston, had to return to Australia for cancer treatment. He has received six cycles of chemotherapy and is doing quite well.

Thank you for your prayers for Graeme and his wife Meena, they appreciate the support from family, friends and NLT connections. At the same time, we have been impressed with how well the team at Lalgadh has continued to provide the leadership and commitment needed to meet the needs of the many people coming for help. We honour the doctors, nurses and all the staff at Lalgadh, who work so hard to achieve all this, with dedication and compassionate care.

A particularly poignant moment this year was the unexpected death in July of our dear brother Bharat Pandhit at Lalgadh. He was a champion of people affected by leprosy, having experienced its damage and stigma himself; and our hearts continue to go out to his wife Sarita and their two sons.

We are also thankful for all the hard work done by our colleagues in Kathmandu: in support of the organisation, in negotiating with the many government offices, in overseeing the child support programme and other social care programmes, in supporting visitors, and in answering our many enquiries from the UK. Do please pray for our CEO Kamal Shrestha, his team, and the Executive Board members as they lead NLT in Nepal into the next 5-year agreement and all that God has for us in the future.

Our heartfelt thanks to you all, and a special thank you to those who pray regularly, who organise prayer groups and sales for NLT, who sponsor children and who have generously given towards NLT’s work in Nepal.

*We wish you a very
blessed and joy-filled Christmas*

*And a
Happy New Year!*

From all at NLT

Mike, Enid, Alan and the Trustees

