It is my pleasure to present this overview of the work of The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship in 2017. We strive to see this ancient disease of leprosy defeated and the lives of those we work with transformed; people like Kayana in Mozambique and Thein in Myanmar, whose stories you will read in this review.

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However, if we are to see ‘leprosy defeated and lives transformed’, there is still much to be done. From 2019 we will be implementing a new five year Global Strategy where we will be reviewing how we work in order to maximise our impact in the lives of people and families affected by leprosy. I look forward to sharing more about this at a later date.

Thank you for your partnership, support and prayers.

With God’s blessing,

Brent Morgan
, International Director
We resolve to be an organisation well-resourced in prayer, funds, partnerships and people, with all member countries implementing fundraising strategies for significant income growth.

Across The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship we raise resources to enable us to serve people affected by leprosy. These include children with leprosy like Akifah.

AKIFAH was diagnosed with leprosy very late and suffered severe clawing of her hands and feet as a result. She represents many thousands of children worldwide who need curing of their leprosy and potentially, like Akifah, surgery to correct their disabilities.

With her and her mother’s permission, Akifah became the subject of a successful Christmas Appeal on behalf of children affected by leprosy in six TLM Global Fellowship countries. This degree of fundraising cooperation is a new innovation and bodes well for the future of Resource Mobilisation in The Leprosy Mission.

However, the volunteer dispelled these fears and Kayana now understands that if she takes her medication and looks after her hands and feet through regular self-care, she can prevent disability. She has joined the local self-care group and regularly soaks her hands and feet to protect them and is encouraged to keep doing this by the other group members. The Leprosy Mission also supports a savings and farming group in the village and Kayana is considering joining that to help learn more about agriculture and save small amounts of money for a rainy day.

With consistent efforts and follow-up, Ramawati has also received a ration card. The women are now strongly advocating for toilets, the most urgent need of the present time. The Leprosy Mission has also been providing medical care for 16 people affected by leprosy in the village who were diagnosed as a result of our initiatives.

"I never used to speak up," says Ramawati. "I had no information about my entitlements. I have been able to access housing facilities because of the information I received from self-help group meetings."

THEIN used to farm betel nuts and vegetables, but has been unable to do this for the last 10 years due to disability. His hands have become clawed and his feet are damaged as a result of leprosy. He also has sight loss due to an accident when he was 18 years old.

In the aftermath of cyclone Nargis, in 2008, Thein was put in contact with TLM Myanmar. At Mawlamyine Hospital his feet were treated and through TLM Myanmar’s projects he got checked once a month for ulcer care. He was given a Prevention of Impairment and Disability kit containing cream, gauze and other materials to help protect him from injuries leading to further disability.

Now, with the help of a 100,000 kyat microcredit loan from TLM Myanmar, Thein is able to make his livelihood as a basket weaver. He cuts bamboo strips for three days and then weaves baskets for three days. In a six day period he can produce 30-40 baskets, which he stockpiles before selling so he can get a good price. Before this loan he needed to take local loans and was always paying back interest. Now he can make straight profits of 68,000 kyat per month and spend the money on his child.

We aim to see marginalised people realising their worth and empowered to overcome challenges.

We work to influence change in attitudes so that communities no longer stigmatise or discriminate against people affected by leprosy or disability.

We resolve to be an organisation that integrates new medical, social and fundraising knowledge into our policies and practices and shares it with others.

We are part of the Leprosy Research Initiative, which provides a global fund to support leprosy-related research.

Our research covers a wide spectrum of topics – immunology; mapping, clinical trials; surgical impact studies; social research, and lots more. In 2017, The Leprosy Mission conducted 41 separate research projects, some of them including multiple studies.

One project brought together leprosy workers from seven countries, including our three TLM research centres in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. Their purpose: to develop and validate a Severity Scale for Erythema Nodosum Leprosum (ENL). ENL is a type of leprosy reaction, a serious complication of leprosy which leads to impairment, disability and pain. It can occur before, during or after a person has been cured of leprosy through a course of multi-drug therapy. This is the first reliable method of measuring its severity. While treatment for leprosy reactions is available, there are still challenges, and research into this debilitating condition provides us with tools that help us give the best possible treatment to each individual. We are committed to finding better ways to treat leprosy reactions and engaging with policy makers to make them available.

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Brent Morgan, International Director

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You can find our full trustees report and financial statement on our website.

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2017 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME
TOTAL £30,490,000

Funds raised in field countries 26%
Private donations 37%
Government grants 15%
Legacies 15%
TSM trading 1%
Investments and other 4%
Other donor organisations 5%

EXPENDITURE
TOTAL £29,009,000

Projects 67%
Fundraising 13%
Education and publicity 3%
Administration and support 13%

Our Vision
Leprosy defeated, lives transformed

Our Mission
Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission seeks to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Our Values
Because we follow Jesus Christ, we value compassion, justice, integrity, inclusion and humility.