

WORLD LEPROSY DAY

JANUARY 30, 2011
WORLDLEPROSYDAYUSA.ORG

American Leprosy Missions is the oldest and largest Christian organization in the United States devoted to restoring the lives of people affected by leprosy worldwide through holistic cure and care.

- World Leprosy Day has been celebrated around the world since 1954. This day provides an opportunity to publicize the fact that leprosy is curable. World Leprosy Day also raises awareness that leprosy continues to devastate hundreds of thousands of lives around the world.
- Anti-leprosy organizations, churches, governments and other advocacy groups from more than 100 countries worldwide will join together in prayer for World Leprosy Day. If you and your congregation would like to join in this important effort, please visit worldleprosydayusa.org to download the free materials for participation. Or, call 1.800.543.3135 to have these materials mailed to you.
- People and families affected by leprosy are often ostracized by their communities. Not only does this disease cause blindness, deformities and disabilities, it also carries a powerful social stigma that often leads to abandonment by family, friends and neighbors. Leprosy robs its victims of hope, dignity and livelihood.
- It is estimated that more than 10 million suffer from the effects of leprosy today, with as many as 300,000 more people in need of treatment each year - 10% of those suffering are small children. These children are especially vulnerable and are more likely to suffer malnutrition, lack of education and sexual abuse.
- The average cost to cure someone of leprosy is \$300. A complete cure includes medicine as well as reconstructive surgery, orthopedic devices, rehabilitation and socio-economic support through micro-credit and educational opportunities.



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