

As we sit by our fires, comforted by the twinkling Christmas lights, we're reminded of how Jesus came as the light of the world. He came to bring comfort and He came to show love and compassion to those in need. He came for each one of us, no matter our circumstances.

As we reflect on this gift of Emmanuel, it's so wonderful to know that God is with us! Through the good times and through the bad. As a family we have faced many trials this year. My dear wife Mary is going through a second run of chemotherapy. We believed her cancer was cured after six months of treatment but sadly this is not the case. The battle continues.

Yet we know that God is with us! And whatever you're facing right now, He's with you too. I'm always so comforted by knowing you are there as well. You continually stand with us as we serve old and young alike. When we need funds, you bridge the gap. When we need prayer, you get on your knees with us. Thank you so much!

As 2025 approaches, we live in faith that God will provide all of our needs through His people. I'd like to share some of these needs with you, so you can prayerfully consider if you are able to help. From Bibles to children's clothes, to wells and plants - together we can make a real difference, one person at a time.

May you know God's richest blessing this Christmas.

Thank you for standing with us,

*Victor and Mary*

Victor Parisipogula  
Director  
Brighter Future India

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## **YOU'VE HELPED US TO REAP A HARVEST!**

**Thanks to your generosity, we've had a wonderful harvest here!**

At Shanti Nivas Children's village young and old rolled their sleeves up and joined in to work the land! We're passionate about sustainable farming, for self-sufficiency, cost savings and of course improved nutrition. Your compassion enabled us to buy a wide variety of fruit and vegetables. Children helped in groups, led by a member of the staff team. Together they are learning and growing alongside the plants they nurture.

A communal effort creates a sense of ownership and responsibility. Our Sunshine Home ladies also joined in with managing the land. These 14 ladies live on the campus. Sadly they have been rejected by their families because of HIV, but we have created a family environment for them alongside the children.

They are very active in helping on the farm with everything from weeding, to laying manure, to cleaning the cow sheds. It's wonderful to see their dedication to looking after the children in this way.

And together, just look at what has been achieved! Mangoes, jackfruit, sapodillas, so many varieties of fruit and vegetables!

The children are encouraged to pick and eat the fruit as they wish, and containers of goodness are driven down the road to the Rainbow Home too.

**Thank you so much for making this possible. It really is a gift that will keep on giving!**





## WELCOMING PREMA

We're delighted to have a new, and very experienced leader at Shanti Nivas Children's Village. Prema (which means love!) is from the local town of Vizianagaram and was a trustee of Brighter Future for years. Prema originally trained as a physiotherapist but has spent the last decade working with disabled children. It is evident watching her interact with little ones on campus, that she has a real heart for children.



"The best thing about Shanti Nivas is the amazing location. There's so much green space for the children to play in. The children have everything they need for a lovely life.

The one thing we lack is Christian support, we really need Bibles and Christian children's books. As a Sunday School teacher, this is so important to me. We don't really have any books at all. One day I'd love to have a library and encourage everyone to read more."

Prema is determined that every child has the best chance of academic success. She has evening chat groups so students can share anything they're struggling with, and tutors come in every day. With over 100 children to look after, Prema has a huge job! Please pray she has eyes to see and ears to hear individual needs in the busyness of her role.

**Will you help Prema to share the love of Jesus with the children? A colour children's bible in the local language costs £5!**

## PICKFORD MEMORIAL HOSPICE

Also on the Shanti Nivas campus is Pickford Memorial Healthcare Centre. In the last 12 months, your generosity has provided care for almost 300 people suffering with HIV or the effects of leprosy. One of these people is Trinadh. The team found this man living rough near some temples, 40 miles away. He doesn't know how old he is, and as I'm sure you can imagine, is probably younger than the years of struggle etched on his face.

Trinadh (pictured) remembers happiness as he recalls getting married and having a son. But that was a lifetime ago, 25 years he says. When leprosy struck, discrimination and fear meant he had to leave his little family, and his heart broke. Trinadh spends his days begging at local temples, hoping that worshippers will take pity on him and give him some food or spare change. The days are long and hot and dirty. There is no way to keep clean, and there is no dignity.



On top of all this, leprosy damaged the nerves in Trinadh's hands and feet. He couldn't feel anything. Cuts became infected and then ulcerated. When we found him, what was left of every finger was an open wound. He was emaciated and badly needed care.

Your kindness meant that we could treat Trinadh's ulcerated fingers and feet, provide a safe place to recover, and help him to start gaining weight. It's so sad that he has no home and no family, but we will ensure that he has a place to stay at Brighter Future. When he is well enough, he can work in the Shanti Nivas campus. "I want to stay here" he says. **Thank you for being the family Trinadh needs.**

## **BUILDING FUTURES THROUGH EDUCATION**

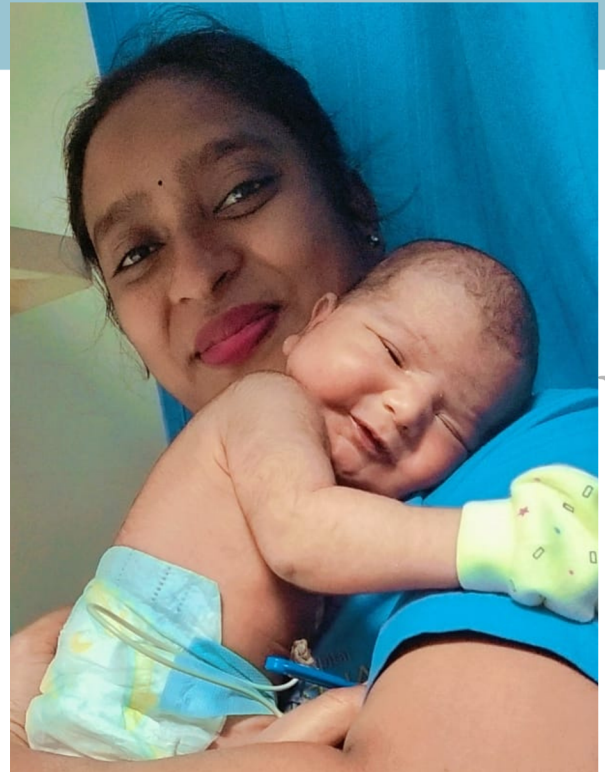
Thanks to you, there are currently 20 children at university, 19 at college and five learning vocational skills in plumbing, electrics and tailoring. Thank you if you currently support a young person through higher education. This remains one of our biggest costs, but it is vital that together we continue to provide every opportunity for the children to thrive in the future.

Uma (pictured right in maternity unit) is just one of so many success stories. She was born into a family affected by HIV, and lost both her parents at a very young age. If the grief and heartache wasn't enough, she was left to fend for herself on the streets. Orphaned and hungry, Uma was in a desperate state and very frightened. Thankfully an outreach worker found Uma and brought her to the Rainbow Children's Home. It took lots of love and kindness for Uma's emotional wounds to heal, but slowly her smile returned.

A compassionate person just like you sponsored Uma, and let her know that she was loved and valued. Uma grew in confidence and decided that her circumstances would not define her.

With unwavering determination, she began to dream about becoming a nurse. Uma worked hard at school and did well in all her exams. She obtained a B.Sc. in Nursing, marking the culmination of years of hard work and perseverance.

**Right now, we are struggling to cover college costs. £302 funds fees, uniform, books and transport for a student. Would you like to build an amazing future for a young person today?**



Her journey continued as she gained invaluable experience at Medcover Hospital, where she was able to refine her skills and gain recognition for her exemplary service. Uma is currently working as a nurse in one of the city's finest hospitals. Her journey from loss and emptiness to becoming a respected healthcare professional is a testament to the transformative power of your love and support.

Uma's story inspires hope and highlights the remarkable achievements possible when our children know that you believe in them.

## **VISIT BRIGHTER FUTURE!**

**Would you like to visit Brighter Future with Louise and see the difference you are making? The next supporter visit is being planned for October 2025. If you'd like to register your interest, please email [info@brighterfuture.org.uk](mailto:info@brighterfuture.org.uk)**

**Because of the rural location and basic facilities, we're disappointed to say that we're unable to provide accommodation accessible for people with disabilities.**





## HOPE FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY

Your compassion enables Brighter Future to work in 55 leprosy colonies in Andhra Pradesh. Next year, the team is planning to expand into 71 colonies in Odisha State. In 2024, thanks to your support, we found 200 new cases of leprosy.

### **FAST TREATMENT PREVENTS DISABILITY**

Curing leprosy just takes a course of three antibiotics called Multidrug therapy. But getting the cure quickly is vital.

Delaying treatment means the bacteria attacks nerves, robbing people of feeling in hands and feet. Cuts, blisters and burns from everyday activities become infected and often ulcerate. Sometimes amputation is the only way to stop the infection from spreading.

Fingers also start to lose dexterity, bending into palms like a claw. This means you can't hold a tool to work, a pen to write at school, or even do basic things like cooking. Leprosy can also stop eyes blinking, which leads to more infection and blindness. So, you can see why we need your support find and treat people quickly.



Hands disabled by leprosy

### **EMOTIONAL WOUNDS ARE THE HARDEST TO HEAL**

Fear and misconceptions about leprosy mean that even today, people with the disease can face terrible discrimination. Rejection and isolation are sadly far too common for so many. Can you imagine the heartache of being thrown out of your family and losing all that you hold dear?

## REVIVING HEALTH, FUTURES AND HOPE IN ODISHA

In partnership with The Leprosy Mission

Our team conducted extensive research on the desperate state of people living across a hundred leprosy colonies in Odisha. The results were harrowing. Malnutrition, lack of healthcare, no clean water, and no outside help since the 1990s.

We shared the report with The Leprosy Mission, and in July, CEO Peter Waddup, and Louise Timmins joined us on a field visit to see the needs for themselves. They were shocked to find people living in the worst conditions they had witnessed in their combined 30 years of working with leprosy communities.

Together with local government, The Leprosy Mission, and funders in the UK, we are planning to improve living conditions for people in desperate need. Starting in two regions in 2025, it is hoped that successes can be replicated across further areas in Odisha State in years to come.



Peter chatting to elderly lady disabled by leprosy

## WHERE IS ODISHA?

Odisha is located in Eastern India. It is the eighth-largest state by area, and the eleventh-largest by population, with over 41 million inhabitants. The state also has the third-largest population of Scheduled Tribes in India. We're going to be working in Baragarh and Bolangir.

Over 30% of people here live below the poverty line. Many rely on hand to mouth farming and life is extremely hard. This impacts females in particular, with high numbers of teenage marriages and low literacy at 63%.

Leprosy is a disease of poverty, so it is no surprise that cases in Odisha are double the national average. Stigma and discrimination are experienced by everyone affected by the disease. They are not, for example, allowed on public transport. They can only marry within leprosy communities, and second generation from the colonies struggle to find work.



## WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

### 1. Provide wound/ulcer care and protective footwear

People with open wounds on their feet are currently wrapping them in dirty rags. To prevent infection, sterilisation and dressing packs need to be provided. There is a volunteer (Dama, right) affected by leprosy himself in one of the colonies who knows how to dress ulcers and would like to share this skill with others. In addition, protective footwear is needed to prevent injury to feet with no feeling. Currently people are either walking barefoot or with badly fitting/broken flip flops.



### 2. Build houses and toilets

Houses across the colonies are on the verge of collapse. Rooves are either crumbling asbestos or torn sheets of plastic. During the monsoon season, flooding means residents end up living in a corner of what is already a very cramped space.



There are no toilets, which means walking out into fields is the only option. "It's so dark here at night. I have a little torch, but I hate going into the jungle on my own. I struggle on the uneven ground. There are cobras. Big ones. I also find it hard to clean myself." Sunita, age 65, told us.

It's very hard in the daytime for females to find privacy to relieve themselves, particularly in larger colonies. In general the lack of toilets also increases infection and disease. In the rainy season, flooded fields and land means walking through sewage. This is a huge risk if you have open wounds.





### 3. Provide borewells for clean water

Safe, clean water for drinking and washing is the first step in preventing disease. The communities in this project either have to collect water from a river, in which they also wash, or have broken borewells in their village.

They shared how hard it was to carry heavy jugs of water long distances with disabled hands. Many could only manage to walk to the river every three days, and were ashamed that they couldn't wash regularly. In monsoon, vomiting and diarrhoea are a huge issue, made worse by the lack of toilets. Kidney infections are also common. We need to provide submersible motorised pumps for broken borewells, and concrete surrounds to prevent contamination of water during monsoon.



### 4. Develop Livelihoods and sustainable food sources

The elderly colony residents who are disabled by leprosy rely on begging for food. They walk five to six kilometres in the early morning to town before it gets too hot. There is never any breakfast, so they walk on empty stomachs and hope that someone will give them some rice. "It's very hot and sometimes I struggle to walk because my balance isn't very good. If I am very lucky, I can earn 100 rupees in a day. Sometimes I may get a bag of rice from someone. They don't come near me. People throw a coin at me." Chahalla said. Across the communities, residents explained that they usually had one bowl of rice a day and could only buy vegetables once every four days. Meat was too expensive for them.

We want to enable leprosy communities with land to purchase and grow vegetable and fruit crops. Cows, goats and chickens will also be provided, along with training in animal husbandry. Second generation will be encouraged to help care for the land and animals.

### 5. Improve leprosy awareness and case detection

There is currently no case detection work happening in these regions, and very little awareness even within the leprosy colonies themselves. Leprosy champions need to be trained to recognise the early signs of leprosy and refer people to be cured. This will reduce the spread of leprosy and also prevent disability caused by delayed diagnosis and treatment.

**Please join us in praying that God will bless this new work.**

## A LITTLE REMINDER

Hopefully you have received a letter to say that we will be closing the Lloyds bank account in the New Year. This is simply to reduce the fees we are paying, so more funds can go directly to India!

If you haven't already changed existing standing orders to the Metro Account (details on the next page), it would be wonderful if you could do this. Thank you so much.

# I'm standing with Brighter Future this Christmas!

- £15 provides an ulcer dressing kit
- £24 cures one person of leprosy
- £50 provides ten children's colour Bibles
- £105 buys two sets of clothes for seven children
- £160 funds vegetable plants and fruit trees for leprosy community
- £302 pays for a year's college fees, uniform, equipment and transport for a young person
- £800 buys a motorised borewell for a leprosy community
- £2,500 (with a match fund of £1,500 from the Indian Government) builds a safe family home and toilet
- My own amount

You can give by sending a cheque to the address below, or directly to **Brighter Future's** bank account:

**BRIGHTER FUTURE INTERNATIONAL, METRO BANK**  
One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA  
Account Number: **3908 9378**, Sort Code: **23-05-80**

## GIFT AID DECLARATION



Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Forename: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish **BRIGHTER FUTURE INTERNATIONAL** to treat

the enclosed donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_

the donation(s) of £ \_\_\_\_\_ which I made on \_\_\_\_\_

and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying **Brighter Future International** in **writing**
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give)
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and/ or capital gains tax equal to that the Charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 1)
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief for yourself in your Self-Assessment tax return
5. Please notify Brighter Future International if you change your name or address. Thank you.

Head Office 1 Charlies Yard, Dyke, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 0GQ  
Telephone: 01778 422701 Email: [info@brighterfuture.org.uk](mailto:info@brighterfuture.org.uk)  
Registered Charity: 1186475

[www.brighterfuture.org.uk](http://www.brighterfuture.org.uk)