

# WHAT IS LEPROSY?

Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease caused by a bacillus called *MYCOBACTERIUM LEPRAE*. It damages the nerves under the skin. Untreated, it can lead to loss of feeling in hands, feet and face. In the absence of pain, injuries can occur, leading to disability.



Before

# HOW DO PEOPLE GET LEPROSY?

Leprosy is not thought to be contracted by touch but by airborne infection. Most people are naturally immune to Leprosy, but some are not. They can develop a mild form of leprosy called TUBERCULOID leprosy. Some who have a very low resistance, can develop a more severe form called LEPROMATOUS leprosy.



After

If you require more information about Leprosy, e.g. posters, leaflets, DVD or video: please write to:-

## The Leprosy Mission

Lagan House  
2a Queen's Road  
Lisburn  
BT27 4TZ

Telephone: (028) 9262 9500

Email: [info@tlm-ni.org](mailto:info@tlm-ni.org)

Visit our website  
[www.leprosymissioninsight.org](http://www.leprosymissioninsight.org)



# LEPROSY WHAT IS IT?

# WHO HAS LEPROSY?

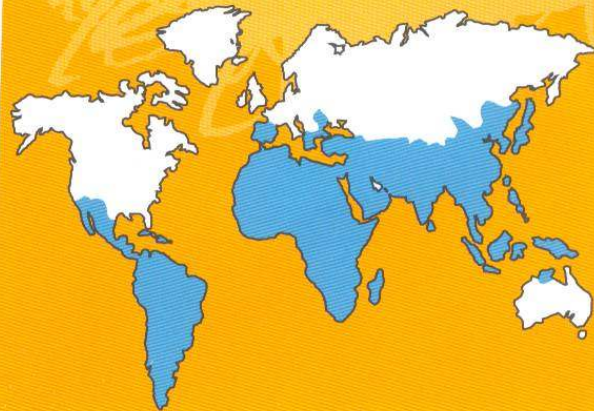
Today there may be as many as 6 million people world wide affected by leprosy with 3 - 4 million of these suffering physical and social problems. Leprosy can affect people of all ages, races and social backgrounds. 90% of all leprosy cases occur in the so-called "less developed" areas of the world.

There is one new case of leprosy every 2 minutes!

# WHERE IS LEPROSY FOUND?

## World Leprosy Map

Coloured section shows higher leprosy area.



# ACTIVITY QUIZ

- 1 What causes leprosy?
- 2 Which parts of the body does leprosy mostly affect?
- 3 Is leprosy a fatal disease?
- 4 Look up the words **CONTAGIOUS** and **INFECTIOUS**. What do they mean? Which type of disease is leprosy?
- 5 How is leprosy spread?
- 6 How many people have leprosy today?
- 7 Name 3 countries where leprosy is found?

# DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1 If you are ill, how can you be helped? If you are very ill where can you go for help?
- 2 Some countries where leprosy is found are very poor. What do you think are some of the problems facing these countries?
- 3 What do you think are some of the problems facing people who have leprosy?  
(a) physically  
(b) socially