


# JOURNEY 3 TRIP 10

## LEPROSY FACT SHEET

These facts about leprosy can be found on the website of The Leprosy Mission that is based in the UK. **www.leprosymission.org**

Fact:

Leprosy is the oldest disease known to man and it is still around today. While most high-income countries are almost completely free of leprosy, the disease still exists in large pockets around the globe. The largest number of cases are found in Asia, Africa, and South America. Around 200,000 people are diagnosed with the disease every year and millions more live with the consequences.

Fact:

Leprosy is simply a bacterial infection transmitted from the environment or an individual. It does not discriminate based on race, gender, class, age, or religion. It has nothing to do with curses or sin.

Fact:

The disease itself does not cause parts of the body to fall off; however, severe inflammatory reactions caused by untreated cuts can lead to amputation.

Fact:

Leprosy affects individuals with weakened immune systems. The disease often spreads in poorer areas due to poor sanitation and nutrition, but it all depends on a person's predisposition and the state of their immune system. It can affect the wealthy as well as the poor.

Fact:

Leprosy is curable with treatment known as multi-drug therapy, or MDT. After receiving MDT for 72 hours, the treatment prevents the disease from spreading and the leprosy is no longer infectious.

Fact:

Leprosy is only a mildly infectious disease that 95 percent of the world's population is already immune to. Leprosy is not easily transmitted and those affected by it are not "untouchable". Once a person has received Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) for 72 hours, they are no longer infectious.


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