

A  
NEW LIFE  
FOR  
CHENNAPPA

A UNITED THANK OFFERING STORY





CHENNAPPA, the bright-eyed youth in the photograph, is but one of the approximately two-and-a-half million victims of leprosy in India. Of the world's estimated fifteen million lepers, most are to be found in the countries of Asia and Africa—countries that are, more often than not, least able to cope with the problem.

Leprosy, though not a killing disease, takes a heavy toll in the staggering economic and social loss to the areas in which it is prevalent. Fearful prejudice denies a useful place in society even to the cured who still bear leprosy's stigma, and its crippling disabilities impose a crushing burden on both the afflicted and the community.

Before the dreaded leprosy struck Chennappa he farmed a plot of land near a tiny village, but the disease paralyzed his hands

and caused agonizing ulcers on his feet. He applied for treatment to the Wm. Jay Schieffelin Leprosy Research and Training Center in Karigiri, India, which is supported by American Leprosy Missions. Plaster walking casts are helping to heal the boy's ulcers, and reconstructive surgery has helped his hands. An unusual hand splint employs elastic bands to stretch each crippled finger to its normal position. While recuperating at the hospital Chennappa is learning to weave mats, using procedures which protect his hands, and he will return to his family able to earn a better living with a new trade.

American Leprosy Missions, Inc., which received a grant of \$5,000 this triennium from the United Thank Offering, gives financial support to treatment programs, like that of the Schieffelin Center, administered by mission groups and national churches.

Formed almost a century ago out of compassion and pity for the cruelly treated leprosy outcast, American Leprosy Missions provides hospitals, clinics, medical and surgical treatment, physical therapy, vocational training, food, and clothing in cooperation with fifty-two Anglican and Protestant boards and joint committees.

In addition to care and treatment, the organization sponsors a program of training and demonstration which shows what needs to be done, teaches local personnel how to do it, and provides model centers for governments

to follow. This medical-evangelistic service reaches more than 100,000 men, women, and children in twenty-seven countries.

American Leprosy Missions deserves our support not only because it helps ease the economic and social burden of leprosy, but because its effective medical program provides the best witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone has the power to lift mankind's spiritual burdens.

It is through joint attacks on such problems as racial conflict, poverty, and disease that Christians of varying disciplines are often rewarded with new insights into the meaning of their faith. The United Thank Offering of the women of the Episcopal Church unites a special part of the prayers, the gifts, and the service of Churchwomen. As it plays a part in ecumenical endeavors such as American Leprosy Missions, it contributes to that union in Christ which He wills for mankind.

### **UNITED THANK OFFERING STORY No. 1**

*Our gifts to the United Thank Offering have made and will continue to make important differences to many people throughout our nation and our world.*

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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