

I am a LEPER...

"What a tragic day when I discovered I had leprosy," relates a leper in Formosa. "For days I had felt a dead spot on my cheek. I did not know what to do. Weeks passed by, and then one day a tell-tale white spot. My relatives took me to the leprosy clinic, and the doctors discovered I was truly a leper."

This was a moment of horror. She wanted to commit suicide. (The suicide rate among lepers is many, many times higher than among others.) Her family cast her out! Leprosy is still a dreaded disease. She was set out on a barren hillside, and a crude hut was put up. She did most of the labor



herself. No one would care for her. Friends forsook her. All alone; her plight was desperate.

Hopeless, forlorn, wanting to die—but could not.

Not a spark of hope or love or life shown through the sombre clouds of this once beautiful young Formosan girl.

Rays Of Hope . . .

Then one day another beautiful young Formosan girl, Esther Kuo, learned of this blighted life. She trudged up the hillside, fearlessly went into the little grass hut, and in one dark corner she saw the girl lying on a pile of straw covered with nothing but rags.

A quick look revealed utter hopelessness. A cooking utensil, broken plates, a box. Nothing else.

"I thought, 'Could this be home?' and I remembered the hundreds of others in similar plights in our city of Kaohsiung, Formosa. My heart thrilled with this opportunity of presenting Christ, the Lover of lepers," says Esther.

Jesus, The Leper's Friend . . .

Mrs. Kuo returned home with a promise that her husband would come back and visit. Soon John, the leper-preacher of WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS, made the long trip to the desolate, straw-matted hut. Kneeling down by the hopeless bundle of rags, he told the glad, glad story.

"Jesus, the Son of God, came down into this world as a babe. He lived a life of spotless purity. He cleaned lepers of their sins. He died to save you lepers. And there is hope for you."

The leper retorted, "I am outcast, alone. No one cares for me or my soul."

Pastor John answered, "The Son of God died to save you. He will come in now and give you peace. He will be your friend, and live in your heart and life. At the leper clinic many patients are having their leprosy arrested and cured. There is hope."



Esther & John Kuo
Benjamin, Lois and Joseph



Poor patients' old cottage

Invited To Church . . .

Now John and Esther Kuo have given their lives to telling lepers about Jesus Christ. They have a beautiful family of three children. John is a pastor; Esther serves as Bible woman. They have no church, but they open their house for a gathering of lepers. Days passed.

Finally the young leper woman attended one of these meetings.

She was greeted by other lepers that actually touched her body! Felt



her hands! Reached out and welcomed her as one of them! For the first time in her life she heard gospel singing. Her heart began to rejoice. Here were other lepers praising the Lord. She thought of her own humble dwelling, her hopeless life.

She contrasted the joy, the rays that burst from their faces when they sang, with her own sad plight. She asked herself, "What makes the difference?"

Jesus, Blessed Jesus . . .

One day she learned the secret. *They had let Jesus come into their hearts.* They sang because they were redeemed. They had heard the glad story of their sins being washed away in the Blood of the Lamb.

Day by day John continued his visits. Week by week the leper joined in Esther's front room. There was always a little hold-out



Devotional meeting of leprosy patients

in a corner of her heart. For she had been brought up as a pagan worshipper of idols. Idols that had never answered her prayers. Never given her hope, not a ray. Idols that had forsaken her. Stone and wood they were.

"One day I decided to plunge into



Some of the children in the Sunday School

the stream, as Pastor Kuo spoke about it in his sermons, and be made every whit whole—whole in soul, if not in body," says the leper girl.

That day John welcomed the leper patient at the crude little altar in his own front room. He looked upon her not as a leper but as a friend. Other leper friends gathered around. They prayed. The leper laid all of her burdens down at Jesus' feet. She looked up through her tears and said:

"I have found peace. For Jesus is mine."

Build Us A Church Home . . .

This leper lady writes through John and Esther, "And now there are more than forty born again lepers in John's little church in his front room. *Will you build us a chapel?*"

Pastor and Esther Kuo, with little Benjamin, Lois and Joseph, join these lepers and ask, "Will you please build us a chapel? Our own house of God."

"My congregation are all lepers. Sometimes there are fifty or more. We have baptized over forty, and others are listen-

ing to the Word of Life and soon will be redeemed. Will you build us a church?"

This is a simple appeal. This is the heartfelt story of redeemed lepers. One cry — "A humble little church of our own."

It will be of stone, for great are the typhoons that sweep this Formosan village. It will stand, barring earthquakes and other serious tragedies, until Jesus comes.

A Lighthouse On A Hill . . .

It will be a beacon, pointing with its spire to the Lamb of God. On the top of the spire will be a cross, symbolic of the redeeming love of Jesus Christ.

American churches, Canadian and European churches are elegant, massive, cathedrals! This will be a humble little church.

My dear friends, can you save a few nickels, a few dollars through your missionary society, or as a church, and build the leper church to the glory of God? Help bring hope to the sad plight of these leper people.

Would you like to memorialize this as your church? Would you like to have this church, pastor brother, as your Sister Church? Sunday schools, would you like this to be your sister Sunday school?

Somebody has God's money for this leper church.



Baptismal service for leprosy patients

WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS

ALTADENA, CALIF. 91003

WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS

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Dear Friend,

"Please build us our own church," beg these lepers.

This is a heart-rending appeal from outcasts who have been redeemed. Christ commanded us to "cleanse the lepers" - Matt. 10:8.

He added, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

All of us have a church in which to worship. They have none. Freely you have received, freely give that they may have a church in which to sing the praises of God.

It will set on a little hill--built of stone so it will last through the storms and hurricanes.

Dear one, my heart is touched. We must provide John and Esther Kuo's lepers with this church.

Some can give largely, some the widow's mite. Do you wish to endow it as a MEMORIAL CHURCH in memory of a loved one?

Will you make it possible for WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS to cable the money so the church can be built before the winter sets in?

Here are pictures of lepers from John's congregation. This is how they live. Give them one bright spot in their leprous lives -- their CHURCH.

John is winning lepers to Christ all the time. Many have been baptized.

Let us provide them with a proper House of God -- plain and simple, rock-ribbed and enduring until Jesus comes.

Yours in faith believing God,

Basil & Esther Miller

P.S. Please open the Windows of Heaven with your prayers for this special need.



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