



The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

Grand Master: H.E. Don Francisco de Borbon Graf von Hardenberg GCLJ

The Grand Priory of England and Wales

Grand Prior: The Most Honourable the Marquis of Lothian PC, GCLJ, KC, DL

Bailiff: H.E. the Chevalier Charles Holloway GCLJ, KMLJ

*From the Office of
The Grand Prior*

6th January, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Trustees of the St Lazarus Charitable Trust have chosen an exciting project for World Leprosy Day 2023. It is entitled, *Dare to Dream: Zero Leprosy in Ethiopia*.

Background

Ethiopia has the second-highest rate of new leprosy cases in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2021, there were over 2,500 new cases, of which 288 were children. The high rate among children indicates that leprosy is spreading actively within communities.

Of great concern is the number of people, especially women, who have physical disabilities because they were not diagnosed early enough. These disabilities, which include persistent ulcers, can be permanent.

Dare to Dream will introduce a new model to prevent leprosy transmission, and train and equip healthcare workers to diagnose, treat and refer patients to specialist services.

Roughly one in five leprosy patients suffers from ulcers, which can be debilitating. The standard treatment - a daily saline wash and gauze wrap - can last for months, even years, and in worst cases the limb may have to be amputated. However, a new treatment could end all this suffering:

Leukocyte-Platelet Rich Fibrin (L-PRF) Treatment.

A video explaining the technique can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzJM9LnfkU4>

The treatment has significant advantages:

1. L-PRF is inexpensive once the equipment has been purchased. There are only low recurring costs in the shape of consumables such as test tubes and dressings.
2. The procedure can be performed by a trained nurse and does not require a specialist doctor.
3. As treatment times are dramatically shortened, patients do not require extended hospital stays, further reducing costs.
4. L-PRF can be applied to other medical conditions and complications, and its availability to fee-paying patients will generate an income which can subsidise treatment for patients affected by leprosy.

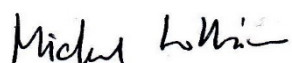
The aim is to raise £10,000 across the eleven Commanderies of the Grand Priory of England and Wales. This money will be used to purchase and set up two L-PRF centrifuge machines (£6,000) and to establish a telemedicine programme in Ethiopia (£4,000). This project will make a phenomenal difference to the lives of leprosy sufferers, so I encourage the members of the Commanderies in England & Wales to start planning now how they will help to raise the £10k required to fund this project. May I suggest that you launch your appeals on World Leprosy Day, which this year is 29th January, and run them for a fixed term until Low Sunday, 16th April 2023. I hope members will consider giving a proportion of their regular Lenten almsgiving towards this appeal.

The easiest way to support this appeal is to make your donation by electronic bank transfer to **The St Lazarus Charitable Trust** (sort code 30-93-74; a/c no.: 07204586). Please use as reference the name of your Commandery followed by **WLD23** so that the Trust Treasurer can recognise that the donation is to be allocated to this project. If you cannot use electronic banking, please send a cheque made payable to "The St Lazarus Charitable Trust", with the reference written on the reverse, to the Treasurer:

Chevalier David Knox KIJ, OMLJ
12, Inglemere Gardens
ARNSIDE
LA5 0BX

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord, when the Magi brought gifts to place before the Christ-child, and this Feast is an invitation for us, who have well-disposed hearts, to bring glory to Jesus, true God and true man, by reaching out in prayer and in gifts of money to those who suffer the effects of leprosy. I urge you, therefore, to make World Leprosy Day a priority for your giving and praying. Let us be united in a common cause, as members of our Order, to support a project which will bring relief to countless individuals.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Lothian
Grand Prior