



## **American Leprosy Missions President to Step Down**

January 19, 2010

Christopher Doyle, president and CEO of both American Leprosy Missions (ALM), located in Greenville, South Carolina, and the Leonard Wood Memorial (LWM), co-located with ALM and supporting work in Cebu, Philippines, has announced that he will be leaving the organizations at the end of January.

Doyle, 51, wrote a letter to the staff stating that he made his decision for personal and family reasons "after much reflection and receiving the counsel of many trusted friends." Doyle stated that he believed it was time to step down and look for another area of service and that ALM needed new and fresh leadership to take it to the next level. "I feel blessed to have been a part of ALM and LWM for so many years and am thankful for the support of the board and staff during this transition time in my career," Doyle said.

Doyle has overseen the work of ALM and LWM for the past 15 years. His passion to see people cured of leprosy has been at the forefront in advancing the vision of a day when the world would no longer see people suffer from this ancient disease. He has been particularly instrumental in leading the way on the development of a vaccine for leprosy. During his tenure he has seen literally hundreds of thousands of people helped through the efforts of ALM and LWM. Doyle guided the mission of ALM as it expanded its work to include Buruli ulcer and other disabling diseases. He has served on the board of the India Leprosy Trust and the Schieffelin Leprosy Research and Training Centre in India as well as vice-president of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations in London, UK.

ALM Board chairman, Neal Joseph, said he and the other board members are "saddened" to see Doyle go, but are fully supportive of this decision. "He is a man of unique gifts who has done a wonderful job of leading this organization through the years. We will certainly miss his leadership."

Chief Program Officer, Jim Oehrig will take on the interim role of managing the day-to-day operations of both organizations. Oehrig has been with ALM since 2005 and is highly capable as he steps into this role while the board determines the next course of action and begins the search for a new president.

*American Leprosy Missions* was established in 1906. It is the oldest and largest Christian organization in the United States devoted to restoring the lives of people affected by leprosy and related conditions worldwide through holistic cure and care.

*The Leonard Wood Memorial* works towards the eradication of leprosy in the Philippines and throughout the world through supporting, maintaining and conducting relevant research and clinical work and cooperating with like-minded organizations in the pursuit of the final cure for leprosy.