

# ASK 2019

PRAYER  
DIARY



The Leprosy  
Mission  
International

# PATANA'S STORY

I first got leprosy when I was three or four years old. I had red patches on my arms. When I was six or seven a missionary found me and took me to a hospital in central Thailand. This missionary was very kind to me. She brought me sweets and pictures and told me about Jesus. She used to send blankets to me at the hospital.

While I was at this hospital I got leprosy reaction. So I was sent to McKean Rehabilitation Center (a partner of TLM). I was a real mess. I couldn't walk. I had lumps all over my body and bad nerve pain. So I spent months in the hospital receiving treatment. When I was well enough to leave the ward I moved into the boys' hostel at McKean. It was here that I first started school.

I had to stay at McKean because the community in my home town wouldn't accept me. Even as a little child I had to stay hidden in my house. My parents wanted to protect me. They also worried about being rejected themselves because of me. I remember going on a train ride once and having to stand with my face hidden so people wouldn't know I had leprosy.

After I came to McKean my family didn't come to visit me. They knew I was well looked after and receiving treatment. In those days if you had leprosy you went away and lived separately from others.

But the kind missionary lady kept visiting me and showing me great kindness. She taught me about what Jesus had done for me. So I have had faith in Jesus since I was a child.

When I left school I learnt wood carving from one of the other patients at McKean and



went to live in a cottage for people affected by leprosy. Eventually I moved to a "rehabilitation" village set up by McKean, where I was able to earn a living through my wood carving. I married a girl from the village who didn't have leprosy. After two years we moved down to Bangkok to do some construction work with my brother. But because of loss of sensation I kept injuring my hands. So I came back to McKean and started to work in the craft department.

I took a loan from McKean to buy a home and was able to pay it off through wood carving. Later I became a shoe-maker at McKean. I made moulded shoes for people affected by leprosy until I retired about five years ago.

I still face some discrimination because of leprosy, but much less than I used to. I want to give thanks. If it wasn't through the help of God through this hospital, I would've been lost.

I've kept going on my wood carving. I'm not motivated by payment, just by doing the best artwork I can do. I love that other people are meeting God or receiving from God through the artwork that I have done.

## Welcome from the International Director

Dear praying friends and colleagues,

As I write, representatives from countries across The Leprosy Mission (TLM) Global Fellowship are about to travel to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia for our Annual Members Assembly. During this time we are planning to adopt a new Global Strategy for 2019-23. Part of this new strategy talks about us being a Christ-centred organisation, seeking to bring about transformation and 'Life in all its Fullness' for people affected by leprosy.



We can consider transformation in both the physical and spiritual sense. TLM's founder, Wellesley Bailey, acknowledged as much when he first came across people affected by leprosy in India more than 140 years ago; Bailey considered the consolation or comfort of the Gospel to be both its proclamation and its demonstration. While many things have changed with how we work with people affected by leprosy, this concept of the consolation of the Gospel, to bring about transformation, has not changed at all.

I am reminded of the story from the Book of Acts (Acts 3) where Peter and John heal the lame beggar outside the temple gate; first the Gospel is demonstrated (the man is healed), and then the Gospel is proclaimed, and many present, including the beggar himself are saved – transformation and Life in all its Fullness.

Recently I was in the country of Timor Leste, a small nation in South East Asia which has not long emerged from decades of terrible unrest and conflict. While there I visited a family where four of the children were affected by leprosy. I had never seen this many children from one family affected by leprosy – it was a reminder that there is still much to do to achieve our global vision of 'Leprosy Defeated, Lives Transformed'.

The ASK Prayer Diary highlights the work and ministry of The Leprosy Mission and how we seek to bring about transformation and Life in all its Fullness for people affected by leprosy. It is my pleasure to present these to you and ask that you join us in bringing these before The Most High God in prayer. And as you do so, may you be truly blessed. Thank you!

In Christ,

**Brent Morgan**  
International Director  
The Leprosy Mission International



## OUR VISION

### Leprosy Defeated, Lives Transformed

## OUR MISSION

Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission seeks to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

## OUR VALUES

Because we follow Jesus Christ, we value

- Compassion
- Justice
- Integrity
- Inclusion
- Humility

*I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.*

1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT)

Trusting in the knowledge that God hears and answers prayer, holding to the belief that our work is the Lord's, and realising that all our human efforts are in vain without God's blessing and power, we share this ASK Prayer Diary to encourage believers everywhere to pray for the extension of God's Kingdom through this work.

**International Chairman**  
Colin Osborne

**International Vice-Chair**  
Anne Ratliff

**Treasurer**  
Philip Putman

**International Director**  
Brent Morgan

#### ASK 2019 PRAYER DIARY

Published by The Leprosy Mission International  
Founded in 1874

**Production Editor**  
Heather Warne

**Design**  
Mark and Heather Knight

**Printer**  
KJB Print

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Parma (right) is a volunteer with TLM Trust India. She teaches women in adult literacy classes, supervises ten self-help groups, facilitates advocacy with the village council, and informs the community about leprosy, health and gender equality.

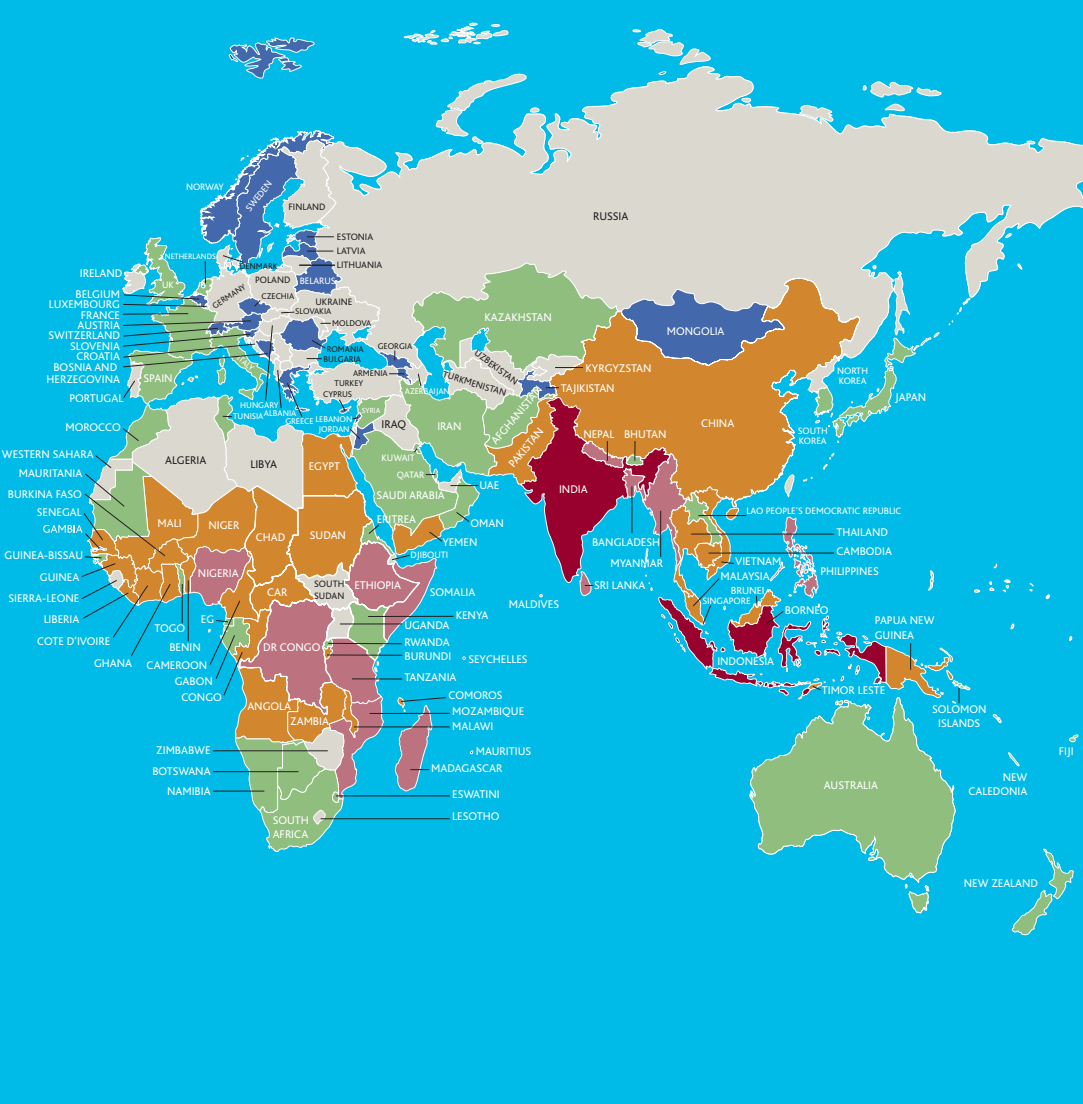
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# WHERE LEPROSY IS FOUND TODAY

For a map of the countries where TLM works see page 82

TLM is committed to providing long-term quality care and support in the name of Jesus Christ as long as there are people affected by leprosy who need it.



ANNUAL NEW CASES OF LEPROSY



SOURCE: WHO 2017



# YAM'S STORY

Yam is 14 years old. He lives in the Chitwan District of Nepal with his three elder sisters and mother. His father has gone to India to work as a labourer. They don't own enough land to produce sufficient food for the whole year so his father is in India out of necessity, to earn for the family's livelihood and children's education.

Yam's mother Padam Kumari is affected by leprosy and was being treated with multi-drug therapy. One day Yam told his mother of a senseless feeling on his leg. Padam Kumari was shocked as she suspected leprosy. She acted quickly, calling TLM Nepal's project staff to make enquiries. The staff, who have received leprosy training, were able to diagnose Yam with leprosy. His treatment started soon and in July 2017 he completed his course of multi-drug therapy. The local health worker in his community, suspecting other leprosy cases in the area, also conducted a house to house survey, but no further leprosy cases were found.

Padam Kumari mentioned that she had initially kept her leprosy diagnosis a secret. But as TLM has increased awareness in communities, she has opened up and asked her son to do the same.

Yam is studying in grade 8. He wants to join the army after completing his schooling. He was diagnosed in time and thus can fulfil his dream – which is not the case for all people affected by leprosy. TLM Nepal continues to work in partnership with the Government of Nepal and with other leprosy organisations to increase timely diagnosis and treatment, so that more people affected by leprosy can continue to pursue their dreams like Yam.







God's blessing is foremost in the success or failure of our work. That is why we pray. As The Leprosy Mission's founder Wellesley Bailey once said, prayer has been at the bottom of the Mission's success since the first moments of its life. And, because God works through people, the people of The Leprosy Mission are at the crux of what we are able to do.

Around The Leprosy Mission Fellowship, people of many different backgrounds and contexts are working with shared values towards a common purpose. Some donate money, or give their time as volunteers. Some work at the front lines within our health, education, community development and research programmes. Some are administrators, fundraisers or advisors. Some are speakers or advocates for the cause of leprosy. Some pray and share the work of the Mission with friends, family and church. Some have personal experience of leprosy or disability. All of them are vital to our ongoing work. When The Leprosy Mission's people meet together, whether in-country or internationally, our diversity adds an immense richness to our conversations, our way of thinking, our prayer and worship together, and our decisions.

As we begin a new year, please lift the Mission's people up in prayer. Pray that we – from all corners of the world, in all the parts we play in The Leprosy Mission family – will be strengthened and inspired as we continue Christ's good work of healing and restoration.

**Top:** Spending time together at the Members Meeting special award dinner.

## PRAYER POINTS

**TUE:** Although in some countries TLM staff are all or predominantly Christians, there are also many across The Leprosy Mission world that come from different religious backgrounds. Pray that through the love of their Christian colleagues and our Christian activities and ethos they would come to know the love of Jesus.

**WED:** Thank God for all the volunteers past and present who have generously given of their time and skills to further the Mission's work. Pray they would be abundantly blessed.

**THU:** Pray for the Christian staff working in countries where Christians are persecuted or oppressed or where open Christian activities are illegal. Pray for God's protection, and for wisdom as they show God's love through their actions and find safe opportunities to share their faith.

**FRI:** Across TLM there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, that has less direct contact with people affected by leprosy and yet is crucial to our work. Give thanks for office staff in less visible roles and pray they would feel valued and know their impact on people's lives.

**SAT:** Give thanks for the dedication of tens of thousands of staff members since the Mission's founding in 1874. Their contributions have brought us from providing relief to people affected by leprosy, to the holistic and life-changing support we are able to give today. Pray for current and future staff, especially decision-makers, for the wisdom and inspired ideas that enable us to finish the work of eradicating leprosy and its consequences.

**SUN:** Wellesley Bailey, our founder, said that prayer was at the basis of every good thing that TLM was able to achieve. Give thanks today for people like you, around the world, who uphold the Mission's work in prayer. Pray too that, as Jesus taught, our persistent prayer will open doors and opportunities that otherwise seemed impossible.



The Leprosy Mission Trust India, founded in 1874 and headquartered in New Delhi, is the largest leprosy-focused non-governmental organisation in India. It works with people affected by leprosy, people with disabilities, and marginalised communities, especially women. It has a diverse set of programmes – Healthcare, Sustainable Livelihood, Community Empowerment, Advocacy, and Research and Training – and implements these programmes through 14 hospitals and 2 clinics, 6 vocational training centres, 5 residential care homes for elderly persons affected by leprosy, community empowerment projects, and a research laboratory, spread across 10 states of India.

TLM India conducts its programmes in collaboration with people affected by leprosy and their communities, central and state governments, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) and civil society organisations.

TLM India's vision is to see 'People affected by leprosy living with dignity in a transformed, inclusive society that has overcome leprosy'. The Operations Team, comprising the Executive Director, two Directors and seven Domain Heads, leads the organisation in achieving this vision.

**Top:** The Leprosy Mission Trust India team.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** TLM India's seven-year country strategy (2019-25) has been rolled out this year. Praise God for guiding the team to develop this strategy. Pray for God's grace to implement the strategy to realise its objectives.

**TUE:** Pray for God's guidance for the senior management team, domain heads, unit heads, and programme managers, as they work to realise TLM India's vision, 'People affected by leprosy living with dignity in a transformed, inclusive society that has overcome leprosy'.

**WED:** Pray for God's guidance and wisdom as the team works on strategies to improve the financial sustainability of the organisation through fundraising, project development and internal revenue generation.

**THU:** Pray for God's blessings on people affected by leprosy in their day-to-day lives. Pray for the successful outcome of TLM India's work among them so that God's name is glorified. Pray also that through the Mission's work, they will realise God's love and care.

**FRI:** We thank God for the wonderful donors and partners of the work in India. Pray that the team can successfully build partnerships, especially with corporates and public sector undertakings, who may partner with us as a part of their corporate social responsibility.

**SAT/SUN:** TLM India has started new fundraising initiatives, such as crowdfunding and digital campaigns, to build partnerships across the country with people who have a heart for supporting our work among people affected by leprosy. Pray for God's guidance and blessings.

## SENIOR STAFF

### Country Office

Dr Mary Verghese – Executive Director  
Mr Abraham George – Director of Operations  
Mr Samuel V. Thomas – Director of Finance and Administration  
Dr Famkima Darlong – Head of Healthcare  
Mrs Tina Mendis – Head of Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Empowerment  
Mrs Nikita Sarah – Head of Advocacy and Communication  
Dr Joydeepa Darlong – Head of Knowledge Management

Mr Amit Kumar – Head of Fundraising  
Mr Melvin Moras – Head of Human Resources Management  
Mr Benison Solomon – Head of Audit and Risk Management

### Programme Coordinators

Mr Karthikeyan G. – Research  
Mr Babu G. – Training  
Mr Vijayasekar G. – Prevention and Management of Disability  
Mr Vijay Patta – Vocational Training  
Mrs Irudayapurana – Nursing

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)



**T**LM in Nigeria works in collaboration with the Government, supporting them in their control of leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases, and ministering to around 40,000 people affected by leprosy residing in communities across 11 states of Nigeria.

Around 2,500 new leprosy cases are diagnosed each year in Nigeria. In 2017, over 7% of these were children less than 14 years of age, indicating ongoing transmission in the communities. In addition, around 15% came with visible impairments at diagnosis, which indicates late reporting. These two issues are of great concern. These statistics (based on data from the World Health Organization) put Nigeria as the African country with the 3rd highest burden of leprosy. However, with support from her partners, TLM Nigeria works closely with leprosy-affected communities and other rural communities in ensuring early case finding in order to reduce the consequences of the disease.

## SENIOR STAFF

Dr Sunday Udo – TLM Country Leader  
Mr Pius Ogbu Sunday – Head of Programmes & Operations  
Mr Israel Kehinde Adio – Head of Finance & Administration  
Mr Terver Anyor – Head of Funds Development

**Top:** TLM Country Leader Dr Sunday Udo.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for the TLM Nigeria strategic fundraising plan for the next three years. Pray that the team will continue to find favour and access to existing and prospective individual donors, corporate sponsors and institutional funders. Pray that God will grant them wisdom to take advantage of opportunities to develop new channels of partnership and income.

**TUE:** In February, Nigeria will be conducting its presidential and governorship elections. Pray that the elections will be free and fair, and that transition of power to the new government will happen smoothly without crisis or violence.

**WED:** The TLM Nigeria staff conference is scheduled to take place in May. It is a period of spiritual refreshment for board members, staff, and volunteers. Please pray that this year's conference will be insightful and impactful in the lives of all attending; that each one will be inspired by God's love and filled with renewed strength and commitment towards the work.

**THU:** TLM Nigeria's Board meets in May. Pray for wisdom, grace and foresight for all members as decisions are made concerning the Mission's responsibility to persons affected by leprosy and disabilities in Nigeria.

**FRI:** In recent times, herdsmen have killed and destroyed many communities in various states of Nigeria, and this has also affected some communities where TLM works. Pray that the Federal Government will be impartial in the conflict resolution process between herdsmen and host communities; and that God will restore the much needed peace in the nation.

**SAT/SUN:** TLM Nigeria was nominated in 2017 as one of five beneficiaries of the Green Worship Change Initiative, geared towards impacting the lives of thousands of orphans and children with special needs through the proceeds of a worship recording. Pray for good ongoing sales of the album, as the funds generated will go to support educational scholarships for children with leprosy and children from leprosy-affected homes.



**W**orld Leprosy Day is observed globally each year on the last Sunday in January, with the aim of raising awareness and knowledge about leprosy, the fact that it can be cured and to change attitudes that stigmatise and marginalise people affected by the disease.

Within TLM it is celebrated by a variety of activities appropriate within each country. In some places where leprosy is a health issue these may be about public education and advocacy, and in others they may be about raising funds and praying for the programmes that support people affected by the disease and its consequences.

In some countries where we work, TLM is taking a flexible approach and inviting supporters to celebrate a Leprosy Sunday in the months surrounding World Leprosy Day. This will give more opportunity for leprosy to be promoted in churches, schools and other communities.

**Top:** A World Leprosy Day 2018 road walk/show carried out by TLM Nigeria in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, the Lions Club, and the Federal Road Safety Commission.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for TLM Global Fellowship Members using World Leprosy Day as an opportunity to engage with churches. Pray that many churches will choose to recognise people affected by leprosy in an event or service and that congregations will be inspired to greater support and involvement. Give thanks for the great generosity of donors who will give.

**TUE:** Pray for TLM Global Fellowship Members running World Leprosy Day events such as lectures, advocacy visits, press conferences and visits to communities of persons affected by leprosy. Pray that these events will further strengthen the fight against leprosy and its consequences.

**WED:** The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), of which The Leprosy Mission is a member, is focusing this year's World Leprosy Day activities on stigma, discrimination and prejudice. Pray that their message would be far-reaching, shining a light on the injustices faced by people affected by leprosy and inspiring the public to action.

**THU:** Pray for all those using digital and social media to advocate for people affected by leprosy, that their messages would inspire and be picked up and shared to a wider audience and raise visibility of the needs of people affected by leprosy and of the work of TLM.

**FRI:** Pray for associations of people affected by leprosy and disability who are using World Leprosy Day as a platform to rally and lobby for their rights to be recognised. Pray that they would be heard and responded to, and that TLM would provide appropriate support where needed.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for partnerships with national and local governments, other NGO partners and communities, for relationships to be strengthened where we are working together on combined World Leprosy Day events and for smooth coordination and positive results.



*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Psalms 84:5 (NIV)



## Countrywide and Healthcare

The Leprosy Mission employs around 350 staff in projects across Bangladesh. The country office is in Dhaka, the capital. It is responsible for overseeing and ensuring adequate support for projects, networking with partners, and building relationships with relevant government departments.

Projects include leprosy control, as part of the government programme; community-based rehabilitation; advocacy that aims to influence attitudes about leprosy at government and community level; and a leprosy referral hospital located at Nilphamari. Aligning with a global focus on ending transmission, TLM Bangladesh sees research on leprosy as a major vehicle to that goal and is looking to establish a core research programme so that the necessary facilities, knowledge and personnel (including a research coordinator) are available to sustainably support the various studies.

Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission (DBLM) Hospital has been functioning in Nilphamari since 1977 and provides tertiary services for leprosy complications. It is the largest dependable specialised leprosy treatment centre in the country and also provides reconstructive surgery, rehabilitation and assistive devices. The quality care at DBLM Hospital is focused on leprosy patients but also includes patients with general disabilities, prioritising children, women and the poor and sharing expertise with others.

TLM Bangladesh also provides services for tuberculosis patients in some districts, aiming to reduce the disease's prevalence in cooperation with the national tuberculosis programme.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** TLM Bangladesh will conduct a mid-term review of their current strategic plan this year. Pray for the Senior Management Team to have wisdom and understanding.

**TUE:** There are plans to extend the western portion of the DBLM Hospital building. At the same time a lift will be installed in this building for patients' services. Pray for God's mercy that these big jobs may be accomplished well.

**WED:** Pray for a stable situation in Bangladesh following the national elections and pray too for the new Government.

**THU:** TLM Denmark's management team will visit TLM Bangladesh in the first quarter of this year to participate in a partnership workshop. Pray for a long term partnership agreement between TLM Denmark and TLM Bangladesh as a result of this workshop.

**FRI:** By the grace of God, more and more patients are coming to DBLM's outpatient department. Staff shortages make it a challenge to provide the quality services that are needed daily. Pray that God will bless DBLM so that they can hire a medical doctor soon and meet the need.

**SAT/SUN:** There are a few important positions vacant at DBLM. There is also a high turnover of staff, especially health professionals. Please pray that DBLM can select and recruit suitable candidates in the vacant positions and retain good doctors to provide uninterrupted, quality services for all patients, especially people affected by leprosy.

## SENIOR STAFF

### Country Office

Mr Salomon Sumon Halder – TLM Country Leader  
Mr James Taposh Adhikary – Administration and Finance Coordinator  
Mr Jiptha Boiragee – Program Support Coordinator

### DBLM Hospital

Mr Augustine Amal D' Rozario – Program Leader  
Dr Benjamin Jewel Rozario – Residential Medical Officer  
Mr Andrio Boiragi – Finance Manager  
Md. Abu Helal – Project Manager, TB

Top: Mr Salomon Sumon Halder, Country Leader.

*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

Acts 20:35 (NIV)



Inspired by the love of Jesus, TLM Trading strives to show love and compassion towards people affected by leprosy, and to empower them to attain life in all its fullness by providing resources of money, awareness, new supporters and prayer for use by The Leprosy Mission charities.

TLM Trading, the trading arm of The Leprosy Mission, is a mail order company selling a wide range of gifts, greeting cards and books primarily to the Christian community. They produce three main catalogues per year, as well as operating a successful online shop which attracts thousands of customers each year. They also sell a range of Gifts for Life – 'virtual' gift cards which customers can buy to give to friends or to mark some special occasion and which directly benefit someone with leprosy. They include items such as school equipment, eye surgery or even a donkey and cart!

TLM Trading's main aims are:

- To help provide livelihoods for people affected by leprosy, through the products they sell.
- To raise funds for TLM, through Gifts for Life and donations generously added to orders by their customers.
- To help raise awareness of TLM and its work through inspiring books, cards and products.
- To help acquire new donors for TLM.

## LEADERSHIP

Jo-Anne Thomson – CEO  
Stephen Hammersley – Chair

Top: The TLM Trading team.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the TLM Trading Spring catalogue which will be delivered by post to around 56,000 customers this week. Pray that the loyal supporters will have time to look through the catalogue and enjoy selecting Easter products to bless their friends and family. Please pray that the Easter gifts and cards will highlight God's love for the world and demonstrate the real meaning of Easter.

**TUE:** Give thanks for all the wonderful artisans who make products sold by TLM Trading. These products provide dignity, employment and a much-needed income for artisans affected by leprosy and poverty. Pray that God will bless them with creativity and excellent sales so that follow-up orders can be placed.

**WED:** Thank God for all the greeting cards that are sold through TLM Trading each year – in the region of 1 million. Every Easter card and Christmas card features a story about a leprosy-affected family on the back, increasing awareness about our work. As more and more people send texts, emails and e-cards, please pray that the card sales will remain strong.

**THU:** In 2017, TLM Trading moved to a new and bigger warehouse in Yorkshire. Praise God for the new warehouse and customer services teams who worked really hard to make the move a success. Pray that they will be blessed as they take calls from TLM's supporters and pack orders for them.

**FRI:** Please pray for the TLM Trading staff team of just seven people, led by Jo-Anne Thomson. Pray that they will be blessed with wisdom and creativity when working with suppliers and designing products for the catalogues. Thank God also for the expertise of the Board of Directors, chaired by Stephen Hammersley, who generously give their time and experience to help and advise TLM Trading.

**SAT/SUN:** Praise God for the increase in sales of Gifts for Life. Pray that more and more people will want to buy these life-changing gifts and that TLM Trading will find new ways to market them and provide relevant feedback.



*But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

James 2:18 (ESV)



The Leprosy Mission began its work in Nepal in 1957 with the establishment of Anandaban Hospital, on the outskirts of Kathmandu. Now a local organisation with its own board, TLM Nepal works in partnership with the Government of Nepal to provide specialist tertiary care and technical support for leprosy control programmes. It also carries out internationally recognised research into leprosy and implements disability-inclusive community development programmes through its own activities and strategic partnerships. TLM Nepal’s development interventions focus in the areas of health, capacity building, education, sustainable livelihoods, community development, advocacy and research working towards equity and inclusion of people affected by leprosy and disability in the development process.

TLM Nepal is truly determined, through words and actions, to continually make a difference that will transform the lives of people affected by leprosy, people with disability and those who are marginalised.

## SENIOR STAFF

### Country Office

Mr Shovakhar Kandel – TLM Country Leader  
Mr Chiranjivi Sharma – Programmes Coordinator  
Mr Sushil Khatiwada – Finance Manager  
Ms Rakchhya Maharjan – Programmes Support Officer  
Ms Geeta Gyawali – Human Resources Officer

**Top:** TLM Nepal country office senior team (L-R: Geeta Gyawali, Shovakhar Kandel, Chiranjivi Sharma, Rakchhya Maharjan and Sushil Khatiwada).

**Opposite:** Pooja, an inpatient at Anandaban Hospital, can write comfortably following reconstructive surgery and physiotherapy to correct the damage to her hands.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for God’s continuous grace, comfort and strength for Shovakhar Kandel and his family; pray he may serve people with a loving and tender heart so that God’s love is reflected through his actions and words, and many more lives will be transformed through TLM’s ministry.

**TUE:** TLM Nepal is involved directly and in partnership in all of the seven provinces of Nepal. Please pray that the team are able to negotiate well with national and local governments and register all projects successfully so that their work with people affected by leprosy, disability and poverty can continue.

**WED:** TLM Nepal is planning a combined Annual Country Learning and Spiritual Retreat in March, mainly for senior level staff. This exercise will provide learning opportunities to staff, partners, beneficiaries, and other TLM Fellowship Members. Please pray that this programme will be a blessed and fruitful one.

**THU:** Give thanks that TLM Nepal has managed to organise workshops, gatherings and fellowships with churches and Christian leaders. Their enthusiasm and willingness to partner and support TLM Nepal’s endeavour of leprosy eradication and an equitable society has been inspiring.

**FRI:** TLM Nepal, in partnership with TLM Bangladesh and TLM Myanmar, has successfully completed a year of mutual exchange as part of the FK Norway project funded by the Norwegian Government. This opportunity to learn and share expertise has been of great benefit. The project is continuing this year with the exchange of staff working in footwear, community-based inclusive development and nursing among the three countries. Please pray for increased learning, understanding, safety and guidance for all involved.

**SAT/SUN:** Since the 2015 earthquakes, TLM Nepal has been restoring the damaged infrastructure of Anandaban Hospital. A new trauma centre, staff quarter, guesthouse and ward building are underway. Pray that the Lord will remove all barriers to quality construction so that Anandaban Hospital can be a beacon of excellence.





*I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Psalms 121:1-2 (NIV)



Swiss support for people affected by leprosy was started by a young teacher who discovered The Leprosy Mission in London. Back in Switzerland, she decided not only to continue her support through prayer and donations but to talk to people around her, distributing newsletters and encouraging others to join her endeavour. The circle of supporters grew and in 1905, TLM Switzerland was founded.

Today, a small team operates from two offices, one in the French- and one in the German-speaking part of the country. A dedicated board, partnering churches and institutions as well as many loyal donors are committed to helping people affected by leprosy.

TLM Switzerland works in partnership with other Members of the Global Fellowship and with people affected by leprosy to implement projects in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, DR Congo and Niger.

Within the country, TLM Switzerland raises awareness about leprosy and themes related to it, such as poverty, exclusion and development. It offers people in Switzerland the opportunity to be involved in praying for and supporting people affected by leprosy or disabilities, and their families.

**Top:** Markus Freudiger with Josiane, a project beneficiary in DR Congo. You can read her story on page 84.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** A group from Switzerland visits TLM India in March. Pray for safe travels and inspiring encounters with people affected by leprosy. Pray that participants after returning will become ambassadors for the Mission and its work.

**TUE:** Having been unable to find a new collaborator to help with fundraising (particularly with major donors), TLM Switzerland have reorganised the responsibilities of their team. Pray for those taking on new tasks and for wisdom and guidance from God for a long term solution to this need.

**WED:** TLM Switzerland are hoping for increased income from institutional funders. Pray their proposals for funding will be successful.

**THU:** TLM Switzerland are planning a new campaign called ZeroLepra, which aims to gain more resources to help in defeating leprosy and transforming lives. Pray this campaign would catch people's attention and motivate them to join in this vision.

**FRI:** Pray that God will continue to inspire the team to find innovative and effective ways to reach new supporters, and also to build donor loyalty. Pray that donors would feel the importance and impact of their role in TLM's work.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for people affected by leprosy in the countries supported by TLM Switzerland. Give thanks for the committed project staff making a difference in these places.

## KEY STAFF

Markus Freudiger – TLM Country Leader  
Anne-Claude Jonah – Representative in French Switzerland  
Nadja Klarer – Fundraising and Communication  
Esther Kuny – Finance  
Christine Schneeberger – Administration  
Jan Kuny – Chairman

# FRIENDSHIP

Our relationships with those around us are the most valuable part of our lives, making our time on earth both beautiful and worthwhile. From when we are very young, we yearn for loving relationships with people. Though our most important relationship is with God, the love and grace of God often touches us through those who love us and whom we love, our friends and family.

Good friends are one of the most precious gifts that God blesses us with. As the saying goes, 'Friends are the family you choose,' those with whom we share a close connection and who empathise with issues even our family may not understand. Being blessed with wonderful friends who are there for us always, even though there may be miles separating us, is a priceless gift. I lost such a friend recently and often think of him – his constant support and unstinting help in every difficulty, not just for me but for those close to me, teaching me a lot about God's love and presence in every aspect of my life. He was a true example of the words from Proverbs: 'A friend loves at all times' (Proverbs 17:17) and '...but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother' (Proverbs 18:24).

Friendship brings us great joy, but being human, we may sometimes make mistakes and hurt the friends we love, or be disappointed by a friend we love deeply; friends may move away and we may not be able to reach them easily. But we have a friend above all others, who will never leave us nor disappoint us, whatever happens – Jesus, our most precious friend! 'I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends' (John 15:15). It may seem presumptuous for us to call our Lord 'friend', but he has given us the privilege, and we know that it will bring him great joy if we try to travel on our life's journey, always putting our friends first, as we will be able to do in His strength, if we always put Jesus our Saviour as a friend before everything and everyone else.

*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

John 15:15 (NIV)

**Annamma S John** is the former Head of Research and Training at TLM Trust India.

**Photo:** Tailoring students at TLM Bankura Vocational Training Centre.



..... as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

2 Corinthians 1:11 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission England and Wales values its role as a partner in the Global Fellowship to bring transformation and healing to people affected by leprosy by encouraging prayer and financial support.

Peter Waddup became National Director in 2017 after being a trustee and Chair of the Board. His goal is for the TLM England and Wales team to consult with and hear from God in all areas of work and to enable staff members to realise their giftings. Please pray for protection and favour for Peter as he leads the team and for every team member to understand and enjoy their vital part in this unique family.

TLM England and Wales's areas of work include fundraising through individuals, churches, institutions and trusts, and it is truly blessed and grateful for the ongoing loyal support in all of these areas.

Through their experienced programmes team, TLM England and Wales provides support for project development in South Asia and parts of Africa and works closely with overseas partners to ensure that projects are transforming lives and ultimately self-sustaining wherever possible. It is committed to grow its influence in national and international advocacy, looking to combat stigma and challenge anti-leprosy legislation.

## SENIOR STAFF

Peter Waddup – TLM Country Leader  
Sian Arulanantham – Head of Programmes Co-ordination  
Armdina O'Reilly – HR Manager  
Louise Timmins – Partnerships Manager

**Top:** Peter Waddup, TLM Country Leader.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Praise God for the thousands of faithful supporters who give to appeals, often sacrificially. Pray that the Lord will greatly bless them as they bless others. Pray for new funding opportunities, and for wisdom for staff to know where to concentrate their efforts.

**TUE:** Give thanks for the many churches around the UK who invite TLM speakers to share the gospel and the latest progress and needs for people affected by leprosy. Pray that all the messages shared show the heart of Jesus, and that many new churches will invite TLM in to speak about the work.

**WED:** Members of the programmes team regularly travel overseas to partner with the various projects supported by TLM England and Wales. Pray for safety, good health and travel mercies as they often work unsocial hours and spend time away from their families in order to ensure these projects have the greatest possible impact.

**THU:** Collecting, processing, storing and using data efficiently is essential to ensuring that supporters receive appropriate communications. Throughout 2018 the dedicated data team have been working hard towards introducing a new data system. Please pray for a smooth transition and that the management of data with this system will help other departments to be more efficient.

**FRI:** The supporter care team are the 'engine room' at TLM England and Wales, dealing with thousands of emails, phone calls, requests for resources, and processing donations. They now also handle the stamps and collectibles part of the fundraising activities. Please pray that God will bless everyone in this team and that they will continue to receive His inspiration and guidance.

**SAT/SUN:** Give thanks and pray for the Board and the executive team as they work on ensuring that each team at TLM England and Wales is well supported as they work towards leprosy defeated and lives transformed. Pray that God will continually inspire them and for unity and co-operation in all that they do together so that this work always glorifies Him.

# BINTA'S STORY

Binta started to show signs of leprosy at the age of 12. "Nobody knew what the symptoms were," she tells us. "My father dismissed it as a common illness which would pass soon. After two years, the symptoms worsened and I was taken to a native medicine man who kept giving me herbal medications to take." The illness continued to progress for several years, and Binta began to have problems with ulcers that wouldn't heal. "My legs and hands began to grow worse; that was when my father took me to Chanchaga Hospital in Minna. Although I started receiving treatment almost immediately, the ulcers had worsened from my legs up to my knees and from my hands up to my wrists. The only resort was amputation."

Once she had recovered, Binta travelled back to her home town and was married to her husband, Alhassan. The couple, who are both affected by leprosy, have now been married for 18 years. They used to beg together – but then in 2017, Binta was given startup funds by TLM Nigeria to begin a sheep rearing business. The business was a success! "This support from TLM Nigeria was a breath of fresh air," says Binta. "The support came when we were beginning to lose hope. I didn't have legs or hands and my husband, who also has severe disabilities, couldn't do much either. With

this help, we were able to buy three sheep (two females and one male). We were able to groom them and we raised seven sheep. We sold one for 32,000 naira and from it we paid our children's fees, bought them books and clothing and we have been feeding well. What brings us great joy is that the sheep was bought by a rich non-leprosy-affected man; we were glad because our sheep was accepted by others even though they knew we had leprosy. I know this is just the beginning and we are very grateful to God that He sent us TLM Nigeria."



*And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

Colossians 3:14 (ESV)



The Leprosy Mission in Mozambique works in close cooperation with the Government Health Department in support of the Leprosy Control Project in the province of Cabo Delgado. There are also strong links with community partners including community volunteers and self-care groups. ALEMO is an association of people affected by leprosy, supported by TLM Mozambique, that works to improve the livelihoods of its members through improved agriculture methods, training and advocacy.

In other work, more than 200 children affected by leprosy are included in the Iphiro Yohoolo education project, which aims to keep them in school and inspire them to break the cycle of poverty.

During 2019, TLM Mozambique will especially work to increase the coverage and impact of their case-finding activities, using recently introduced case mapping abilities in the Leprosy Control programme to find leprosy hot-spots and stop transmission.

Church community mobilisation is increasingly a priority for the programmes in Mozambique and the team dreams to have the local church as a stable partner engaging with communities affected by leprosy and bringing hope and healing.

## SENIOR STAFF

Dr Arie de Kruijff – TLM Country Leader  
 Sr Belarmino Reich – ALEMO and Iphiro Yohoolo Project Manager  
 Sr Hipolito Cocorea – Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Officer  
 Sr Jorge Armando – Prevention of Disabilities/Leprosy Control Project Manager  
 Sra Nelta Jumamossi – Accountant  
 Sr Culaire Luis – Human Resources Manager

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** The Leprosy Control Project along with ALEMO is now giving greater emphasis to follow up on chronic ulcers that still affect many people affected by leprosy. Pray that the team in Mozambique will find someone specific for each district that has the skills and patience to give long-term care for those still suffering with this issue.

**TUE:** TLM Mozambique relies heavily on the good cooperation and commitment of their government health partners in the Leprosy Control Project. Many of the leprosy supervisors are new and do not yet know much about leprosy. Pray that these supervisors would have compassion and would be committed to making a real difference to those affected by leprosy.

**WED:** Premature marriage is a big reason for girls to abandon their education in the north of Mozambique. Pray for new partners that can help TLM address this issue more effectively in the communities where we support education for children affected by leprosy.

**THU:** Many pastors and churches were mobilised through TLM Mozambique's UMOJA ('unity') project. Pray that their involvement is ever flowing from an internal motivation and that they are inspired by the results that God brings. Especially pray for unity among them.

**FRI:** The involvement of churches through the UMOJA project is a new experience for TLM Mozambique. Pray that the team may find ways to better link churches to people affected by leprosy and that churches would reach out to people affected spontaneously.

**SAT/SUN:** A livelihoods project in Mozambique came to an end in 2018. Pray that the knowledge and skills gained by members of savings groups and those who have learned agriculture techniques will be maintained and strengthened.

Top: A savings group meeting.



The Leprosy Mission Trust India's Advocacy and Communication Domain supports people affected by leprosy to speak out on the issues important to them, defend and safeguard their rights, and have their voices heard when policymakers make decisions that affect their lives.

TLM India engages with strategic partners at state and national levels to highlight issues that have a negative impact on the daily lives of people affected by leprosy, through strategic communications that target negative attitudes and practices. It promotes the inclusive development of people affected by leprosy and other disabilities by influencing policies and practices involving them. It also uses innovative communications to improve awareness and attitudes towards leprosy and other disabilities.

## SENIOR ADVOCACY STAFF

Mrs Nikita Sarah – Head of Advocacy and Communication  
 Mr Jacob Oommen – Team Leader, Communication

Top: A Round Table on leprosy organised by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, New Delhi, along with the Government of India, and the Government of the United Kingdom, as a run up to the Global Disability Summit 2018.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Advocacy is a major enabler in TLM India's new country strategy (2019-25). Pray for God's wisdom for each one in the team as they implement the strategy. Thank God for guiding TLM India all these years and establishing them as an organisation that supports people affected by leprosy in their fight for dignity and equality. Pray that they may get the right partners to continue their work and expand their reach and influence.

**TUE:** Thank you all for standing with us in prayer to end discrimination against people affected by leprosy. TLM India is working with law agencies and government bodies to repeal the discriminatory provisions from 119 laws. Pray for success in all their endeavours.

**WED:** People affected by leprosy are marginalised in many ways and often prefer to be in hiding. TLM India has been equipping them with knowledge and understanding about their rights and the government social protection schemes. However, many are left out from the access framework. Pray for a newly proposed research study to help to understand why people are unable to access various schemes and entitlements and enable TLM to sensitise them about the existing ones.

**THU:** Campaigns are a great way to create awareness among multiple stakeholders through a spectrum of media. TLM India's campaign, with the help of Sapna, the campaign mascot – the dream of a leprosy-free India – was launched last year by the Government of India. Pray for the Government, other partners, and all TLM India's teams to take it forward with a renewed enthusiasm and make it a great success.

**FRI:** Thank God for TLM India's media partners who show interest in the issue of leprosy. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance in developing more partners and for the success of awareness-raising activities.

**SAT/SUN:** TLM India carries out social media campaigns to make people aware of leprosy. Pray for the success of these campaigns and their impact on all audiences.



*But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.*

Luke 10:33–34 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission Chad works in the Guéra region and its surrounding prefectures. It supports the National Leprosy Control Programme through training, supervision, active case detection and reaction treatment for complicated cases.

TLM Chad also seeks to reintegrate people affected by leprosy within normal society through supporting the creation and development of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in which they can take an active role. It improves the living conditions of the members of these organisations through training in good governance and technical advice for projects: food security (grain banks); managing of water pumps; and income generation activities such as micro-credit. These DPOs also provide a 'home' where people can share, support each other and become active in local society.

A small pilot project that started last year supports children and young people living with disability through medical care, physiotherapy, walking aids, promotion of school education, vocational training and micro-credit. There are hopes for the development of a new, larger project this year.

TLM Chad works through partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and local partners like the Regional Red Cross, the Blind School of Mongo, Liliana Foundation and the local church.

#### TLM STAFF

Bunmi Oluloto – TLM Country Leader  
Geeske Zijp – Programme Manager  
Marc Djibrine Victor – Administrator  
Zakaria Mahamat – DPO Trainer  
Abdel Dejjil Hassane – Office Assistant/Driver

#### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** There is not much interest in the leprosy work in Chad as other problems such as malnutrition, AIDS and malaria are given priority. Please pray that health staff and stakeholders increase their commitment to leprosy control and disability prevention.

**TUE:** Leprosy reaction is a problem in Chad. Many patients come late, and often too late to avoid permanent damage. Pray that health staff will be continuously reminded of the importance of regular neurological exams so as to detect early symptoms.

**WED:** The Republic of Chad is being affected by the strikes of government officials that are unhappy about their positions. The younger layer of society is particularly affected. Pray for a positive turn in this situation and new hope for the young people of this suffering country.

**THU:** The community-based rehabilitation work with disabled children and young people is having a very positive impact on their lives as desperate and sometimes hidden children come forward and are attended to through physiotherapy, medical care, the provision of walking aids, support for school education or micro-credit. Pray that the work may continue and benefit the lives of many other children.

**FRI:** The DPOs are thriving and developing more and more into responsible, healthy organisations where people living with disabilities are meeting and flourishing together. Pray for the consolidation of the DPOs and the development of new DPOs within the Guéra and its neighbouring regions.

**SAT/SUN:** The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified by the Chadian Government in June 2018. Let us pray that slowly but steadily the Chadian community will start to put into practice its principles and obligations so as to work towards inclusion and active participation of persons living with disabilities in the Republic of Chad.

Top: Geeske Zijp and Bunmi Oluloto.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Romans 12:2 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission Southern Africa raises funds for leprosy work and general disability work in South Africa. The Leprosy Mission runs leprosy programmes in the Eastern Cape and kwaZulu Natal and cooperates with the National Department of Health in the provision of leprosy services in other areas. The RampUp general disability campaign promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society, but especially within the church.

#### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** The Leprosy Mission Southern Africa assists countries in the region with very low numbers of leprosy patients. The low numbers mean that health workers find it difficult to recognise leprosy and patients remain undiagnosed for many years. Pray that the team will find effective ways to raise awareness of leprosy.

**TUE:** Pray that the general disability awareness project, RampUp, which focuses on the exclusion of disabled people from the church, will expand into a wide range of congregations during 2019.

**WED:** Join us in giving thanks for many generous bequests received during 2018 and pray for the release of funds from the many estates where payments of legacies to The Leprosy Mission remain pending.

**THU:** Give thanks for the warm and generous response to TLM Southern Africa's adverts in a variety of magazines during 2018. Pray that these new friends will support us as generously as earlier generations of supporters.

**FRI:** Pray for the safety of the field staff – Lucky Kunene (kwaZulu Natal) and Goodman Qhosholo (Eastern Cape) – who travel long distances on dangerous roads to assist patients and teach people about leprosy.

**SAT/SUN:** Give thanks for the many congregations that have so liberally supported The Leprosy Mission over many years. Pray that they will continue to open their doors and hearts during 2019.

#### SENIOR STAFF

Peter Laubscher – TLM Country Leader  
Theo de Villiers – Deputy Director  
Erna Möller – Programme Manager (until end of May)

Top: Mr Goodman Qhosholo on a home visit with Emily, one of TLM Southern Africa's care after cure clients.

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

John 3:16-18 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission Australia has a heart for 'the battler' (an Australian colloquialism referring to "ordinary" individuals who persevere through adversity) and the spirit for giving them a "fair go" – often what people affected by leprosy, disability and other neglected tropical diseases desperately need.

Dedicated to daily prayer and with their faith in Jesus, the team strive to love and serve their partners overseas through servant-hearted relationships with their fellow 'Aussies'. Through various activities they help raise awareness and facilitate people's generosity. Australian supporters pray and provide financially for projects in six strategic countries: Timor Leste, Nepal, Nigeria, India, Papua New Guinea and Thailand.

This year will see the introduction of the concepts 'Shop To Stop Leprosy' and 'Safe Water Saves Lives', highlighting a number of key house-branded and exclusive products with proceeds going to support selected projects. This will be supported with targeted acquisition mailings and an increased online presence, particularly in social media. The 'Cuppa For A Cure' event programme will be refreshed to encourage more Aussies to "boil the billy" and stop leprosy transmission by 2035.

**Top:** Australian staff and supporters 'Trek To Defeat Leprosy' in Nepal.  
**Opposite:** Sheldon Rankin, CEO of The Leprosy Mission Australia (left) welcomes Amar Timalisina from Nepal on his first trip 'down under' for World Leprosy Sunday.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Praise God for the generous Australians who pray and give financially to help people affected by leprosy. Pray that their numbers and capacity will increase, as will the opportunities for the team to express their gratitude.

**TUE:** Give thanks for God's creative vision and how it rests on the Merchandise team. Praise God, He has used this to successfully engage shoppers to help those affected by leprosy. Please pray the Lord will keep bringing in new supporters this way.

**WED:** Praise God for the safe travels programme staff have had overseas. This year five projects funded by The Leprosy Mission Australia supporters will be coming to an end. Thank God for their impact and ask Him for wisdom and continued safety for the programmes team as new projects are implemented.

**THU:** Please pray more churches and groups will be open to and interested in hearing from a speaker about how to help people affected by leprosy. Praise God for people's willingness to connect, and bless those who have done so already.

**FRI:** Pray more people will be motivated this year to 'put the kettle on' for a great cause and host a 'Cuppa For a Cure' event to help stop leprosy by 2035.

**SAT/SUN:** There are many wonderful supporters who volunteer in the office, their homes, and across Australia to help people affected by leprosy. Pray God's blessing would be upon them and flow through them to others.

## SENIOR STAFF

Sheldon Rankin – Chief Executive Officer  
Geraldine Toh – Finance Manager  
Nerida Collard – Executive Assistant  
Paul Andrews – Marketing Manager  
Philip Hamilton – International Program Manager  
Supa Thejan – Merchandise Manager





*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission has been working in Niger since 1956, supporting CSL (Centre de Santé et de Léprologie) Hospital, Danja, in collaboration with SIM Niger. Since 2011 TLM Niger's office has been based in Niamey, the capital. Although fewer than 300 people were diagnosed with leprosy in Niger in 2017, a third of these already had a visible disability. TLM Niger supports the National and Regional Ministry of Health to provide leprosy services including leprosy awareness and the training and supervision of health workers.

TLM Niger's vision is for people affected by leprosy to have transformed lives through access to sustainable leprosy and community services that enhance their full potential to actively participate in society. This requires not just medical leprosy services but also community development, and TLM Niger facilitates this through microcredit for income generating activities, provision of drinkable water, building of latrines, promoting hygiene in the communities, and a housing project for homeless people affected by leprosy.

Lately, TLM Niger has been building partnerships with local church leaders, disability organisations and government institutions. TLM Niger also supports IDEA, an association of people affected by leprosy, through training in advocacy, empowerment and creating community awareness.

## SENIOR STAFF

Bunmi Oluloto – TLM Country Leader  
Abdul Yohanna – Programme Manager  
Saratou Barage – Technical Advisor  
Ichaya Garba – Office Administrator

**Top:** TLM Country Leader Bunmi Oluloto.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** TLM Niger will be evaluating their country strategy this year and also developing new projects as one of their existing community empowerment projects comes to an end. Pray for wisdom and direction for the team as they seek to plan activities that will make a major and sustainable difference in people's lives.

**TUE:** TLM Niger is working with church leaders and evangelists in communities to encourage integral mission in reaching out to people affected by leprosy. Please pray that their efforts will yield positive results so that people affected by leprosy in Niger can receive spiritual and emotional care.

**WED:** Please pray for TLM Niger's local Board as they aim to take full responsibility for all TLM operations in the country. Pray that the Board will function well and help to contribute to the success of TLM's work in Niger.

**THU:** CSL Danja is the only active leprosy referral hospital in Niger, but has been facing serious financial challenges due to a drop in funds from donors and low amounts of locally generated income. There is also the ongoing challenge of finding a hospital director. Please pray that the Lord will turn around the fortune of the centre and find a committed director to lead it.

**FRI:** Pray that the TLM Niger Country Office team will work together in harmony and have success in all their projects; for Yohanna as he builds the capacity of IDEA Niger leaders and follows up the activities of other partners; for Ichaya the Office Administrator in coordination of all finance, human resources and logistics; and for Saratou as she works with the leprosy coordinators at national and regional level.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for Bunmi and his family; for Bunmi as he leads the Niger team, and for his wife Loveth and their children, Blessing, Favour and Goodness. Favour will be graduating from high school in May and hoping to start university in September; pray for a smooth transition to university and grace for the family to cope with the adjustment.



People affected by leprosy often say that the most damaging aspects of the disease are the prejudice, stigmatisation and social exclusion they experience. To combat these obstacles, it is not enough to focus on delivering good quality health and socio-economic programmes. The Leprosy Mission needs to join hands with leprosy-affected people and associations to speak out against the myths and misunderstandings that lead to exclusion.

Sometimes this involves 'speaking truth to power', influencing people in authority to change rules, restrictions, laws, customs or decisions that have these destructive effects. The most successful advocacy is often by organisations of people affected by leprosy themselves, so we have an increasing focus in our projects around the world on making sure people know their rights, are assured of their value in society and are equipped with the knowledge, confidence and appropriate platforms to speak on their own behalf. Through sharing their own stories, through advocating for the rights and entitlements that are important to them, communities and individuals affected by leprosy are changing not only their own situations and social status but the minds and hearts of those around them. Over the last five years, the number of people affected by leprosy who are tackling leprosy-related issues at the national or regional political level across the countries we work in has been growing, with 493 individuals known to us in 2017.

**Top:** Kofi Nyarko and Birke Nigatu Teku were each presented with the Wellesley Bailey Award in 2018 for their incredible contributions to the cause of persons affected by leprosy.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the people affected by leprosy who are engaged in advocacy at a national or international level. Pray that the great value of their personal experience would be recognised as they share in public forums.

**TUE:** Pray for IDEA, the international association of persons affected by leprosy, that they would continue to find the support they need and strengthen the voices and confidence of their members.

**WED:** 'Mainstreaming' is an important part of overcoming stigma – integrating people affected by leprosy and their concerns and service needs into broader related sectors, such as disability. Pray particularly that people affected by leprosy will be welcomed into Disabled People's Organisations across all countries where we are working.

**THU:** In the pages of ASK there are many accounts of TLM working to empower people affected by leprosy – often through involvement in self-help groups and associations – to speak for themselves. Praise God for the small successes that build confidence among the groups and the TLM staff who support them, and encourage people to aim higher.

**GOOD FRI:** *'And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.'* Philippians 2:8 (ESV). Pray that we would always have humility and respect when listening to the concerns of people affected by leprosy and would show God's grace in our love for others.

**SAT/EASTER SUN:** *'He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.'* 2 Timothy 1:9-10 (NIV). Christ has defeated death and is risen – Hallelujah! Pray that God's graciousness to us and His ultimate victory will give us courage and persistence as we work to build His kingdom here on earth.

## GERMANY AND ITALY

22–28 APR

*Love never fails.*

1 Corinthians 13:8 (NIV)



### About TLM Germany

TLM Germany started as a local circle of friends around Dr and Mrs Riedel. They were pioneers in the fight against leprosy, worked from 1951 to 1997 for The Leprosy Mission. Their hope was to bring all people God's love and to make His Kingdom visible.

All members of TLM Germany's executive committee are volunteers and are part of different parishes. They organise special fundraising events and are invited to various groups and communities in order to report on their projects. TLM Germany supports projects in Niger, India and Chad.

### About TLM Italy

TLM Italy is a small group that works on a voluntary basis to increase the knowledge of the international work of TLM. To connect with the Italian public and encourage support, they publish a newsletter (a paper and a digital edition), organise small events and fundraising appeals, and communicate through a Facebook page and a website.

### PRAYER POINTS

#### Germany

**MON:** Give thanks for the TLM Germany Board team elected last spring. Pray for energy and unity as they seek to inspire people to join in our mission.

**TUE:** Give thanks for the many faithful individuals and churches in Germany who pray for TLM's work and support us with their donations and their engagement.

**WED:** In 2019, TLM Germany will tread a new path and strengthen their fundraising efforts. Pray for more volunteers to help with this and for open ears and hearts from the people of Germany.

#### Italy

**THU:** TLM Italy's greatest need is to find more supporters and involve them in the work. Pray for new contact with people who do not know the work of TLM and for more tools to reach out with, such as newspapers, brochures and events.

**FRI:** Pray that God will renew TLM Italy's working group with new sensitive, responsible people, who can help to promote new fundraising events and give information about TLM to the people concerned.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for God's hand over the difficult social and political situation in Italy, which is quite challenging for volunteering and fundraising.

### KEY STAFF

#### Italy

Pietro Matino – Board Secretary

Franco Ciuchi – Treasurer

Elia Landi – Vice President

#### Germany

Dr Johannes Schäfer – Chair of the Board

Bettina Merz – TLM Country Leader

## TIMOR LESTE

29 APR–5 MAY

*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

Romans 8:18 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste has been active since 2003, pushing towards elimination of leprosy, prevention of leprosy-related disabilities and decrease of discrimination against persons with leprosy and disability, so they can be fully integrated in their communities. They seek to be an open and learning organisation, always developing themselves and others in order to grow the services for their target individuals and groups.

The Better Community Health for Communities Affected by Leprosy (BHCAL) project, working with the Ministry of Health and other clinical partners, aims to achieve leprosy elimination and reduce leprosy-related disability in high endemic districts while also supervising and monitoring lower endemic districts.

The Community-Based Rehabilitation Social, Economic, Health, Development (CBR SEHD) project aims to integrate people affected by leprosy back into the community through self-help groups, contributing towards inclusive social, economic and health development.

The Rights for Persons with Disability (RPD) project aims for people with disabilities to fully participate in society and have equal access to rights and opportunities.

**Top:** Country Leader Afiana Lisnahan (left) with Petronela, who was diagnosed and treated for leprosy thanks to TLM's work raising community awareness in her village. *"I know that God is in control so I just surrendered and went for treatment. I wasn't afraid."*

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Thank God that the new structures of the Ministry of Health in Timor Leste and all its components have renewed their commitment to work towards zero transmission of leprosy.

**TUE:** Pray for the new project proposal of the national leprosy control programme, for a better plan to address the needs of people affected by leprosy, as case numbers are increasing every year. Pray the proposal will get funded by donors.

**WED:** Pray for self-help group members who have received loans, that they will be committed to continue with their small businesses and earn a good income to support their families.

**THU:** Give thanks for the CBR SEHD field facilitators and pray for commitment and patience as they facilitate and assist the self-help groups to be independent for a better future.

**FRI:** Pray for six Disabled People's Organisations and one legal aid to continue their advocacy and legal education about the rights of people with disability to the community, churches, schools, universities and government.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for the Government of Timor Leste to ratify and adopt the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### SENIOR STAFF

Afiana (Nona) Lisnahan – TLM Country Leader

Francisco da Costa – Project Coordinator (BHCAL)

Nelson da Silva – Project Coordinator (CBR SEHD)

Joel Costa – Project Supervisor (RPD)

**Top:** The new German Board, April 2018.



# DHANALAKSHMI'S STORY

Dhanalakshmi's story is one of tragic loss, but also of the tremendous hope that is found only in the gospel and good news of Christ. When her husband died suddenly nine years ago, Dhanalakshmi was devastated. They had not had children either, which was something she had always hoped for.

Dhanalakshmi was diagnosed with leprosy as a twelve year old when she began to lose the sensation in her right foot. "An ulcer had developed, and someone told me I was being careless by not looking after myself, but I couldn't feel the pain."

After completing a full 12-month course of multi-drug therapy, Dhanalakshmi's ulcer healed up but then it developed again in the same place when she was fourteen years old. She then developed foot drop due to leprosy, and was referred to TLM Salur Hospital by her local government public health centre. After the ulcer had healed, she underwent surgery and was discharged. Then for around 10-15 years afterwards, she didn't have any serious complications or health complaints due to having had leprosy.

Dhanalakshmi was grateful that having had leprosy didn't affect her chances of getting married. She believes that her husband accepted her because of his faith in Jesus. "My husband's Christian faith is what brought us together – he was accepting of me"

It wasn't until five years into their marriage that Dhanalakshmi came to faith in Jesus Christ. She had been experiencing some issues with her previous leprosy ulcer, so her husband recommended she visit Salur Hospital again. She knew Salur was a Christian hospital and didn't want to go there, so she visited a number of other health centres. But her ulcer got worse and she knew she would have to go. "But my ulcer actually healed in Salur hospital, and it didn't elsewhere in all the other health centres even after receiving similar treatment... This is why I turned to Jesus. I believe God healed me at TLM Salur Hospital, and ever since then I believe it's because of God that I've been able to keep going." Dhanalakshmi's faith helped her cope when her husband passed away.

In 2014, Dhanalakshmi suddenly developed a Type 1 leprosy reaction, a dangerous reaction which needs steroid treatment. She came back to Salur Hospital where she recommenced multi-drug therapy treatment after testing positive for a relapse of leprosy. Unfortunately as Dhanalakshmi recommenced treatment, she also developed another ulcer on her foot. Due to the steroid treatment for the Type 1 reaction, it has been very difficult for the ulcer to heal. Medically, the priority must be on maintaining steroid treatment as Type 1 reactions can be life threatening, so the ulcer has gotten a lot

worse. She also has developed difficulties with her sight. Despite her circumstances, she remains faithful and seems more on fire for Jesus than ever before. "God has provided for me ever since I first gave my life to Him."

The church have been very supportive of Dhanalakshmi and her mother, which she considers a big part of the way God has provided for her. "It is only because of the generosity of the church that my mother and I have been able to live without fear of discrimination." She goes on to share enthusiastically about the importance of raising awareness about leprosy, as well as the importance of sharing the good news of Jesus.

"I now spread awareness about leprosy and speak to people about the causes so that they go and get treatment. I also speak at churches whenever I can about the difference Jesus has made in my life... It is all because of Jesus that I was healed, and I want people to know about that, particularly people affected by leprosy."

Dhanalakshmi shares an incredible miracle of how she came to be able to read. "I wanted to be able to read the Bible, but stopped going to school when I was in 3rd grade so haven't been able to read. So one night God told me to read Psalm 23 over and over, even though I didn't understand the words... After several weeks of doing this, words started to form in my head and five months later I was able to read the whole Bible word for word!"

"My hopes for the future are that I can continue spreading the word of God, because I was raised to new life. I wanted others to know this new life too. Whatever I do, I will do in the name of Jesus Christ."

Photo © Daniel Christiansz Photography





**T**LM France (known in the country as Mission Lèpre) consists of a small team of staff governed by a local board. The team communicates with donors mainly through their regular magazine 'En Action' and their website. Staff, board members and volunteers also visit churches to present the work of the Mission.

This year TLM France will participate in meetings with the Fédération de Missions Evangéliques Francophones (FMEF) and the Association au Service de l'Action Humanitaire (ASAH), two associations which bring together Christian Mission organisations. It is an excellent opportunity for the spiritual encouragement for all participants and a good way to stay connected with other Christian associations and think about the challenges of fundraising.

In 2018, TLM France was greatly encouraged by the 10 volunteers who supported TLM by running the popular "Race of Heroes" event, an opportunity to raise both funds and awareness. They are hoping to recruit more runners this year, and to expand their volunteer team to help them revive and raise the profile of The Leprosy Mission among Christians and churches.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** The financial help from the Government that enabled TLM France to employ a secretary has ended. Pray for other opportunities for TLM France to gain secretarial support.

**TUE:** Pray for the small team of TLM France, that they can cope with the increased workload after the departure of their secretary.

**WED:** TLM France is using a new all-in-one management platform. Pray that it will make a positive difference in their work.

**THU:** TLM France hopes to find new supporters by inserting their magazine into several Christian newspapers. Pray that recipients of these newspapers will read the magazine and be inspired to support the cause of people affected by leprosy.

**FRI:** Give thanks for the 10 people who ran in the Race of Heroes in June 2018 and raised €3,000 for a millet project in Chad. Pray for more volunteers to run in this year's race.

**SAT/SUN:** Give thanks for Aude, a new member of the French Board, and the skills and knowledge she brings to the team. Pray that the Board will work together well and make good decisions for TLM France.

### KEY STAFF

Pascal Machefer – TLM Country Leader  
Carine Fotso – Finance

**Top:** 10 volunteers ran in the 2018 'Race of Heroes' and raised €3,000 for the emergency millet project in Chad.



**B**ased in Stirling, The Leprosy Mission Scotland works to raise awareness of leprosy and its effects and to act as a vehicle through which people, churches, schools, community groups and others from across Scotland can find their role in defeating leprosy and transforming lives.

A small staff group, supported by a larger team of volunteers,

- raises funds through a wide variety of national and local activities from direct mail appeals and digital campaigns to coffee mornings and sponsored events;
- encourages and enables relevant and timely prayer;
- visits churches and groups to directly appeal for support.

TLM Scotland is asking people to stand in the G.A.P. to uphold people affected by leprosy by Giving, Acting or Praying to support the work of God through TLM.

In the summer of 2019 TLM Scotland plan to launch a major new fundraising campaign with a compelling idea of the difference that gifts will make for people affected by leprosy and to help bring about Zero Leprosy.

### SENIOR STAFF

Linda Todd – Chief Executive Officer  
Stuart McAra – Head of Engagement  
Mhairi Dawson – Head of Supporter Care and Volunteer Development  
Tim Reed – Head of Insight

**Top:** Linda Todd, Chief Executive Officer.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for staff and board members involved in a major project to revitalise and reimagine the fundraising message in Scotland. Pray for wisdom and clarity to distil the key stories and ideas which will inspire many more people in Scotland to bring healing and hope to people affected by leprosy in partner countries.

**TUE:** Give thanks for volunteer board members; speakers; church representatives; community fundraisers and office administration helpers in Scotland. Pray that God will bless them for all that they do. Pray too for new volunteers to step forward in key areas, especially for new board members with the right skills and experience to fill important gaps.

**WED:** Give thanks for the many donors who give generously to help people affected by leprosy through the various projects that TLM Scotland supports. Pray that God will bless them for their love for people in need. Pray that the team will be able to find new donors and to inspire all supporters to give so that they can meet their ambitious targets for increasing project support.

**THU:** Give thanks for those churches that choose to support people affected by leprosy, and TLM, with their gifts and prayers. Pray for opportunities to engage with more churches to share details of what God is doing through TLM and that they will make helping people affected by leprosy part of their mission, just as Jesus did.

**FRI:** Pray for team members travelling this year to visit some of the projects helped by Scottish supporters. Pray for safety while travelling and that they will be inspired and challenged by what they see and the people they meet. Pray too that they will be a blessing and encouragement to people at each of the projects, strengthening the relationships they have and the joint commitment to defeat leprosy together.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray that more people from across Scotland will join you in praying regularly for people affected by leprosy, and the work of The Leprosy Mission, using the ASK diary, TLM Scotland's monthly prayer emails and prayer app.



# THE LEAST OF THESE

Recently we've been reading a biography of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. I was both challenged and inspired by her life and work. But what struck me most was the attitude with which she treated everybody – from the king of Norway to the person with leprosy begging in the streets of Calcutta. She treated each and everybody the same. She saw Jesus in every person: no matter their background, social status, or income (or lack of it).

This reminded me of a passage in Matthew 25. Jesus is talking of the time when the righteous will inherit the kingdom: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me". The righteous answer by asking Him when they did these things. Jesus continues (referring to himself): "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

The Leprosy Mission logo of Jesus touching and healing a person with leprosy is inspiring and confirms our calling to serve people like Jesus did. But so often we do so from a position of power, more resources and superior knowledge, not always sufficiently valuing the dignity of the person we are helping.

But how would it change my relationship and attitude towards people affected by leprosy, if I would see Jesus in each one of them, as I serve them? I do not say it is wrong to imitate Jesus – we are also called to be His hands and feet here and now. But maybe we will have more respect for and honour each person more, if we see Jesus in each person – as we pray; raise funds for projects in a far-away country; or shake a fingerless hand.

If it is Jesus' hand, I can shake it with a deeper love; if it is Jesus' project that I'm raising funds for, I can raise it with focused purpose; if I pray for a breakthrough in Jesus' village, I can pray with more power.

*The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

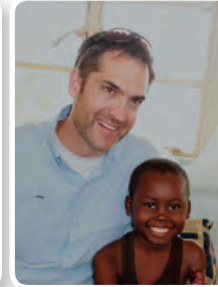
**Marié de Kruijff** is wife to Arie de Kruijff, TLM Mozambique's Country Leader.

## CANADA, USA AND IRELAND

20 –26 MAY

*Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.*

Psalm 62:5 (NIV)



### About effect:hope

Restoring hope is the first step towards healing someone affected by leprosy. Inspired by Jesus, effect:hope works to free people from the disease, the disability and the stigma that often follow. They also equip local health teams with the knowledge gained from serving those with leprosy and apply it to people with similar diseases in the same communities. In so doing, they can prevent long-term disability from leprosy, Buruli ulcer, Lymphatic filariasis and other diseases of the poor.

### About American Leprosy Missions

Founded in 1906, American Leprosy Missions (ALM) is the oldest and largest Christian organisation in the United States dedicated to curing and caring for people affected by leprosy and related diseases. American Leprosy Missions has transformed the lives of more than four million people worldwide through medical treatment and training, Christian outreach, prevention of disability, community development and research.

### About The Mission to End Leprosy

The Mission to End Leprosy (formerly TLM Ireland) supports strategic interventions to map, prevent and treat leprosy by partnering with affected communities, researchers, government agencies, NGOs, hospitals, funders, and entrepreneurs. In addition to leprosy, they work with other neglected infectious and parasitic diseases found in the same regions. Their areas of focus include health systems, breaking transmission, mobilisation, building inclusive communities, leadership, and patient care. The Mission to End Leprosy's focus this year is on diversifying their funding streams.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray that the implementation of effect:hope's new strategic plan creates strong and dynamic results that share their message with Canadians and inspire them to support those living with the effects of leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases.

**TUE:** Pray that effect:hope will continue to have collaborative relationships with governments and other NGO partners as we work together to achieve zero transmission, zero disability, and zero discrimination from leprosy and NTDs.

**WED:** Pray that effect:hope's work in preventative care, early diagnosis, and transmission research encourages donors, foundations, and governments to increase support for such programmes as Research to Stop Neglected Tropical Diseases Transmission (R2STOP) and Every Child Thrives.

**THU:** Pray for new partnerships with funding organisations and new donors who will become champions of ALM's ministry.

**FRI:** Pray for cultural awareness and heeding of in-country counsel as ALM promotes a balance of gospel demonstration and proclamation (Integral Mission) across networks, partners and projects.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for wisdom as ALM and partner organisations scale up work in multiple neglected tropical diseases. Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere struggle with five or more.

### KEY STAFF

#### American Leprosy Missions

Bill Simmons – President and CEO

#### effect:hope

Peter Derrick – CEO

#### The Mission to End Leprosy

Ken Gibson – CEO

**Top left:** Peter Derrick, CEO of effect:hope.

**Top right:** Bill Simmons, President and CEO of ALM.



The Leprosy Mission Trust India delivers its healthcare programme through 14 hospitals and 2 clinics spread across 10 states of India – Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The hospitals address all aspects of leprosy as a medico-social disease. They provide not only specialised leprosy referral services, but also primary-level preventive healthcare through community outreach. Leprosy is a major cause of disability, and the hospitals address the issue of disability through institution-based and community-based disability management.

They also provide secondary-level healthcare in other medical specialties, such as dermatology, ophthalmology, general medicine, general surgery, and obstetrics and gynaecology.

TLM India also provides holistic care for the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of elderly persons disabled by leprosy in its five snehalayas (a Hindi term which means ‘a house of love’) spread across three states of India – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These people were rejected and abandoned by their families due to disabilities and the stigma associated with leprosy.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Praise God for all the committed staff working in TLM India’s hospitals and snehalayas. There is still a need for more skilled and committed medical professionals and others to work in the hospitals. Pray for God to provide committed doctors and staff to run the hospitals.

**TUE:** Many patients affected by leprosy are not able to seek medical treatment due to a variety of reasons, major ones being stigma and lack of awareness about the disease. TLM India’s hospitals and snehalayas support them in getting quality medical care. Often, they conduct community outreach programmes to reach the unreached. Pray for the success of the work of these hospitals that strive to provide holistic care to leprosy patients.

**WED:** Praise God for the nursing staff, doctors, physiotherapists, administrative staff, and others working in TLM India’s hospitals. Pray for God’s continued blessings on them so that they can witness God’s love through their work.

**THU:** As TLM India implements its new country strategy, pray for God’s guidance and wisdom in running the healthcare programme so that TLM India can bring healing to many persons affected by leprosy.

**FRI:** Praise God for taking care of the needs of the hospitals. Still, there are many needs left in the hospitals. Pray for more individuals, corporate companies, and institutional donors to come forward to support TLM India’s work among people affected by leprosy.

**SAT/SUN:** Leprosy is a leading cause of permanent physical disabilities among communicable diseases. Timely diagnosis and treatment can prevent disabilities. Many patients do not report for diagnosis in time and they suffer disabilities. Pray for patients to report in time before disabilities set in so they can be healed completely.

## SENIOR HEALTH STAFF

Dr Famkima Darlong – Head of Healthcare

**TLM Philadelphia Community Hospital, Salur, Andhra Pradesh**  
Mr Surjit Pal – Superintendent

**TLM Hospital, Muzaffarpur, Bihar**  
Dr Milind Chavan – Medical Superintendent

**TLM Bethesda Leprosy Home and Hospital, Champa, Chhattisgarh**  
Dr Sandeep Kumar – Medical Superintendent

**TLM Hospital, Chandkuri, Chhattisgarh**  
Dr Manotosh Elkana – Medical Superintendent

**TLM Hospital, Shahdara, Delhi**  
Mr Stephen Levi – Superintendent

**TLM Kothara Community Hospital, Kothara, Maharashtra**  
Dr Asha Massey – Medical Superintendent

**TLM Richardson Leprosy Hospital/CHANGED project, Miraj, Maharashtra**  
Dr Shirish Shegaonkar – In-charge/Senior Programme Manager

**TLM Hospital, Vadathorasalur, Tamil Nadu**  
Dr Ira Packyanathan – Medical Superintendent

**TLM Hospital, Dayapuram, Tamil Nadu**  
Dr Suresh Herbert – Deputy Medical Superintendent

**TLM Hospital, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh**  
Mr Vijay Prathap – Deputy Superintendent

**TLM Hospital, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh**  
Mr Bino Berry – Superintendent

**TLM Hospital, Naini, Uttar Pradesh**  
Dr Ruby Marshala – Medical Superintendent

**TLM Premananda Memorial Leprosy Hospital, Kolkata, West Bengal**  
Dr Helen Roberts – Medical Superintendent

**TLM Purulia Leprosy Home and Hospital, Purulia, West Bengal**  
Dr Ujjwal Hembrom – Medical Superintendent

**TLM Clinic, Almora, Uttarakhand**  
Mr Anand Singh – Superintendent

**TLM Clinic, Belgaum, Karnataka**  
Dr Suresh Varghese – Medical Superintendent

Top: An eye surgery for a leprosy patient at TLM Kothara Hospital, Maharashtra.



*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

Jeremiah 17:14 (ESV)



The Leprosy Mission supports the leprosy control programme of the National Ministry of Health in Sudan through the Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), providing national diagnostic skin smears and operating a national training centre for the treatment and diagnosis of leprosy. Through Aburoff Leprosy Clinic, TLM provides quality leprosy services, eye care and counselling for persons who are stigmatised because of leprosy. In collaboration with the national programme and Khartoum College of Medicine, TLM also provides an internship programme to medical students visiting the country. In the coming year, TLM Sudan is aspiring to help persons affected by leprosy grow economically through a new initiative to integrate them into the livelihood programmes of other disabled people's organisations within Khartoum.

Top: John Kuku caring for a patient.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray that God will provide TLM Sudan with the right staff to support Aburoff Clinic, especially in counselling for those persons stigmatised because of leprosy.

**TUE:** Pray for TLM Sudan's venture to integrate leprosy initiatives with those relating to other skin-related NTDs in 2019 and for the training of TLM Sudan's existing staff to cope with these changes.

**WED:** Pray for an improvement in the livelihoods of the staff as well as persons affected by leprosy and their loved ones, as the Sudanese pound is losing its value.

**THU:** Pray that God would enable and inspire the Episcopal Church of Sudan to contribute more proactively in the leprosy clinics, through counselling and pastoral visits.

**FRI:** The ongoing conflict in South Sudan makes it very difficult for health services to operate. Pray that people affected by leprosy will be able to get the medical help and care they need.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for God to bring peace to South Sudan so that all those displaced and separated by the war will be united with their loved ones.

### TLM TEAM

Dr Yousif Deng Riak Deng – TLM Country Leader  
Ms Seela Kajo Shalluka – Aburoff Clinic Manager  
Mr John Kuku – Khartoum State Leprosy Supervisor

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)



The vitally important projects of curing and caring for people affected by leprosy require financial resources in order to function. Some 11 TLM countries are focused on this crucial fundraising activity. With integrity, we share the need with supporters, inviting them to demonstrate their care and concern for people affected by leprosy through their prayers and financial gifts. Funds are raised from individuals, churches, civic groups, trusts/foundations and institutions (government bodies). This mix of fundraising streams is very important so that we are not dependent on any single source.

Top: Peter Walker sees the practical outcome of fundraising in the small town of Tillabéri, where new latrines will make a big difference to a very poor leprosy-affected community of 4,000 people.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** We give God thanks for the many thousands of faithful donors who have given, often sacrificially, to care for people affected by leprosy. Pray blessing upon them.

**TUE:** Today we pray for all those TLM countries who have strategies to increase their fundraising activity. Pray they will seek the Lord and that He will guide them 'where to fish' (John 21:6).

**WED:** There has been greater sharing of fundraising materials across the TLM Global Fellowship in recent years. Pray this will continue, indeed increase.

**THU:** Pray for Peter Walker, Head of Fundraising Development at the International Office, as he engages with 'new' countries who could raise funds for people affected by leprosy.

**FRI:** As plans are formed for a global fundraising campaign, pray for wisdom on the theme/topic. Also pray for the campaign, that the Lord will 'open the floodgates of heaven' and see a great success.

**SAT/SUN:** We rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for His goodness and blessing on fundraising campaigns in the past. Please pray for His continuing and increasing favour, that He will 'establish the work of our hands' (Psalm 90:17).

**"Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission."**

Henri Nouwen, A SPIRITUALITY OF FUNDRAISING



Jahangir lost his job as a driver because of an ulcer on his foot. After joining a self-help group, he learned self-care to keep the ulcer from worsening and started wearing protective sandals. He also received livelihood training and took a loan from the group to open a small shop. He has regained his confidence and dignity.

### Leprosy Control and Research

In Bangladesh, leprosy control and research are conducted alongside community-based rehabilitation services. This is to ensure that TLM's projects address more than just the physical needs of people affected by leprosy and effectively work towards a leprosy-free Bangladesh.

The aims of the leprosy control programmes are to ensure quality leprosy services; raise awareness; stop the transmission of leprosy from person to person; and prevent disability. Patients with complications are referred to DBLM Hospital for further treatment. TLM Bangladesh also works to strengthen the Government's health services and build capacity of health staff.

TLM Bangladesh has been undertaking valuable leprosy research for years now, contributing vital scientific knowledge for the treatment of leprosy. A new research project aims to understand in more detail how people respond immunologically to the presence of *M. leprae*, the causative bacterium of leprosy. Through researching this as well as the transmission patterns of the bacterium, we can obtain insight that helps pinpoint those at highest risk of developing leprosy. TLM Bangladesh is also focusing on and encouraging local researchers and institutions to engage in social research which should contribute to eliminating the barriers against social integration, quality treatment and stigma reduction.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** There is a great possibility for new studies in Bangladesh in 2019. Please pray for these studies to find new ideas to stop leprosy transmission.

**TUE:** Pray for a successful funding allocation for TLM Bangladesh's core research project that should provide the facilities and human resources to ensure a stable base for leprosy research in Bangladesh.

**WED:** Please pray for continuing support from effect:hope for a new Health System Strengthening phase from 2019 that would allow TLM Bangladesh to continue their efforts to build sustainable capacity within government health departments, to ensure comprehensive leprosy services are ongoing.

**THU:** The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh works with the Government to strengthen health systems so that people affected by leprosy are able to get quality services on time. Pray to the Lord that The Leprosy Mission staff members can effectively develop the skills of government health staff.

**FRI:** Give thanks to God for previous years in which TLM Bangladesh has been able to complete all its Health System Strengthening activities smoothly with the support of local health and administrative authorities. Pray for persons disabled by leprosy as they receive holistic health and disability services from the Government.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for the spiritual enrichment of TLM Bangladesh staff, especially those in leadership roles, that they can be role models in the communities.

### SENIOR LEPROSY CONTROL AND RESEARCH STAFF

Mr John Arpon Samaddar – Program Leader, Chittagong & Dhaka  
Mr Surendra Nath Singh – Rural Health Program Leader  
Dr Jibok Chakma – Medical Officer, Chittagong Program  
Mr David Singh – Finance Manager, Dhaka Program  
Ms Topna Saha – Finance Manager, Chittagong Program

#### Project Managers – LCP/Research

Mr Khorshed Alam – Project Manager, Leprosy Field Research and Leprosy Control, RHP  
Mr George Biswas – Project Manager, ILSHSS – Dhaka & Gaibandha  
Mr Parach Chakma – Project Manager, Chittagong Hill Tracts  
Sultan Md. Elias – Project Manager, CLMP

# BEVERLEY'S STORY

Beverley Cross, one of The Leprosy Mission New Zealand's incredible supporters, joined their Supporter Tour to India in 2016. She brought William the Bear along, and together they visited The Leprosy Mission's hospitals, training centres, and community development programmes and had the chance to spend time with people affected by leprosy.

Last year Beverley penned her first children's book about the adventures of William, to help raise funds for The Leprosy Mission.

"When I was five years old, I met a couple of elderly missionary ladies who had returned from The Leprosy Mission fields of India and China, and their stories stayed with me. I knew I wanted to go there too," says Beverley.

Throughout her life, Beverley never lost sight that one day she would be working for The Leprosy Mission. In 2004, she made her first trip to India where she visited a leprosy hospital in Faizabad in Northern India, and had the opportunity to work in the operating theatre there.

This is not only a story about one teddy bear's journey to India; it is also the story of a woman of incredible faith, who kept alive a dream that she had nurtured for well over 50 years.

12 years later, she wanted to celebrate a significant birthday by once again returning to India. Beverley knew that part of her task was to go back to New Zealand and tell of the important work that The Leprosy Mission was doing. Over a dinner with friends prior to her trip, she had the idea of bringing William the Bear with her to India and documenting his adventure.



Although her passion for The Leprosy Mission has not diminished over the years, the way in which God has used Beverley is so very different to what she had ever imagined.

Beverley's mission is not only to raise awareness of leprosy as a significant disease globally, but also to inspire and encourage children to have a dream, to keep the faith and believe that one day God will use you in His way to fulfil His plan for you.

Beverley kindly donates a percentage of every book sale to The Leprosy Mission New Zealand.



*Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

1 John 4:11 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission has been working in Myanmar since 1898. Their vision is a “barrier-free Myanmar for persons affected by leprosy and other disabilities.” TLM Myanmar works towards this vision by focusing on four strategic aims: 1) Persons affected by leprosy and with disability are healthy, educated, earning a living and know their rights; 2) Persons affected by leprosy and with disability are included and valued members of their communities and influence the public arena; 3) TLM Myanmar has a strong voice to positively influence change in regard to leprosy and disability issues in the public arena; and 4) TLM Myanmar is a trusted, accountable and sustainable organisation that high-quality staff members want to work for.

TLM Myanmar currently works in 14 Disability Resource Centres located in 7 of Myanmar’s States and Regions. It also supports Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital, the Myanmar Government’s Yenanthar Leprosy Hospital and the Christian Leprosy Mission Eastern Shan. With significant numbers of leprosy still present (2,279 new cases in 2017) and a high percentage already with visible impairment at the time of diagnosis, it is important to maintain leprosy expertise in-country. TLM Myanmar’s projects cover a wide range of needs, including health, education, livelihoods, and empowerment. TLM Myanmar also works with the National Leprosy Control Programme to train newly appointed Public Health Supervisors in leprosy.

## SENIOR STAFF

Dr Zaw Moe Aung – TLM Country Leader  
Mr Nyi Nyi Lwin – Head of Programmes  
Ms Kalayar Tun – Finance Manager  
Ms Naw Say Say Phaw – Human Resource/Office Manager  
Ms Katie Riley – Programme Development Manager  
Dr Hla Hla Aye – TLM Myanmar Advisory Board Chair

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** This year, TLM Myanmar is piloting a new approach to serving people affected by leprosy and/or disability to increase their inclusion in mainstream society. Please pray for positive results for those we serve, and that the changes brought about can be seen for years to come.

**TUE:** Please pray for TLM Myanmar as they work to establish new, and strengthen existing, partnerships with mainstream actors, including government, churches, development organisations, and communities. Pray for a shared vision and passion for helping the most marginalised.

**WED:** Please lift up Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital, Yenanthar Leprosy Hospital, and the Christian Leprosy Mission Eastern Shan. Please pray for wisdom and God’s blessings on their work and on the hospital staff, and that those affected by leprosy can continue to be blessed by these hospitals.

**THU:** In July and August this year, two teams of young volunteers from World Servants from the Netherlands will come to continue construction of a building at Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital. Please pray for various arrangements including visa, travel and accommodation permission and the work as they would need to continue with what two teams built in 2018. Pray also for the hospital team as they seek additional funding to match the need for completion of a new staff quarter.

**FRI:** Please pray for the people of Myanmar, that their hearts and minds can continue to expand towards tolerance and acceptance of minority groups, including people affected by leprosy and disability. Pray that the team can be a beautiful representation of the love Christ taught.

**SAT/SUN:** Starting last year, TLM Myanmar is under the guidance of its first local advisory board. Please pray for wisdom and enthusiasm for the seven members of the Board, and for a smooth transition to local governance.



**Left:** TLM Myanmar senior leadership team (Dr Zaw Moe Aung, TLM Country Leader, second from left).

**This page:** Receiving a new prosthesis.  
© Dan Church Aid – DCA



*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

John 15:13 (NIV)



### About TLM Denmark

TLM Denmark is administered by the Board, who are all active contributors to the work, especially in the area of fundraising. They are partnered by the Danish Missions Council Development Department. TLM Denmark's support is primarily focused on Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission (DBLM) Hospital in Nilphamari, Bangladesh, as they have a historical connection, having founded the programme. In addition to this they apply for and allocate government funds towards different projects in the same area, such as savings groups, disability programmes, rehabilitation of prostitutes and their children, and education in human rights.

### About TLM Finland

Support for TLM started in Finland in 1968 and the National Council was formed in 1981. TLM Finland is operated solely through the generosity of volunteers, who work with individuals, churches, church groups and other organisations to raise prayer and funds for the leprosy and disability prevention work in DR Congo. They also seek to increase knowledge and interest in Finland about leprosy, how it affects people, and what can be done to help. When needed, they send professional staff to work in and support TLM projects.

TLM Finland produces a magazine in Finnish and Swedish; publishes articles and stories about leprosy work in Christian and secular magazines; shares at churches, schools and other interested groups; and attends relevant festivals and events.

In 2019 TLM Finland gives thanks for 50 years of faithful service at home and in the field. Finnish doctors, nurses and physiotherapists have served in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia. This would not have been possible without those at home raising resources and praying.

### PRAYER POINTS

#### Finland

**MON:** Give thanks that different churches in Finland have shown an increasing interest in the work of the Mission.

**TUE:** Pray for new supporters for TLM Finland and readers for their magazine. A generation shift is taking place; pray the team will find good methods to reach new supporters, especially young people.

**WED:** Pray for new people who are willing to take responsibility and develop the work in Finland, with fresh ideas on how to present The Leprosy Mission's message to potential supporters.

#### Denmark

**THU:** Give thanks for those members who have decided to leave the Board. They have served TLM's cause for 10, 20 and even 40 years. Pray that they may enjoy more time with partners, children and grandchildren and will continue to pray for the work undertaken by The Leprosy Mission.

**FRI:** Pray that the new project director at DBLM Hospital will settle in well and feel welcomed by staff and patients and that future cooperation with TLM Denmark will be joyful and fruitful.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray that Danish Government Aid will be given for the projects among people affected by poverty and disability in Nilphamari District, Bangladesh, as the present project ends in 2019. The team in Denmark will be applying for a new grant – pray their application is successful.

### SENIOR STAFF

#### Denmark

Jorgen Andersen – Chair of the Board

#### Finland

Rev Eija Kilpi – Chair of the Board

Ms Marja Aho – Vice chair

Ms Ritva Pohti – National Director/Secretary

**Top:** Eija Kilpi, Chair of TLM Finland, attending to an interested visitor at their desk at the 'World comes to Village' Festival, May 2018.

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)



In Ethiopia, The Leprosy Mission works mainly through partners. Our long-standing partnership with the Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (ENAPAL) continues to be fruitful. We also work with the All African Leprosy Tuberculosis Rehabilitation and Research Training Centre (ALERT) and Boru Meda Hospital.

Leprosy is still a problem in the country. In 2017, of the 3,114 people newly diagnosed with leprosy, 402 (13%) had visible disability at the time of diagnosis. This indicates late detection and is a major concern. It is therefore important to raise awareness and improve knowledge about leprosy in communities. Mainstreaming leprosy into other initiatives is crucial to achieving this, and we are working through self-help groups already established by Tearfund as well as continuing to work through the ENAPAL associations at grassroots level.

In other work, around 380 children of parents affected by leprosy or with disabilities receive education support with the aim to keep them in school and inspire them to break the cycle of poverty. ENAPAL also seeks to improve the lives of its members with livelihood opportunities and training.

Training of health care professionals will continue and there are promising new possibilities opening up with ALERT.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Thank the Lord for the new physiotherapy building and equipment for the Boru Meda Hospital in Dessie. Pray that this provision will be a blessing for those affected by leprosy and for others.

**TUE:** Pray for the Government of Ethiopia, that they will govern this great nation according to God's standards. Pray for unity and peace.

**WED:** Pray that the health extension workers in Ethiopian communities are able to detect possible leprosy cases early and refer them to the community health centres. Pray that the newly trained health workers will diagnose and treat patients correctly.

**THU:** Thank the Lord for opening up new partnerships in Ethiopia. Pray that He will provide for all the resources needed, human as well as financial.

**FRI:** Pray that the 380 young students that receive education support through different projects will do well at school and will be able to continue their education.

**SAT/SUN:** Give thanks for the Leprosy Champions being developed in Ethiopia. Pray that they will be courageous in communicating and taking up issues regarding the rights and entitlements of persons affected by leprosy at all levels.

### SENIOR STAFF

Ms Tanny Hagens – Interim Country Representative

Mr Berihun Legesse – Finance and Admin Officer

#### Heads of Partners

Mr Tesfaye Tadesse – Managing Director of ENAPAL

Mr Dagnew Hagezom – CEO of ALERT

Mr Dawit Kidane Teku – CEO Boru Meda Hospital

Mr Ephraim Tsegay – TEAR FUND Country Representative, Ethiopia

**Top:** Training of trainers with basic leprosy and self-care information for members of ENAPAL local associations.



*The Lord... is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)



For 45 years, TLM Hungary has given prayer support and raised funds for the work of The Leprosy Mission around the world. Locally, the team in Hungary share knowledge and information on the needs of people affected by leprosy to inspire Hungarian people to active help. The main base of continual support are individuals and Christian churches. Reaching out to the wider population, TLM Hungary has regular campaigns in different areas of the country, inserting leaflets into local and regional magazines and newspapers, or in door-to-door visits. Different media appearances in Christian TV, radio and press are extremely good opportunities for raising and deepening interest.

TLM Hungary is also invited to hold performances in Christian schools, which they regard as sowing seeds for the future, as through the sensitivity of children and, indirectly, some of their parents, the next generation can be inspired in charitable thinking and actions.

In 2019, TLM Hungary is contributing to the work of TLM in India, DR Congo and Ethiopia.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the strong links of TLM Hungary with Christian churches. All 1,500 local Presbyterian, Lutheran and Baptist churches have been regularly contacted, and 1/3 of them are already financially supporting TLM's cause besides their prayers. Give thanks for the dedicated ministers and volunteers keeping the flame alive in their congregations and helping people affected by leprosy to Life in all its Fullness!

**TUE:** Give thanks for the final step last year to integrate all Christian churches in Hungary into TLM's work, a "legacy project" of the Country Leader. Pray for good acceptance of TLM's message in the new spots: the 2,400 parishes of the major Catholic Church, and the Neoprotestant churches.

**WED:** Give thanks for the faithfully serving volunteers helping in different areas (such as database, administration, social media, church links, finances, schools and legal), each one with a heart to share their expertise for the benefit of the Mission.

**THU:** From January onwards a new three year term began for the Board in Hungary. Pray for the Chair and other members, whether they continue, or are new in their roles. Pray for God's guidance for them that they will be engaged and understanding, with a burning heart for Jesus and mission.

**FRI:** Pray for wisdom and vision for Marta Risko, Country Leader, both in her leadership role within Hungary and in the spiritual ministry working group of TLM Global Fellowship.

**SAT/SUN:** Give thanks for the prayer support coming from Hungary that nurtures the daily life of The Leprosy Mission. ASK has been translated into Hungarian for the 13th year by a dedicated team of translators, enabling individual praying partners and church groups to use it in the national language.

## SENIOR STAFF

Marta Risko – TLM Country Leader

*How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; His dominion endures from generation to generation.*

Daniel 4:3 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission has been in New Zealand since 1912. About 12,000 New Zealanders regularly support the work of the Mission. Their commitment to The Leprosy Mission has been passed down the generations, allowing TLM New Zealand to transform lives and give hope to countless leprosy-affected families in countries like Bangladesh, Bougainville, Ethiopia, DR Congo, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Papua New Guinea.

TLM New Zealand is humbled and thankful for the love and compassion of their supporters – who uphold the Mission's work financially and prayerfully; who give their time so freely to volunteer at the office, and to speak at churches and community groups.

TLM New Zealand also partners with The New Zealand Aid Programme (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade), the Autonomous Bougainville Government, and other grassroots organisations in the countries it supports. Together, they help to cure, care for and restore people affected by leprosy to fullness of life.

## SENIOR STAFF

Gillian Whitley – TLM Country Leader  
Martin Malkaney – Finance Manager  
Sarita Divis – Fundraising Manager  
Jasleen Kler – Programmes Manager  
Jasper Oei – Programmes Manager  
Anne Ratliff – Chair of the Board (until May)  
Odele Habets – Chair of the Board (from May)

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** TLM NZ has a new Strategic Plan for 2019-2023. Pray for God's guidance and provision as TLM NZ staff work towards its goal in engaging New Zealanders to end leprosy and transform lives.

**TUE:** Give thanks for the appointment of Anne Ratliff, TLM NZ Board Chair, as the Vice-Chair of the TLM Global Fellowship Board, in conjunction with her role on the Governance Committee. Praise God for her expertise and contribution to the life of The Leprosy Mission. Pray for God's blessings and wisdom as she takes on this important role.

**WED:** This is the first year TLM NZ partners with other organisations in supporting the leprosy work in Indonesia. Praise God for this opportunity and pray for God's wisdom and guidance as staff members reach out to those most in need, that the chains of leprosy can be broken in Indonesia.

**THU:** Over the course of this year, TLM NZ staff are conducting a range of fundraising activities to cure, care for and restore people affected by leprosy around the world. Pray that these initiatives will be fruitful and inspire new committed donors. Praise God for New Zealanders who have faithfully supported people affected by leprosy living in some of the poorest regions of the world.

**FRI:** Each year a group of young people in NZ are chosen to become advocates for the life-changing work TLM does with people affected by leprosy. They then travel to Nepal and visit The Leprosy Mission hospital and leprosy-affected communities. Pray this year's Youth Advocates can meet their fundraising commitment for the Mission's work in Nepal.

**SAT/SUN:** Praise God for TLM NZ's many volunteers who give so freely of their time to assist with office administration tasks, and who speak at local churches and community groups about leprosy. They play a vital role in TLM NZ's work and their support is invaluable.

**Top:** Gillian meeting with a leprosy-affected couple in Kathmandu, Nepal.



The age-old stigma associated with leprosy often leads to the social exclusion of people affected by the disease. They are ostracised, excluded from community gatherings and prevented from accessing community resources. These multiple deprivations result in people affected by leprosy not being able to participate fully in the economic, social and political life of the society in which they live.

The Leprosy Mission Trust India works to restore people affected by leprosy and other marginalised people to full participation in society. Its community-based rehabilitation activities work through the combined efforts of people affected by leprosy, persons with disabilities, their families and communities, and relevant government and non-government health, education, vocational, social and other services. TLM adopts

a broad-spectrum approach, ranging from local interventions to strategies for policy reform. Self-help and other groups are formed to empower communities. This helps many households to earn additional income through livelihood opportunities and thus have an improved quality of life.

TLM India also provides educational scholarships for schooling, graduate, postgraduate and professional studies to children who have a background of leprosy. Its adult literacy programme provides opportunities to gain functional literacy to people affected by leprosy or disability. This helps to reduce barriers and increase their participation in community-level decision-making.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Children affected by leprosy experience discrimination because of the stigma associated with the disease. Because of this, they can lose the motivation to study or even end up dropping out of school. TLM India provides educational support to these children and mentors them to continue their education. Pray that they develop their potential and become responsible citizens.

**TUE:** Livelihood training is an important aspect of the inclusion and dignity of people affected by leprosy. Self-help groups formed by TLM India have been trained in various livelihood practices to help them earn a secure income. Some have scaled up their livelihood programmes and formed cooperative societies. Pray for the growth and sustainability of the self-help groups and cooperatives.

**WED:** TLM India's hospitals, vocational training centres and community empowerment projects work together to make an impact through community engagement programmes. These create awareness in communities about early detection of leprosy and its treatment; combat stigma and discrimination; form self-help groups; educate and assist people to claim

their rights and entitlements; and enhance livelihoods. Pray for the success of these initiatives.

**THU:** TLM India has developed and trained civil society organisations and leprosy champions to advocate for the rights of people affected by leprosy. Pray that they stand united in identifying, highlighting, and addressing all types of discrimination in their communities.

**FRI:** Give thanks for new partnerships with the Government and other local organisations working with TLM India in community development, early detection of leprosy, and awareness raising. Pray for the strengthening of all partnerships; that they join hands with TLM India to fight stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy.

**SAT/SUN:** Staff are the strength of TLM India's community empowerment projects. They work tirelessly to implement the various programmes. Pray for God's guidance and protection for all community empowerment project staff and for the people affected by leprosy with whom they work.

## SENIOR COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION STAFF

Mrs Tina Mendis – Head of Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Empowerment

### Customised Footwear Project

Dr Shirish Shegaonkar – Senior Programme Manager

### Comprehensive Health, Advocacy, Networking, Garnering Empowerment and Development Project (CHANGED)

Dr Shirish Shegaonkar – Senior Programme Manager

### Community Intervention Unit

Ms M Phoebe – Programme Manager

### Civil Society Organisations for Resource Mobilisation, Empowerment, Advocacy, Training and Employment Project (CREATE)

Mr Harsha Gudasalamani – Team Leader

Mr James George, Mr Ram K Robert, Mr Mathan Raj David – Programme Manager

Mr Navdeep Goswami – Deputy Programme Manager

### Children Unite for Action Project (CUFA)

Mrs Nitha Philip – Programme Manager

### Inclusive Holistic Development of Individuals with Disabilities Project (IHDID)

Mr Suresh Dhondge – Programme Manager

### Partnerships, Advocacy, Research and Training towards Inclusion Project (PARTI)

Mr G Manivannan – Programme Manager

### Securing Opportunities towards Advancing Revenue Project (SOAR)

Mr David Jaganathan – Programme Manager

### Self-help groups towards Holistic Community Development Project (SHCD)

Mr Kismat Nanda – Programme Manager

### Women's Empowerment through Advocacy, Livelihoods Training and Health Project (WEALTH)

Mr Naushad Hasan – Programme Manager



*Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.*

Colossians 1:10 (NLT)



## About McKean Rehabilitation Center

In Thailand, The Leprosy Mission has had a long relationship with McKean Rehabilitation Center. For 111 years McKean has provided leprosy and disability services in north Thailand, giving a practical demonstration of God's love in action and leading many to new hope, faith and quality of life. Now McKean is also pioneering the development of multi-tiered aged care for a broad range of international clients, while continuing to provide leprosy expertise, especially meeting the needs of those marginalised by ethnicity and poverty.

## About TLM Indonesia

Indonesia ranks third in the world in the number of leprosy cases. Leprosy continues to be one of the major causes of preventable disability. The Leprosy Mission New Zealand will be starting a new project and partnering with Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR) and their allied local organisation, YIPTA (Yayasan Indonesia Peduli Kusta dan Disabilitas).

The proposed project will be conducted in the district of Indramayu, one of the poorest districts in the province of West Java. There is an urgent need for acceleration of case finding and stopping the transmission of leprosy.

This project will deliver a combined approach, consisting of improved leprosy control in the local health centres, the implementation of a preventative antibiotic (rifampicin) to household and social contacts of someone affected by leprosy, and strong community involvement to raise awareness.

**Top:** Younger patients and staff at McKean Hospital in Thailand participate in a traditional New Year ceremony of respect for elders.

## PRAYER POINTS

### Thailand

**MON:** Praise God for the many disadvantaged and disabled patients in Thailand who have been enabled to find treatment and new hope through McKean. Pray for God's blessing upon them.

**TUE:** Pray for extension plans for residential aged care at McKean.

**WED:** In 2018, McKean celebrated 110 years of service to leprosy-affected and disadvantaged people in Thailand. Pray for all those now rehabilitated and seeking to live out new hope and faith in their communities.

### Indonesia

**THU:** Pray that NLR and YIPTA are able to develop strong and sustainable partnerships with the Government health department and communities. Strengthening the delivery of leprosy services through local health centres and building the capacity of government health workers is an integral part of the project. Pray for increased commitment from government health authorities at district and local health centres to support the implementation of this project.

**FRI:** The project in Indonesia will implement community empowerment activities to increase the community awareness to seek early treatment for leprosy symptoms and reduce stigma. Pray for good community participation in Indramayu, West Java, with community leaders and people affected by leprosy.

**SAT/SUN:** The project is working on a Post Exposure Prophylaxis approach to protect the high risk population from developing leprosy, by administering a single dose of rifampicin. Pray for a cost-effective supply of rifampicin in target communities.

## SENIOR STAFF

### McKean

Dr Tinakorn – Director  
Warit Anucheewachira – Manager  
Heather Smith – Deputy Director  
Dr Ratana Pananich – Assistant Director

### Indonesia

Gillian Whitley – TLM NZ Country Leader  
Jasper Oei – TLM NZ Programme Manager



Somboon went to McKean Rehabilitation Center to be treated for leprosy, but ended up staying and becoming a nurse. Since retiring she has enjoyed gardening. "I want to contribute to the village here by making it beautiful," she says. "I come outside and look at my garden and I'm really happy at what I have achieved."

Photo © Daniel Christiansz Photography



# RABIUL'S STORY

Rabiul is an eight year old boy from Bangladesh. He lives with his mother in a corrugated iron hut in the deprived outskirts of Chittagong. Two years ago, he started developing serious lesions on his skin.

Rabiul was diagnosed with leprosy. Soon his hands began to claw and become disabled. Nerve damage made his eyes irritable and hard to fully close. His facial nerve damage also meant that Rabiul lost the ability to smile.

Once an active and happy child, Rabiul became increasingly sad and withdrawn. Leprosy kept him from doing the things he loved. "I love to play cricket with my friends," he said, "but I can't hold the bat anymore."

Thankfully, it was not too late for Rabiul. He was put on multi-drug therapy and was cured of leprosy. He also had reconstructive surgery to restore his clawed hand. Rabiul is recovering well and does his physiotherapy exercises regularly.

"I rub my hands and fingers with oil several times every day, and the stiffness in my fingers is going away," Rabiul declares with joy.

Now, Rabiul can go to school and play cricket with his friends again. He can write easily with the use of his fingers. Rabiul is very happy after surgery.

Although Rabiul faces a long journey of recovery, he is very hopeful about his future. The physiotherapist pays visits to Rabiul's house and Rabiul also visits TLM's self-care centre for suggestions and exercises.

Rabiul's prayer to God is simple and pure: "I pray to God that The Leprosy Mission can support other boys like me".

Before, Rabiul was using a piece of wood as a cricket bat, but Tony, a visitor from New Zealand, gave him a new cricket bat, cricket ball and gloves. Rabiul loves to play cricket with his neighbours and friends.

The kindness and prayers of TLM's supporters enable children like Rabiul to experience the love of God and life in all its fullness.



Rabiul with the physiotherapist.





*We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.*

Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)



The Leprosy Mission Netherlands (Leprazending Nederland) was founded in 1980 to support The Leprosy Mission International with funds, prayer and human resources. The office is in Apeldoorn and there are nine members of staff, seven board members and thirteen volunteers. TLM Netherlands actively supports two Dutch cross-cultural workers: Geeske Zijp in Chad and Tanny Hagens, who has worked in Thailand, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and is presently working in Ethiopia.

TLM Netherlands' vision is to see leprosy and rehabilitation services strengthened, to support research and to enable transformational change in the lives of people affected by leprosy in India, Bangladesh, DR Congo, Myanmar and Chad. In order to make this possible, TLM Netherlands seeks support from donors, churches and funds and works to get people in the Netherlands engaged with those who suffer from this terrible disease.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Thank God for the number of prayer supporters in the Netherlands. Since last year almost twice as many people are praying for people with leprosy, with now over 700 people involved.

**TUE:** The Dutch cross-cultural workers in the field, Tanny Hagens in Ethiopia and Geeske Zijp in Chad, are doing a great job. Please pray for their safety, and bless the hands of both these women for all they are doing for people who are affected by leprosy.

**WED:** Thank God for the growth of funding in the Netherlands. Because of this they have been able to increase the amount they contribute to projects and also hire extra staff capacity to help them raise money for leprosy-affected people.

**THU:** Give thanks for the volunteers helping TLM Netherlands with their work. Volunteers come to work in the office weekly, but there are also people knitting bandages for injured leprosy patients, requesting donations to The Leprosy Mission in lieu of wedding gifts, and so many others. Thank God for all these ambassadors for people affected by leprosy.

**FRI:** TLM Netherlands are thankful that they have found a new Chairman. He started at the beginning of this year. Thank God for answering prayers. Pray for creativity, energy and the presence of God in the work of all the staff, volunteers and board members of TLM Netherlands.

**SAT/SUN:** Please pray for new opportunities for TLM Netherlands in cooperation with churches, media and organisations in order to increase awareness and support to people affected by leprosy.

### SENIOR STAFF

Mr Henno Couprie – TLM Country Leader  
Mr Cor van Leeuwen – Team Leader, Administration & Back Office  
Vacant – Team Leader, Project & Programmes  
Mrs Erika Haisma – Team Leader, Communication & Fundraising

*They lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."*

Luke 17:13 (NHEB)



TLM works through three partners in Sri Lanka: Alliance Development Trust (ADT), Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM) and the People's Forum for Change.

ADT is working to raise awareness about leprosy through mobilising religious leaders, inspiring churches with a passion to serve people affected by leprosy through 'acts of love', working with the Government to repeal discriminatory laws, conducting a national media campaign, and training relevant Government teams on reconstructive surgery and leprosy-specific counselling.

KKM's holistic approach includes medical, social and economic support for people affected by leprosy. They support the Government in identifying new cases of leprosy and provide self-care training to prevent disability. Working with over 40 leprosy-affected communities, they develop self-help groups and livelihood activities; provide safe water; support children affected by leprosy to attend school; and encourage healthy lifestyles and nutritious diets.

The People's Forum for Change is a leprosy-affected people's organisation that is now in its second year. Currently it is focusing on building the capacity of its members and expanding into new districts. It will conduct awareness activities, provide peer support and advise Government as well as KKM and ADT on what people affected by leprosy in Sri Lanka would like to happen in the country.

### KEY STAFF

#### ADT

Godfrey Yogarajah – CEO  
Praveen Gomez – Head of Programmes, Health  
John Anthony Williams – Programme Executive  
Mahesh Perera – Programme Coordinator

#### KKM

Rev Joshua Sivagnanam – Director  
Dr Preman Jayaratnam – Chairman  
Miss Debora Jeeva Malar – Assistant Director

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the churches that have been mobilised through ADT's work to support the national leprosy control programme. Pray they will continue to find favour and have wisdom as they engage in their communities and with the Government.

**TUE:** Give thanks for the inter-faith groups involved in the leprosy control programme. Pray that they will continue to prioritise leprosy-related activities and that they will be united in their approach.

**WED:** Pray that plans for partnership for research on leprosy between ADT, the Government and Sri Lankan universities come to fruition and that new research projects shed light on the nature of leprosy, which will inform new initiatives to dramatically reduce leprosy prevalence on this island.

**THU:** Pray for the establishment and expansion of the People's Forum for Change, a leprosy-affected people's organisation that was formed last year with support from KKM. Pray that its capacity would be strengthened so that members can conduct awareness to reduce prejudice and obtain their rights and entitlements. Pray that it would be effective in recruiting and engaging new members in other parts of Sri Lanka.

**FRI:** Pray for KKM as it implements a holistic range of initiatives to support people affected by leprosy and their families, and works with the Government to diagnose new cases of leprosy.

**SAT/SUN:** Thank God for the support that TLM India, TLM Nepal and TLM England and Wales have been able to give to work on leprosy in Sri Lanka. Pray that plans for TLM Nepal to train Sri Lankan surgeons on leprosy reconstructive surgery is conducted successfully in the most effective way possible.

**Top:** Leprosy awareness education and distribution of papaya plants organised by KKM.

**Top:** Henno Couprie, Country Leader, visits a self-help group in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

# THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

In John 4:5-42 we see Jesus challenging gender dynamics when the repercussions of not following the traditional gender norms were severe. Women in those days (and even now) would go in groups early to fetch water to escape the heat of the day. But here we see the Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well alone in the middle of the day in scorching heat, but why? She wasn't a part of the daily water fetching group, where women would have fellowship with each other. Probably she did not fit in with the set of rules or norms of the day, because of her lifestyle. She was excluded from society and people did not want to associate with her.

But Jesus did not exclude her – in fact he broke all traditional norms and asked her for a drink. Jews and Samaritans were not supposed to even talk to one another, yet Jesus engages this Samaritan woman, outcast from her own community, and meets her where she is. Moreover, he doesn't give up on her, he is patient with her and ultimately he is able to transform her. What a transformation we see, that a woman who was excluded from society is now the bearer of good news and shares boldly about her encounter with Jesus, and through her, many people from the town are saved (verses 39-42). Jesus showed her compassion and gave her an opportunity to enter the kingdom of God.

Reflecting on our projects and communities where we work, we often come across women affected by leprosy who are excluded and treated as outcasts. They are often abused, deserted, called names and even deprived of their basic rights. But there is hope. We need to have the same approach as Jesus, being intentional about engaging with women/girls affected by leprosy, showing compassion and challenging gender dynamics and discriminatory practices prevalent in society. Let's dare to believe that God will enable us to reach out to many like the Samaritan woman and no one will be left behind.

*When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)*

John 4:7-9 (NIV)



**Jasleen Kler** is Programme Manager at TLM New Zealand.

Photo by Qang Jaka on Unsplash

## SWEDEN

26 AUG–1 SEP

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission has been active in Sweden since the mid-1970s. An important part of TLM Sweden's work is to raise awareness of the needs of people affected by leprosy and to stimulate interest in how lives and families can be changed through supporting TLM.

Through fundraising with individuals, organisations, churches and church groups, TLM Sweden works to fulfil its vision. In a monthly magazine, reports from TLM's projects are sent all over the country with stories of restored lives and families and how the work of TLM can change even a whole village. A number of ambassadors and presenters keep contact with people and churches in their areas, and information on leprosy and its consequences is given to Christian conferences and gatherings and to schools and colleges. An agreed country strategy and fundraising strategy are the foundation of these activities.

Through an initiative of TLM Sweden, fundraising activities have also restarted in the neighbouring Norway. TLM Norway has been closed down for some years but will be reactivated slowly. TLM Sweden also cooperates with TLM Denmark and TLM Finland in various ways.

TLM Sweden supports work in India, DR Congo and Nigeria and collaborates with Bangladesh, Myanmar and South Sudan.

**Top:** TLM Country Leader Allan Ekstedt (right) with Bora, a volunteer in DR Congo.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Thank God for the Board of TLM Sweden and for the members' willingness to lead the work. Pray for wisdom and courage.

**TUE:** Thank God for the good relationship and fruitful cooperation between TLM Sweden and the Swedish Government through the Swedish Mission Council. Pray for continued project funding and support.

**WED:** Pray for increased support and funding from churches and organisations. Pray also for new churches to cooperate with TLM Sweden. Thank God for the work of TLM ambassadors all over the country and for the increased group of presenters. Pray for new inspiration and open doors.

**THU:** Pray for positive developments in the cooperation between different TLM organisations in the Nordic countries – there is great opportunity for collaboration and mutual support.

**FRI:** Give thanks for the faithful support of donors over many years. Pray for new individual donors and for the success of activities and campaigns to reach out to new supporters.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for the staff team of TLM Sweden for God's guidance and wisdom in the work. Pray they will have the right priorities and openness for new initiatives. Pray for inspiration, teamwork and energy.

### SENIOR STAFF

Allan Ekstedt – TLM Country Leader  
Jonas Fällsten – Programme Coordinator  
Karl-Gustaf Mattson – Editor  
Shelley Lado – Administration and Finance





Globally, TLM is part of a range of networks and partnerships relating to leprosy, disability, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and our Christian identity. Some of these partnerships help us to strengthen the collective fight against leprosy and its consequences, whereas some help us to make sure the voice of people affected by leprosy is heard and included in global issues.

Some of the networks TLM is involved with are:

- **ILEP** – The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations works to ensure that the key messages shared by its members are voiced in all possible platforms, as well as boosting practical collaboration.
- **Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy** – A recent coalition of groups committed to ending leprosy, building on and strengthening existing collaborative networks to support leprosy programmes.
- **Micah** – A global Christian community of people and organisations committed to integral mission.
- **IDDC** – The International Disability and Development Consortium includes a wide range of organisations that want to make sure development work is inclusive so that people with disabilities can fully engage in community life.
- **Leprosy Research Initiative** – TLM is one of five organisations making major contributions each year to this joint fund for leprosy research.
- **NNN** – A network of organisations that fund or implement programmes focused on NTDs such as leprosy. It offers opportunities for new sources of funding and for joint programmes targeting multiple neglected diseases.
- **EU-Cord** – A network of 24 Europe-based Christian organisations working towards the eradication of poverty. Together they share knowledge, seek funding and enable the voice of people living in poverty to be heard.

TLM also lobbies with governments and multilateral bodies such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the European Union and the G7.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** The Global Leprosy Strategy, endorsed by the World Health Organization and organisations like TLM, calls on governments to repeal legislation that discriminates against people affected by leprosy. Pray for all TLM countries in Asia and Africa as they work out strategies to influence governments for change – and praise God for the successes to date.

**TUE:** In 2018, delegates from TLM were able to attend and speak at the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Give thanks for this and other opportunities to advocate at an international level for the rights of persons affected by leprosy. Pray for further such opportunities, and for their impact on relevant laws and policies.

**WED:** Many of the networks we are part of are not Christian, though they include Christian organisations. Pray for TLM to maintain and uphold our values which are modelled on the example of Jesus Christ as we meet and collaborate with other workers in this area.

**THU:** Pray for the TLM Global Fellowship Advocacy Network as they work together to identify key priorities for advocacy and also opportunities for us to advocate collectively and send a stronger message on an international scale.

**FRI:** Pray for Geoff Warne, CEO of ILEP, as he leads the network's response to the new opportunities for collaboration within the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy.

**SAT/SUN:** In 2015, the nations of the world committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, a set of targets for 2030. Goal 3.3 is to 'By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases'. Pray that this goal will serve as a springboard as we advocate with governments and other stakeholders to prioritise leprosy, one of the neglected tropical diseases, in their health systems.

**Top:** Brent Morgan and Amar Timsina at the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

*Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; you will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.*

Psalms 41: 1-3 (NKJV)



TLM Belgium operates solely through the contributions of volunteers, many of them board members, having downsized in 2009 after a reduction in government funding. They focus their efforts on reaching and motivating Belgium's Christian community, particularly connecting with protestant and evangelical congregations. They seek to form lasting relationships by meeting people face-to-face and sharing with them about leprosy and the work of the Mission. TLM Belgium also has a long-standing partnership with Solidarité Protestante, a Christian NGO that supports emergency and development projects.

In the next few years, the team hope and pray to grow again by attracting new dedicated volunteers and by involving local churches who are highly committed with a common sense of purpose to serve people affected by leprosy through TLM Belgium.

TLM Belgium supports the work in DR Congo, Sudan, Nigeria and Chad.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paulin Songolea Bakalania – Acting Country Leader  
Francis Van De Walle – Chair  
Marijke Sajet – Vice-Chair, Chair of Dutch-speaking Working Group  
Irène Masika Katselewa – Member, Chair of French-speaking Working Group  
Renée Hugaerts – Treasurer  
Norbert Ngila Bampunga – Member  
Tünde Csákány – Member

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks to God for the churches and individual donors who support TLM Belgium, for their compassion for people affected by leprosy in the countries TLM Belgium partners with.

**TUE:** Pray that more Christians in Belgium will become interested and involved in TLM's work of leprosy control to enable the organisations working in this field to reach the goal of zero transmission of this disease by 2035.

**WED:** TLM Belgium needs 'new blood', not only at the level of its Board of Directors, but also Christian men and women who are motivated and committed to raise Christian awareness through churches in both the Dutch-speaking North and French-speaking South of the country. Pray for God's provision.

**THU:** Thank the Lord that He continues to provide TLM Belgium with support from TLM International and several TLM Global Fellowship Member countries; that by working together as 'one body' we are able to support each other in this way.

**FRI:** For many years TLM Belgium has been working in collaboration with Solidarité Protestante. Pray that this cooperation may continue and become even more intensive in the years ahead, resulting in joint efforts and results to defeat leprosy and transform lives.

**SAT/SUN:** Please pray that the Lord will touch the hearts of church leaders and inspire with His Holy Spirit more church congregations in Belgium, that they will find and send dedicated volunteers to reinforce the small team. Pray that together they may feel privileged to be able to serve persons affected by leprosy, and develop a new dynamism to reach new supporters, including younger generations, through new avenues of communication such as social media.

**Top:** TLM Belgium's General Members Meeting 2018. Country Leader Mr Paulin Songolea Bakalania is fourth from the right.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

16–22 SEP

*Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.*

Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)



**T**LM Northern Ireland engages and educates people to help resource and support the work in leprosy-affected countries. Prayer is at the core of all activities.

The four priorities in their strategic plan, 2017-2020 are:

- 1. ENGAGE** people from across Northern Ireland to help defeat leprosy and transform lives;
- 2. RESOURCE** – significantly increase financial resources to support those affected by leprosy and ensure maximum impact for every £1 donated;
- 3. EDUCATE** and **ADVOCATE** – promote an accurate understanding of leprosy. Increase access to equal human rights for those affected by leprosy by tackling stigma and discrimination and promoting positive change in public policy and practice;
- 4. ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE** – build an agile, resilient organisation that can effectively deliver its strategic objectives.

Staff and volunteers are passionate about mobilising others to help defeat leprosy and transform lives. They do this by engaging with churches, schools and Christian faith organisations, and calling them to action. Staff and volunteers visit churches and associated groups and speak regularly at services and events, and produce a magazine and prayer update three times a year.

In 2019, TLM Northern Ireland will prioritise and develop donor relationships and explore new opportunities to raise funds and increase long term support. Collaboration will be key as they partner with TLM England and Wales, TLM Scotland and TLM Trading on joint campaigns, funding applications and fundraising support.

**Top:** Peter Hilton, Church & School Engagement Officer, with volunteers at a local fundraising dinner, 'Taste of India'.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the many churches that faithfully support TLM. Pray for the Northern Ireland team as they seek to initiate new relationships and deepen and develop existing partnerships with churches. Pray specifically for an increase in church volunteers who help raise awareness and support.

**TUE:** Give thanks for the faithful service and Godly leadership of the Board of Directors. Pray particularly for Fiona Davidson, Board Chairperson. Pray for direction, wisdom and God's leading in all the decisions that are made. As some members step down from their roles, pray that God would raise up the right people to replace them.

**WED:** Give thanks for the growing collaboration between TLM Scotland, Trading, England and Wales, and Northern Ireland. During 2019, new joint ways of working are being implemented. Pray for unity, direction and increased impact and that the Lord would pour out His blessings upon these initiatives.

**THU:** Give thanks for the many volunteers who help raise support for TLM Northern Ireland. Pray for increased opportunities to share stories from around The Leprosy Mission. Pray that the volunteer speaker team would increase in size and impact.

**FRI:** Give thanks for the faithful and generous giving of supporters in Northern Ireland. Pray for God's direction, blessing and timing over TLM's fundraising efforts. Pray for increased giving and surplus funds in 2019.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for Joanne Briggs and the staff team as they work to raise awareness and funds. Changes in staffing will occur during 2019 as Peter Hilton leaves TLM to become a local church minister. Give thanks for his faithful service and commitment over the years and pray for new staff members joining the Northern Ireland team.

### STAFF TEAM

Joanne Briggs – TLM Country Leader  
Hazel Coulter – Database Administrator  
Peter Hilton – Church & School Engagement Officer  
Joy Jamieson – Office & Finance Manager  
Fiona Davidson – Board Chairperson

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

23–29 SEP

*Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.*

Romans 12:4-5 (NLT)



**S**ize, geography, poverty and lawlessness combine to make the Democratic Republic of Congo a very challenging country in which to work. The deficit in active case detection and overall health infrastructure means that there are likely to be millions of people still suffering from undiagnosed leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in remote villages all over the country, leading to disability and furthering the cycle of poverty.

TLM Congo seeks to maximise its impact by strategically targeting health zones, which is bearing tremendous results – through strengthening local health systems by empowering health centre staff and local communities, the detection of new cases of leprosy and other NTDs has significantly increased from around 50 new cases found per year to more than 500 cases – people who can then receive the treatment they need. But this outcome is only a drop in a big ocean and an increased detection campaign through local health systems is still needed. The remaining challenge will then be the management of disability and related stigma. Partnerships are being developed with the Government and with other local ILEP members to make sure community-based rehabilitation is mainstreamed to combat poverty and promote integration.

TLM Congo's hopes for 2019 are for a dermatologist, who can support and sustain leprosy knowledge in the country, and to make sure the voices of people affected by leprosy are heard at all levels.

**Top:** TLM team visit to a person affected by leprosy.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the Lord's support in strengthening the health systems in four villages in Kasai over the past three years. Working in the Kasai is tough because of bad roads, rivers without bridges, and insecurity. Nevertheless, God has made the work possible and its outcome has been outstanding. Pray that its impact is sustained.

**TUE:** Please pray for people who have been rejected by their families because of leprosy and the misconceptions surrounding it. Pray that, through advocacy, they can be restored to their families and communities.

**WED:** Give thanks that TLM's collaboration with relevant state partners and with Action Damien has been strengthened by the development of the 2018-2020 National Strategic Plan for Leprosy Control. Pray these partnerships will bear fruit for the good of all those in need in the country.

**THU:** Give thanks for the church leaders who have understood the great role the Church has to play in defeating leprosy and are urging other pastors to readapt their messages about leprosy. Pray for a sincere partnership that involves churches in the fight against leprosy and the inclusion of those affected.

**FRI:** Pray for DR Congo during this post-election period and for leaders at all levels of the Government. May God guide their hearts towards good governance. Pray for security for TLM Congo staff and for protection against resurging tropical diseases like Ebola, cholera and other epidemic diseases.

**SAT/SUN:** Praise God that the TLM Congo team's fundraising capacity is growing, and will grow further when their guest house is completed. Please continue to pray for resources for building the guest house.

### SENIOR STAFF

Louis Paluku Sabuni – TLM Country Leader  
Christian Bulambo Bisimwa – Head of Finance and IT Advisor  
Raphael Mulamba Mbuyamba – Project Development Officer  
Doris Mukelengu Ndombe – Logistics and Administration Officer  
Dr Jacob Kadima Kabamba – Medical Advisor  
Didier Muhima – Project Manager South Kivu & Maniema and HR Advisor.





The Leprosy Mission Trust India is committed to doing everything it can to improve the quality of life of people affected by leprosy. One approach towards this is to find answers to the questions relating to leprosy which remain unanswered and pose barriers to the eradication of the disease. Leprosy has been affecting people for around 4,000 years, and yet we do not have answers to many of the problems it causes.

Some of these unanswered questions relate to: lack of knowledge about transmission; the reason for the continued incidence of large numbers of new cases with no significant decline over the last decade; causes of leprosy reactions; and nerve damage. These questions need to be answered if leprosy is to be eradicated and affected people are to experience 'healing, inclusion and dignity'.

TLM India's goal is to generate evidence-based knowledge through research to eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy. This is done by engaging in multi-disciplinary research in basic science and clinical, social and community aspects.

#### SENIOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING STAFF

Dr Joydeepa Darlong – Head of Knowledge Management  
Mr Karthikeyan G. – Research Coordinator  
Mr Babu G. – Training Coordinator  
Dr Loretta Das – Training In-charge, Training Unit  
Mr Prashant Behary – Manager of Knowledge Management  
Dr Raju M.S. – Social Scientist  
Dr Mallika Lavania – Scientist and Lab In-charge, Stanley Browne Laboratory  
Dr Utpal Sengupta – Consultant  
Itu Singh and Ravindra Turankar – Senior Scientists

#### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** TLM India is developing its monitoring, learning, and evaluation framework in sync with the new seven-year country strategy (2019-25). Pray they can develop a robust framework, and for wisdom for the team to implement it.

**TUE:** TLM India's training domain has developed a new multi-year plan for the period 2019-22. Training modules are being developed for doctors, physiotherapists, nurses, and allied health services. Training needs are being assessed. Pray that the training imparted would help build leprosy expertise among doctors and other staff working in TLM India's hospitals and among major stakeholders in the healthcare system.

**WED:** Thank God for the improved research culture at TLM India. Each unit is committed to undertaking studies in their capacities, encouraging and motivating staff to conduct relevant studies alongside their routine work. Pray that this trend continues.

**THU:** Pray for the field staff who are involved in various research studies. They brave inclement weather and terrain to travel into communities to collect samples, trace people who have come off treatment too early, screen the contacts of those undergoing treatment for possible further cases of leprosy, and follow up with multi-case families. Pray for their safety and good health.

**FRI:** India's public health system needs strengthening in its various leprosy care activities. Pray for developing collaborations in the field of neglected tropical diseases and leprosy with the Government of India and other global partners.

**SAT/SUN:** Thank God for each and every member of TLM India's Research and Training team. Pray for God's direction and wisdom to initiate and implement relevant studies and impart training to develop and sustain leprosy expertise.

**Top:** Research activity at TLM India's Stanley Browne Research Laboratory, New Delhi.

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)



The Leprosy Mission Papua New Guinea's role is to support the Government's National Leprosy Elimination Program to ensure people affected by leprosy are detected and treated with available and accessible leprosy treatment. There continue to be approximately 500 new cases of leprosy found each year in PNG, and many others are disabled by the disease.

TLM PNG has a five-year Sustainable Livelihood Development project which is funded by NZ Aid/MFAT. This project helps individuals, communities and households affected by leprosy and disability to develop and implement improved and sustainable incomes. This project is being implemented in the National Capital District (Port Moresby), Central, Western and Sandaun Provinces.

TLM PNG moved its head office from Madang to Port Moresby in 2017, so that it is more strategically placed for the implementation of leprosy work. The team is made up of eight staff who work hard to raise awareness about leprosy in the country.

TLM also works with the NZ Government, Autonomous Bougainville Government, community leaders and other development agencies to implement the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP). This comprehensive and successful project improves health, hygiene and governance practices as part of a community-based and owned preventative health programme. Trained village leaders and village health volunteers provide education and support for Bougainville's population on disease prevention, health practices and improved access to healthcare.

**Top:** The team in PNG at their recent Business Mentor training with Blair Matheson, their business consultant from TLM NZ.

#### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** This is the third year of the Sustainable Livelihood Development Project. It has expanded to two more provinces – Western and Sandaun. Pray for the people affected by leprosy and disability who live in the 24 targeted leprosy-affected communities, as they start to engage in project activities.

**TUE:** Pray for the five community mobiliser mentors working in the four provinces, and especially for the three new ones who started this year. Pray that they will settle into their roles quickly and feel at ease in the communities where they will be working.

**WED:** Pray for the project participants who are involved in developing their livelihood businesses, as they take and repay loans. Pray that they will be able to grow their businesses and find enough funds to support their families.

**THU:** Pray for all the various training courses that will be going on – in community facilitation, health, leprosy, budgeting and savings and loan management. Pray for energy for the project team as they roll out project activities each week.

**FRI:** Pray for the continued safety and security of the team and its participants as they move around Port Moresby, travel to and in the four provinces, and in the communities. PNG is a difficult country to work in and car-jackings and burglaries are common occurrences.

**SAT/SUN:** Please pray that BHCP is able to partner with more churches in the new phase of the programme, as they are hugely influential in Bougainvillean society. Pray that the Christian community will join hands with BHCP in raising awareness on leprosy. Pray too for the BHCP team's efforts to ensure continuous supply of multi-drug therapy to health facilities in Bougainville, lack of which is currently an issue.

#### SENIOR STAFF

Natalie Smith – Country Leader  
Rosa Koian – Project Manager  
Mathias Manoa – Finance Manager  
**BHCP**  
Ruby Mirinka – Programme Director





**T**LM Nigeria's determination to continually make a difference that will transform lives, reduce stigma, establish sustainable livelihoods and eradicate leprosy was tailored into the development of their 2016-2020 country strategy. TLM's projects in Nigeria focus on four major thematic areas: Health and management and prevention of disability; Empowerment and livelihood; Advocacy and communication; Learning and education. These were coined as the HEAL campaign. Leveraging on this strategic platform, TLM Nigeria continually explores opportunities to reach the unreached and expand the frontiers of its mission by scaling up efforts in early case detection, treatment and impact mitigation. Through this, over 50 new communities with over 10,000 individuals will be reached in the next 5 years.

Alongside their leprosy work, TLM Nigeria has a fundraising strategy and works with churches, individual donors and companies to raise funds for and awareness about TLM's work in Nigeria. Motivated towards holistic healing by the attitude and virtue of compassion as demonstrated by Christ, TLM Nigeria is also focused on promoting inner wellbeing and advancing the course of providing spiritual support to individuals affected by leprosy, Buruli ulcer and other neglected tropical diseases.

**Top:** The Niger State Honourable Commissioner of Health, Dr Mustapha Jubril (shown drinking water), in company of the former TLM Board Chairman, Dr Shem Zagbayi Nuhu, at the commissioning of borehole water provided by TLM to the Chanchaga leprosy community.

**Opposite:** Karima used to face discrimination because of leprosy, but thanks to vocational training from TLM Nigeria, she now runs a thriving sewing business.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Thank God for the volunteers faithfully serving in Niger State, Nigeria. Ask that God will bless their families and strengthen them as they have committed to serving in this capacity.

**TUE:** TLM Nigeria currently enjoys support from two donors who are funding an educational project for children with leprosy or from leprosy-affected homes. This support is changing the lives of these children, reducing stigma and giving them an opportunity to have a better future. Please pray that God will bless these children as they learn and grow; and also that the donors will be blessed as they continue to give towards this cause.

**WED:** The Nigerian economy is still going through difficulties and this has put great pressure on the public and private sectors with serious impact on the people. Pray for a revived economy and stable work environment, as the success of TLM programmes in Nigeria depend on it.

**THU:** Pray for God's protection, blessing and safety on all TLM Nigeria staff members who travel to remote places to minister love to the poor and marginalised people affected by leprosy.

**FRI:** Give thanks for the many churches that have enthusiastically and generously supported the work of TLM Nigeria for many years. Pray that more churches will embrace the vision of TLM and open their hearts and doors to join the fight against leprosy and its consequences.

**SAT/SUN:** Please continue to pray for the Board Chairman and other members of the Board as they meet in November, that God will lead them in wisdom and engaged understanding of TLM Nigeria as they make decisions that affect its future.





*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission Fellowship consists of TLM organisations or offices in 27 countries that have made mutual commitments to work together as one Global Fellowship. The Fellowship was formed in 2011, when these Member countries agreed and signed TLM's Charter. The Charter commits each of us to:

- Uphold our common purpose and identity
- Contribute to the shared life of the Mission
- Strengthen our global unity
- Be mutually accountable
- Observe financial stewardship

One of the joys of fellowship is that we work together towards our shared vision of leprosy defeated, lives transformed. The two halves of that vision are equally important. We want to see leprosy defeated, brought to an end. That needs persistence, quality work, and strong connections with partners that have a similar commitment. And we want to see lives transformed through the work we do. Not just the lives of people affected and damaged by leprosy, but also the lives of our staff and supporters. Something changes in all of us when we work together on our God-given mission and seek to demonstrate the truth and love of Jesus Christ in everything we do.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray that our new goal of zero new leprosy cases by 2035 will motivate and galvanise action across TLM and partners. Pray for Brent Morgan, International Director, as he leads the Global Fellowship towards this vision.

**TUE:** The Global Fellowship is based on a covenant relationship with one another and before God. Praise God for the strong inter-country relationships and pray for grace and mercy for one another as we seek to work together in a loving and encouraging way.

**WED:** This month, TLM country leaders and chairpersons from around the world are gathering for several days of meetings. Pray for a spirit of unity as decisions are made and that those attending will be invigorated in their passion and commitment to serving people affected by leprosy.

**THU:** Thank God that he continues to care for the needs of people who are stigmatised and excluded as a result of leprosy. Pray that in responding to their needs, all offices and countries of The Leprosy Mission will demonstrate a true and caring heart, and skilful hands (Psalm 78:72).

**FRI:** The Mission's work is restricted when we do not have the income to reach out to more leprosy-affected people. Thank God for our wonderful supporters around the world who faithfully and sacrificially give despite unstable financial markets in many countries. Pray that God will grant favour as we seek new donors and institutional funding, especially for research, which is one of our key priorities and essential for reaching 'zero transmission'.

**SAT/SUN:** Governing boards have a vital responsibility throughout the Mission. Pray that local and international board members will understand and embrace the purpose and values of the Global Fellowship and will strive for unity. Pray that the unity felt at global meetings will be passed on locally.

# CLAIRE'S STORY



Claire was diagnosed with leprosy at the same time as her father, Eddie, when the Department of Health were conducting screening activities in their village. She had developed light skin patches on her arms, which had no sensation – an early indication of leprosy. She was only nine years old at the time, which shows that leprosy is still being transmitted in her village, as leprosy can often take many years to manifest but infection in a young child can only have occurred within their lifetime. In Papua New Guinea, around 20-25% of new cases diagnosed each year are children like Claire.

Thankfully, Claire only needed to take six months of treatment, which she completed successfully. Though her father unfortunately needed to be treated for leprosy reaction, Claire has not developed any other symptoms. "I was not scared when I was diagnosed,"

she said. "I knew I could get treatment." But she did feel anxious about what her friends would think of her at school. She and her family agreed that, though the community knew about her father, they would not share the knowledge that she also had leprosy, and she continued to take her treatment in secret. Her family were understanding and were supportive of her wishes. A shy person, she still to this day hasn't told her friends. Although her village community have been understanding towards her father, and continue to accept him even though he has leprosy, she didn't want the risk of misunderstanding and teasing that can come with a leprosy diagnosis. This highlights the ongoing fear of stigma and discrimination she has around the disease.

This fear has not dampened her hopes for the future. "One day I hope to become a teacher or a nurse," she says. This is why she wants to keep going to school, so she can get a good education. The challenge in her local village however is that the teachers will often not turn up to teach lessons, so she is uncertain whether she will be able to realise her dream.

She enjoys playing games with her friends, particularly 'tin games' – a game popular in rural Papua New Guinea where you try to knock down as many stacked tin cans as you can in competition with your friends.

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)



The Leprosy Mission International, led by Brent Morgan (International Director), is a 22-person team, most of whom are based in Brentford in West London. TLM International is funded by the Members of the TLM Fellowship, who look to it for leadership, coordination and support.

The International Office holds a unique global overview of the TLM Fellowship. Part of its mandate is helping the worldwide organisation to function effectively. Of increasing importance is its external work. The International Office is expanding TLM's global profile through advocacy, and supporting fundraising development in new countries or areas.

Brent and his team are accountable to the International Board which consists of twelve people from eight countries in the global South and North. Leading the Board are Colin Osborne (Chair, based in England), Anne Ratliff (Vice Chair, based in New Zealand) and Philip Putman (Treasurer, based in England). The Board meets face-to-face twice a year.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brent Morgan – International Director  
Pete Garratt – Head of Operations Support  
Jannine Ebenso – Head of Quality Assurance  
Gladstone Worthington – Head of Finance  
Peter Walker – Head of Fundraising Development  
Pradeep Bagival – Head of Advocacy  
Damaris Villanueva – Human Resources Manager

**Top:** Damaris Villanueva presents Peter Walker with an award of appreciation at an office picnic.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Every Monday, the staff of the International Office gather together to spend time being still and 'Waiting on God', focusing on whoever features in the ASK Diary that week. They then share any insights with the relevant people. Give thanks for this opportunity to encourage each other with God's word.

**TUE:** This year sees the start of a new five-year Global Strategy for The Leprosy Mission. Pray for the International Office as it supports the Global Fellowship in the various priorities and changes needed to reach our desired impact by 2023.

**WED:** Give thanks for the positive impact of new roles in advocacy and fundraising support at the International Office. These have brought cohesion and renewed vigour in these areas, as well as helping to coordinate key collaborations across the Global Fellowship. Pray that these roles will continue to develop and benefit the work of the Mission.

**THU:** A key focus area for the International Office is the Leadership Development Programme to equip and encourage our leaders to thrive in their roles. The second group to take part are now coming to the end of the year-long programme. Another group will soon be beginning. Please pray for the God-given equipping of our leaders and the unleashing of their leadership potential.

**FRI:** Give thanks for Cindy Norfor and Jane Willcocks, Global Human Resource Advisors. Thanks to developments in their roles, the International Office has been able to provide increased human resource support to the Global Fellowship, building capacity with webinars and other initiatives. Praise God for this opportunity to share knowledge.

**SAT/SUN:** The International Office's budget is funded by contributions from Member countries. There is a gap between the costs and the funds available. Please pray for Brent and his team as they set priorities, look for ways to control costs, and find other sources of income. Pray especially for the project to install signage on the roof of the International Office – a good potential source of income, but one that has experienced a lot of challenges.

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

Matthew 5:9 (NIV)



## About TLM Singapore

The Singapore Leprosy Mission (TSLM) is a support group (established in 2004) that raises financial support for TLM, encourages people to pray for the work and raises awareness in Singapore of leprosy and The Leprosy Mission. Their vision is 'A world without leprosy' and their mission statement is 'Restoring Health, Rehabilitating Life, Restructuring Employability, Resourcing Support'. In recent years they have been raising support for Anandaban Hospital, Nepal, where major repairs are needed following the 2015 earthquakes in addition to the ongoing leprosy work.

## About TLM Korea

Although there are very few new cases of leprosy detected each year in the Republic of Korea (South Korea), there are still elderly people living with leprosy-related disabilities. As Korea rapidly changes into an aging society, the number of elderly people who are not protected economically and emotionally is increasing. TLM Korea is committed to protecting and treating elderly people affected by leprosy or disability through the Jesus Hospital in Daegu, which specialises in dermatology services and any cases of leprosy. An adjacent nursing home protects and cares for elderly people affected by leprosy, and other low-income elderly and disabled people.

**Top:** A spring season outing with TLM Korea's nursing home residents.

## PRAYER POINTS

### Singapore

**MON:** Thank God for the dedication of the Singapore Leprosy Mission Board. Pray that the directors will have wisdom, strength and God's guidance as they promote the work of the Mission.

**TUE:** TSLM's chairman, Dr George Seow, sends out a regular 'Word from the Chairman' newsletter to inform donors and ask for funds. Pray that God will use the newsletter to speak to people's hearts and they would be inspired to give.

**WED:** TSLM are looking to connect with new and existing supporters through different avenues of communication, such as promoting the work through social media and fundraising outside of the regular newsletter. Pray for success in these endeavours and for God's wisdom in knowing which opportunities to pursue.

### South Korea

**THU:** Give thanks to God for the Chairman Mr Allun Cho and all TLM Korea's board members and staff. Pray for wisdom and health as they undertake leprosy work in Jesus Hospital and nursing home for the elderly.

**FRI:** Pray for the stabilisation of the social and psychological situation in South Korea, which is confused by low economic growth and an aging population.

**SAT/SUN:** Give thanks for all the work of TLM Korea, both with people affected by leprosy and with other disabled or otherwise disadvantaged elderly people. Pray it will continue to run smoothly and that all those using its services would be blessed and live in peace and security.

## KEY TEAM

### Singapore

Rev Dr George Seow – Chairman  
Ms Lam Yan Yan – Recording Secretary  
Rev Milton Lazarus – Committee Member

### South Korea

Mr Jaewoong Choi – Programme Coordinator  
Mr Allun Cho – Chairman





### Anandaban Hospital and Urban Clinic

**A**nandaban Hospital is the central leprosy referral hospital in Nepal and provides holistic leprosy care as well as world class reconstructive surgeries. The hospital caters to the general public as well in its outpatient department and is renowned for its quality orthopaedic and dermatology services. Nearly 8,000 leprosy outpatients and 1,000 inpatients were served in 2017.

TLM Nepal also provides services to general patients through an extended outreach clinic in the urban part of Lalitpur district (Anandaban Patan Clinic). Since its initiation in 2012, the number of general cases coming for treatment has been increasing, with dermatology and orthopaedic consultations the most prominent. Patients are referred to Anandaban Hospital for further specialist treatment from the clinic.

### Community Based Inclusive Development

**F**or more than a decade, TLM Nepal has been implementing community-based inclusive development projects through self-help groups in order to reach grassroots level communities. These groups are provided with training on group management, income generation, leadership, rights and advocacy. To date, TLM Nepal has established 51 cooperatives and 101 self-help groups in rural communities throughout Nepal with membership of 9,728 people.

#### SENIOR STAFF (ANANDABAN HOSPITAL)

Dr Indra B Napit – Medical Director/Orthopaedic & Reconstructive Surgeon  
 Dr Mahesh Shah – Senior Consultant Dermatologist and Leprologist  
 Dr Deanna Hagge – Director of Mycobacterial Research Lab  
 Mr Gopal Hari Pokhrel – Training Officer

**Top:** With loans from the cooperative he chairs, Bhunesi bought vegetable seeds, fertilizers and insecticides and returned to his family trade of farming.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Each year, TLM Nepal is committed to providing leprosy training to hundreds of medical students and over 1,000 government health personnel. Please pray for God's strength and guidance for the training team as they continue to build capacity of a disease that is nearly forgotten, so that people affected by leprosy will not go undiagnosed and untreated.

**TUE:** Please pray for Dr Indra Napit and team who run the hospital, clinic and leprosy outreach satellite clinics. The team have worked relentlessly to continue top quality leprosy, orthopaedic and dermatology services and meet the needs of the local population.

**WED:** Anandaban Hospital provides technical expertise for a monthly leprosy outreach clinic at the Koshi Zonal Government Hospital in a highly endemic area in Biratnagar. Please pray that staff here and at monthly satellite clinics in two other endemic regions are able to increase the capacity of government staff to diagnose and treat leprosy, and that the government staff are open and keen to learn.

**THU:** Give thanks for the self-help groups and cooperatives formed by TLM Nepal. Confidence has increased amongst the group members since receiving leadership, bookkeeping, business and gender equality training. Please bless the group members and staff with ideas and opportunities as they move away from the grip of persistent poverty.

**FRI:** TLM Nepal has a close partnership with IDEA Nepal, a leprosy-affected persons' organisation with 1,000 members throughout Nepal. Please pray that the peer support trainings, one of many activities to build capacity of IDEA members, will be well-received and fruitful.

**SAT/SUN:** TLM Nepal is blessed to partner with Christian organisations such as International Nepal Fellowship and Nepal Leprosy Fellowship. The Lord has guided us to work closely with each other to serve those in need throughout Nepal and we pray for continued partnership in the years to come.

# FROM DREAM TO DESTINY

The life of Joseph, found in Genesis 37-47, is in many ways a special one, yet it reflects much in our own lives. God has a dream for each of us, no matter who we are.

Joseph grew up as his father's favourite in a patchwork family where rivalry and jealousy were normal. Yet despite broken family relationships and a flawed character, he became a top leader in Egypt, guiding the country (and surrounding countries) successfully through a famine. How does God bring this about? Here are some insights from Joseph's life that can help us experience God's plan:

1. Our past cannot keep us from our God-given destiny. Yet sometimes God has to go the hard way with us in order to bring necessary change in our character. Joseph faced hardship (slavery, prison), but he relied on God and the change in his character was dramatic.
2. Through this hardship, Joseph discovered what he was best at: managing and organising with faithfulness. He did so in Potiphar's house and later in prison. He learned how to interpret dreams in a Godly way. This prepared him for a greater destiny - leading Egypt through a difficult time.
3. Sometimes, we will suffer for doing the right thing. Joseph refused the temptation of Potiphar's wife and was falsely accused and sent to prison. Yet he continued to serve God faithfully. Even the hardest times can bring us closer to God's intention for us.
4. Joseph forgave his brothers, showing a character after the heart of God. Rather than taking revenge for past wrongs, he saw the bigger picture - how God had knit everything together. He was brought to Egypt to save lives and this counted more than all the hardships.

Psalm 105:16-22 shows us clearly how God's dream for Joseph came through. What would you like such a summary to say of your own life? Are you facing hard times on the way to your God-given destiny? God is with you! Do not let thoughts of revenge fill your heart - just keep doing what God intended and gifted you to do.

*He called down famine on the land and destroyed all their supplies of food; and he sent a man before them— Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true. The king sent and released him, the ruler of peoples set him free. He made him master of his household, ruler over all he possessed, to instruct his princes as he pleased and teach his elders wisdom*

Psalm 105:16-22 (NIV)

**Joël Sommer** is former Chair of TLM Switzerland and member of TLM International Board. He has also worked as a missionary in West Africa.

Photo by Joran Quinten on Unsplash



*Heal the sick, raise the dead to life, heal people who have leprosy.*

Matthew 10:8 (CEV)



Volunteers are a vital bridge to engaging supporters and potential supporters in praying for and financially supporting the work of The Leprosy Mission. Many are unsung heroes, doing what God has prompted them to do for the least and the lost. We are so grateful for everyone who is doing their part.

One volunteer speaker, Sally Esdale, took her efforts to raise awareness and funds to another level and walked 50 miles in Holy Week of 2018. Sally has supported The Leprosy Mission since 1985 and, after retiring from her teaching career, has dedicated herself to speaking about the charity's work in churches and community groups. In 2017 she travelled to India to visit two Leprosy Mission hospitals which further fuelled her heart to help those with leprosy. Sally said, "I always think what would Jesus do and in the Bible we read He took every opportunity to help someone. There's a person attached to every story."

Sally and her husband Charles are now planning a tandem cycle ride to raise money for The Leprosy Mission's work at Premananda Hospital. She says, "I can't ride a bicycle because I'm useless at steering, but I can go on the back of a tandem – no problem. It's a fantastic way of meeting people and telling them about these terribly isolated and marginalised people in Asia and Africa who desperately need our help."

**Top:** Sally Esdale on her 50 mile walk.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the thousands of church representatives who keep their church families informed and engaged in the work of The Leprosy Mission. Pray that they feel valued and know that they are a making an impact. Pray that as some come towards retirement, others will be willing to take on this important responsibility.

**TUE:** Give thanks for the volunteer speakers who ensure that the needs of people affected by leprosy are heard in churches and small groups all over the United Kingdom. Pray for protection as they travel around, and that they will be blessed as they bless others.

**WED:** The work of The Leprosy Mission was birthed and cradled in prayer and we give thanks for all the supporters who already pray for our work. Please pray that more people will sign up to receive prayer resources from TLM England and Wales as they look to encourage a new generation of prayer warriors; Prayer Partners to pray regularly for the work of the Mission.

**THU:** Please pray for TLM staff as they rally MPs and Peers in Parliament to increase government support for leprosy work. Pray that the ongoing applications to UK Aid for funding for new projects will be approved and that thousands of people affected by leprosy will benefit.

**FRI:** TLM England and Wales are so blessed with the support of a diverse range of vice presidents who speak out on behalf of leprosy-affected people and give their time to talk at events and gatherings. Give thanks for these champions and pray for more people who can engage with the media and at events to galvanise existing and new supporters into action.

**SAT/SUN:** Give thanks for the stamps and collectible volunteers who spend hours sorting through the various collectibles and sorting and trimming stamps donated over the year, in the office and in their own homes.



## Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

Often the greater challenge of 'defeating leprosy' is not the physical cure, but restoring the dignity of the affected person. TLM Bangladesh helps enable economic and social empowerment through self-help groups, which provide mutual support and livelihood opportunities for people affected by leprosy, disability and poverty. Through these groups TLM provides training, skills development, access to micro credit, and educational opportunities for children.

In other cases, an individual approach is needed. The North West Bangladesh Ultra Poverty Initiative Project (NUPIP) works to overcome extreme poverty among people with leprosy-related disabilities. The Hagar centre is a short term shelter where ostracised women can receive shelter, treatment, legal aid and support to reintegrate into their life and community.

## Advocacy

Advocacy is a cross-cutting issue across all TLM Bangladesh projects. TLM aims to influence policies and practices of the Government and other decision-makers, and develop positive attitudes among medical personnel, NGOs and communities regarding the rights of people affected by leprosy. It is striving to ensure that leprosy services are provided in previously uncovered southern districts of Bangladesh. TLM Bangladesh also promotes self-advocacy through the self-help groups, enhancing their capacity and negotiating ability.

## SENIOR CBR AND ADVOCACY STAFF

Mr Surendra Nath Singh – Program Leader, Community Program  
Mr Noel Manna Dey – Finance Manager, Community Program  
Mr Dalwor Hossain (Delu) – Manager, CBR Partners  
Mr Ambor Chisim – Manager, NuPIP and Hagar Centre  
Mr Richard Mondal – Manager, Chittagong People-led Development Project  
Mrs Kalpona Kispotta – Manager, TLM Nilphamari Training Centre  
Mrs Lovely Probbhati Mrong – Manager, Dhaka CBR Project  
Mrs Masuma Parvin – Manager, Advocacy and Empowerment Project

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray that self-help groups and their associations can become self-sustaining, that their members may have the knowledge and capacity to continue their activities independently.

**TUE:** The main focus of the Hagar Centre is to reintegrate women into their communities. Please pray women who have returned to their communities from the Hagar Centre can live in their society with dignity.

**WED:** Pray that TLM Bangladesh will be able to find sufficient funding support to continue their community-based rehabilitation work developing communities and reintegrating excluded people. Pray especially for the financial resources to support the work in Chittagong for another five years.

**THU:** The central committee, an apex body of 1,500 self-help groups, is seeking to register as a national-level leprosy organisation in Bangladesh. Please pray for the registration process and for the ongoing activities of the committee.

**FRI:** Pray for self-help group members in Dhaka that receive training in such skills as bookkeeping, ulcer care, networking and vocations. Pray that with these skills they can build up and support their groups, increase group income and gain access to livelihood opportunities as well as contacts that help them advocate for their rights.

**SAT/SUN:** A significant number of people affected by leprosy live and work in tea plantations. HEED Bangladesh, a partner of TLM, is engaging with these people and with the plantation owners, advocating for leprosy to be included in the plantations' health programmes. Duncan Brothers, a renowned tea estate company, have already included leprosy in their regular health service activities. Pray that other companies will do likewise.

**Top:** Ratna was able to open a shop selling sari and other ladies' garments with a loan from her self-help group. The shop was a success and Ratna and her husband can now support their children to fulfil their dreams.



*Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice.*  
Philippians 4:4 (JUB)



Thanks to community health education from CHEP, Veronica recognised the symptoms of leprosy and sought a diagnosis. Because of the increased understanding of leprosy in her community, she has not been stigmatised.

## About TLM Spain

TLM Spain is operated by a small volunteer team that receives support from individual donors and churches. It produces an annual magazine, sharing stories and photos so that donors can feel close to the projects they're supporting despite the distance. TLM Spain focuses its revenue on TLM's work in Nigeria, particularly in projects with an emphasis on prevention of disability and provision of medical supplies.

## About TLM's work in Tanzania

In Tanzania, TLM works with Hombolo Hospital, owned by the Diocese of Central Tanganyika, to support its Community Health Education Project (CHEP). This project works to identify and treat community members with symptoms of leprosy and other major diseases, educate people in villages and local schools about these diseases and how to avoid them, and promote social security and independence, along with other activities, among self-help groups adjoining the hospital. The overall objectives of the project are to combat leprosy in the district; fight social stigma; and support people affected by leprosy towards food security, good shelter, safe and clean water and a better environment. Having had good success with their first two objectives, the project team is now focusing on the third.

### SENIOR STAFF

#### Spain

Mr Jose Manual Carballo – Chairman  
Mr Miguel Torralba – Vice-President  
Ms Vivian Calderón – Executive Secretary

#### Tanzania

Rev Mganulwa Masima – CHEP Director (temporary)  
Lt Col Daudi Tandila – Business Advisor

## PRAYER POINTS

### Spain

**MON:** Pray for the preparation of TLM Spain's annual magazine and other resources, that the team will be able to source photos and testimonies that inspire their donors with the life-changing impact of the work they support.

**TUE:** Since updating its website, TLM Spain has been blessed by an increase in online donations. Pray for the upkeep of the website, that it would continue to engage supporters and this increase in giving would continue.

**WED:** Pray for God's peace and provision for the small team in Spain as they juggle their work, church and family commitments. Pray that they will have sufficient income for their needs and that they and their families will be in good health.

### Tanzania

**THU:** The Diocese of Central Tanganyika is planning to run eye and dental clinics and a health training centre at Hombolo Hospital, with the help of doctors from two other centres. Part of the income from these initiatives would be channelled to fund CHEP activities. Please pray to our Lord that these activities would go ahead as planned.

**FRI:** Last year CHEP activities were expanded into three other villages that had high numbers of new leprosy cases from 2015 to 2017. The members of the CHEP team travel long distances to cover their monthly mobile clinic timetable, delivering community health education to combat leprosy. Please pray for them to have safe travel every month. Pray too for the trained volunteers implementing many of the programme's activities in their respective villages.

**SAT/SUN:** Samaria village near Hombolo Hospital is the home of 34 families that include people affected by leprosy. Last year the local government authorities started to support these families by providing them annual health insurance so that family members would be given free medical services in all government hospitals. Please give thanks for Dodoma City Administration who led this decision and pray to our Lord God that this exercise would be sustainable.



The Leprosy Mission Trust India has six vocational training centres (VTCs) spread across six states of India – Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

VTCs provide institution-based vocational training to young boys and girls affected by leprosy or with disabilities. The training prepares them for gainful employment. The job-oriented trades taught in the VTCs include diesel mechanics, printing, computers, two/three-wheeler mechanics, and electrics.

Through its community-based vocational training, TLM India provides vocational training to married women and young girls and boys who are unable to benefit from the institutional training due to family commitments.

TLM India not only provides them job placement support after they complete the courses but also advocates for fair labour and safe and suitable working conditions for the students in their employment.

### SENIOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION STAFF

Mrs Tina Mendis – Head of Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Empowerment

Mr Vijay Patta – Vocational Training Programme Coordinator

**TLM Platinum VTC, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh**

Mr Vijay Patta – Principal and Coordinator

**TLM Chhattisgarh VTC, Champa, Chhattisgarh**

Mr Mahendra Rao – Principal

**TLM VTC, Nashik, Maharashtra**

Mrs Shyla Francis – Principal

**TLM Regional VTC, Vadathorasalur, Tamil Nadu**

Mr Tinson Thomas – Principal

**TLM Wellesley Bailey VTC, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh**

Mr Keshaba Thanapati – Vice Principal

**TLM Bill Edgar Memorial VTC, Bankura, West Bengal**

Mr Gabriel Pani – Principal

**Top:** Students learning the diesel mechanics trade in TLM Champa Vocational Training Centre, Chhattisgarh.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Relevant, useable skills are essential for gainful employment. Pray for excellent collaborations with industries in the selection of trades and curriculum, practical training for students, and capacity building of instructors.

**TUE:** Pray for good collaboration with local communities in mobilising trainees for community-based vocational training, as well as the needed logistical support (such as space for training, accommodation for instructors, and access to loans/grants) to conduct these skills trainings.

**WED:** Besides providing quality technical skills, the vocational education programme teaches life skills, disability prevention, and management. Pray that through the life-skills programme, students from vulnerable backgrounds will grow in self-esteem and self-confidence and gain a thorough understanding of their rights and duties.

**THU:** VTCs maintain regular contact with their graduates even after they are employed, and support them to grow professionally. Pray for growth and capacity of the alumni associations and that they may enable graduates to remain in touch with their colleagues and support each other.

**FRI:** People who have been trained through community-based vocational training programmes most often opt for self-employment. Pray that they receive support from the Government and community in establishing their businesses. Pray also that successful entrepreneurs with disabilities will be positive role models and inspire potential entrepreneurs to take up the challenge of self-employment.

**SAT/SUN:** TLM India's job placement services promote inclusive employment in fair labour conditions. Pray that they are able to raise awareness about the work potential and right to employment of people affected by leprosy or living with disability successfully among potential employers. Pray also that employers are encouraged to ensure their enterprises conform to fair labour standards.



There are many unanswered questions in the field of leprosy, from the mechanism of transmission, to why some people get severe nerve damage despite good treatment, to the best ways to reduce the stigma of leprosy. TLM is part of the Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI), a partnership through which funds for research are pooled, giving researchers the possibility of accessing greater and more secure funding for high priority projects.

Projects with a more limited scope can also lead to important improvements in the care of patients. There have been a number of recent workshops to help country-level staff engage in small research projects, enabling them to understand their own programmes better and search for improvements in service provision.

TLM's current and in-development research covers a wide range of areas. Through projects using self-care groups to deliver leprosy treatment, through investigating how faith communities and traditional healers can assist in identifying and referring leprosy cases, we can help people receive timely, regular treatment and halt transmission of leprosy. Newly developed smartphone applications enable easy access to leprosy and disability knowledge and services, as well as allowing more efficient data collection. Furthermore, by investigating the causes of stigma and the barriers to accessing rights such as disability pensions, we can find better ways to reduce discrimination.

#### TLM RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

Prof Warwick Britton (Chair) – University of Sydney, Australia  
 Dr Paul Sanderson – American Leprosy Missions  
 Prof Diana Lockwood – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine  
 Prof Jan Hendrik Richardus – Erasmus University, The Netherlands  
 Prof Pushpendra Singh – University of Boroda, India  
 Dr Pim Kuipers – Griffiths University, Queensland, Australia  
 Dr Deanna Hagge – Head of the Mycobacterial Research Laboratory, Anandaban Hospital, Kathmandu  
 Dr Joydeepa Darling – Head of Research, TLM Trust India

Top: At work in TLM Trust India's Stanley Browne Laboratory.

#### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** TLM maintains two modern research laboratories – the Mycobacterial Research Laboratory in Nepal, headed by Dr Deanna Hagge; and the Stanley Browne Laboratory in India, headed by Dr Utpal Sengupta. Pray for the key staff, as they prioritise the issues they will work on and write relevant proposals for grant funding.

**TUE:** The Rural Health Programme at Nilphamari, Bangladesh, is seen as a third centre for research within TLM, focusing on the changing epidemiology of leprosy in a large population and the activities that can best serve those who develop the disease. Pray for the staffing situation in this remote area, with some posts still vacant and other senior staff nearing retirement.

**WED:** By collaborating with various partners working with some of the other so-called 'neglected tropical diseases' it is possible to access a wider range of research funding opportunities. Pray for staff within TLM who are working on such partnerships, that they would be successful in accessing funds and that such collaborations would improve the quality of services available.

**THU:** One such collaboration being developed is between TLM and the Damien Foundation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with American Leprosy Missions as another partner. Pray for a good understanding between partners in this large country with a very weak infrastructure.

**FRI:** TLM's partner ENAPAL, the Ethiopian National Association of People Affected by Leprosy, is large and active and is playing an important role in some new research projects. Pray that their contribution to planning and implementation of projects will be welcomed and encouraged.

**SAT/SUN:** Dr Deanna Hagge is TLM's senior research advisor. As well as heading up the laboratory in Nepal, she also spends time each year at the National Hansen's Disease Programmes in Louisiana, and supports other TLM countries in their research. Pray that these roles will enable her to develop and encourage a wide variety of partnerships in research.

Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission seeks to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.



Integral mission is at the heart of our vision. In all we do we are committed to following Jesus' example in pursuing a holistic approach to our work; we seek to enable transformation to take place through caring and wellbeing for body, mind and spirit.

The Five Marks of Mission by the Anglican Communion is a useful framework to help us understand how integral mission is outworked in all that we seek to do as a mission. All five are centred around the centrality of the gospel truth that Jesus is Lord: To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom; To teach, baptise and nurture new believers; To respond to human need by loving service; To seek to transform unjust structures of society; To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth. These marks are all-encompassing and grounded in the Bible. When we do these things we are following in the steps of Jesus. What a joy to be joining with God where He is already at work!

The Leprosy Mission is a member of the Micah Network and their definition is helpful to further unpack what Integral Mission means: *'Integral mission is the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel. It is not simply that evangelism and social involvement are to be done alongside each other. Rather, in integral mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ'* ([www.micahnetwork.org/integral-mission](http://www.micahnetwork.org/integral-mission)).

Top: Presenters from TLM and partners at the 7th Micah Global Consultation in 2018.

#### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray that in all of TLM's work around the world our approach to all people, especially those we work with, will be like Jesus – full of compassion and love, but also with a holy anger at injustice and oppression.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** *'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.'* John 1:14 (NIV). Give thanks for the gift of God's Son to us and ask for His grace to be overflowing in your life today.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Happy Christmas! *'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'* Isaiah 9:6 (NIV). Celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ today and declare this verse over our communities and countries.

**THU:** Pray for new church partners so that churches are places of healing, wholeness and fullness of life for those excluded or on the margins of society.

**FRI:** *'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'* Micah 6:8 (NIV). Pray for the Micah network as they put this verse into action; motivating and equipping a global community of Christians to embrace and practice integral mission.

**SAT/SUN:** As a Global Fellowship we seek to integrate the marks of mission into our everyday life; pray for God's spirit to lead us as we build the church, care for creation and serve society.

**MON:** Pray that we would have a strong sense of the value of our time spent worshipping and praying to God together – that we would not see it as a break from our work, but the essential core on which all the rest relies.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE:** *'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.'* Isaiah 60:1 (NIV). Pray as we prepare for a new year that we, as a Global Fellowship, will continue to follow Jesus in all that He asks us to do; and to shine brightly for Him.



# HLA MIN'S STORY

While Hla Min was 18, he fell ill and was bedridden. His whole body was in such pain that it was assumed that he might be suffering from arthritis. By the age of 19, the pain became so intense that Hla Min went to his village health nurse for medication. She did some initial tests, then asked him to visit a clinic in another village, where he stayed with his mother and aunty until further test results could be taken to the town's national leprosy control programme department where it was confirmed – Hla Min had leprosy, not arthritis. He felt so desperate following this diagnosis that, on their way back to the village, he attempted to run in front of an oncoming vehicle, but was pulled to safety by his mother and aunty.

The next day the nurse visited his house to deliver Hla Min's first month of multi-drug therapy treatment. She explained to him that if he took the medicine regularly, the pain would go away and he would be cured from the disease. He was encouraged and took the dosage regularly for one year.

Although he had completed his treatment and been cured, Hla Min had reduced contact with his former friends in the village and stayed away from community events for fear of discrimination. He thought that, not having much awareness about the disease, people would be afraid of him, thinking that he was still infectious. He seldom went out, staying indoors most of the time.

In 2010, TLM Myanmar started a new self-help group in Hla Min's village. Hla Min was inspired by the activities of the 15 members and decided to join the group. He started attending regular meetings, saving money, helping handle the group's finances, and spending time together with the other members. He gradually became more responsible within the group and more involved in his community.



Following a flood in 2015, Hla Min's self-help group, together with a group from another village, reached out to the flooded villages and participated in the emergency response. They contributed some of their savings, helped TLM Myanmar's flood relief activities, shared awareness on disability to the neighbouring villages, encouraged other people with disabilities to refer to disability resource centres for therapy, and even helped with basic therapy and self-care training.

Hla Min's community participation improved further and he became a member of a village charity group formed in 2017 that helps with religious and social events and takes care of the elderly people in the village.

Before, Hla Min was very afraid, a timid person, often trembling if he had to speak with others. It was a big struggle for him to go out in his own community, not to mention travelling to another town. But he has gradually gained confidence, and last year, he was selected to attend a community-based rehabilitation conference in Bangladesh, and was able to represent his country. This journey has been challenging for him, but Hla Min was able to overcome the obstacles.



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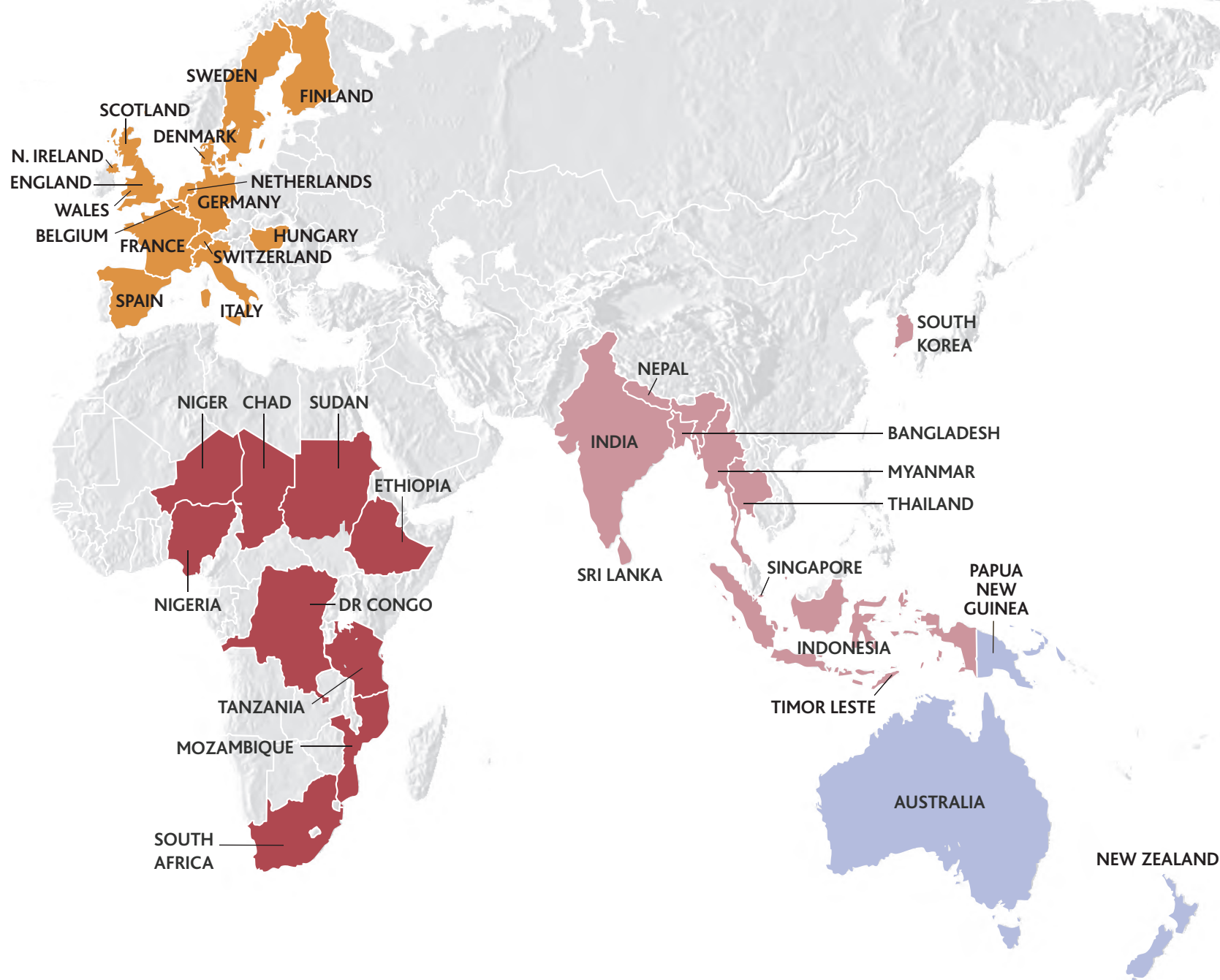
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## WHERE WE WORK

The Leprosy Mission believes that strength comes from unity, working together towards a common goal. We work hand-in-hand with governments and with local communities, with partner NGOs, local churches, WHO, Christian partners and many others to bring about the defeat of leprosy and transformation in the lives of people affected. Together we provide treatment and care for girls, boys, men and women living with the effects of leprosy in 18 countries across Asia, Africa and the Pacific. This would not be possible without the support of hundreds of thousands of people around the world that have responded to this call.



# JOSIANE'S STORY

Josiane lives with her mother Josephine in a little grass hut with a beautiful view of the hills near Bukavu, Eastern Congo. She welcomes us with a smile and our visit creates quite a stir among the neighbours. They don't get visitors here very often.

"I was born in 1970 on this hill," Josiane tells us. "There was never any talk about my going to school when I was a little girl but I was expected to help with the housework. When I was 17 I started to get spots on my skin and I wondered what that could be." The spots were numb, and Josiane soon discovered that her hands and feet were affected. She also got grave ulcers. She went to two different hospitals but didn't receive any help.

"Six years ago I finally got help and received surgical treatment for my ulcers," she continues. "However, my hands are not okay, several fingers are damaged, and my toes have disappeared."

At first, Josiane experienced stigma from her community. "When the signs of leprosy became visible, my neighbours disappeared. Nobody said hello to me and they avoided meeting me." Thanks to the visits and awareness raising campaigns of TLM Congo however, Josiane and her mother are now accepted in the village and no longer shunned by their neighbours. "They even bring their children for me to look after, when they are out in the fields working. This child belongs to a neighbour," Josiane says, pointing to a little child asleep on the floor. "Now my neighbours have learned that I am not dangerous or contagious, so they ask me for help with babysitting."



Josiane was married and had 11 children, but sadly, most of them died at childbirth. Her husband drove her away when the signs of leprosy became apparent. She then went back to her mother, who also had leprosy, and today they share the hut. Josiane's one surviving child, a son, lives in Bukavu and sometimes comes home to visit. He is her pride and joy. Josiane has a deep dream and longing for her own house with room enough for her son.

She also has other dreams for the future: "I would like to set up a simple little shop. Imagine being able to sell rice, soap, palm oil, salt and a few other necessities."

Every Sunday Josiane and her mother go to the church that they belong to, even though it is a long walk. They have always been welcomed into the church and they really appreciate the fellowship there.

*"The Leprosy Mission has meant a lot to us. God must have sent you to me. I am so grateful."*

**Thank you for  
your prayers**



# Our Vision: Leprosy Defeated, Lives Transformed

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## **The Leprosy Mission Prayer**

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life.

Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease. Give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients. Reunite the separated with their family and friends.

And inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission, that it may never lack the staff or the means to carry on its healing work, in accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name.

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen



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