



April 2017

'The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged.'

Deuteronomy 31v8

Africa

Saturday 1 April / Sunday 2 April

New leprosy cases are still being detected each year in Africa. Pray for people who have been recently diagnosed with leprosy and are currently on treatment, that God will grant them speedy physical, psychological and emotional healing.

Self-Help Groups

Monday 3 April

Chittagong People-led Development Project aims to improve the quality of life of people affected by leprosy socially and economically through self-help groups. The project provides leprosy-affected people with income-generating activities. Pray that the project can bring lasting changes to leprosy-affected communities in Bangladesh, and empower them for the rest of their lives.

Tuesday 4 April

In Bangladesh, self-help groups have been providing support and skills training to more than 2800 people living with leprosy and disability.

Pray that more self-help group leaders will be trained and more self-help groups will be set up. Also pray that more people will be able to develop, manage and sustain small business activities. It means they can escape from poverty and have a brighter future.

Wednesday 5 April

Chittagong People-led Development Project has established an effective working relationship with the Bangladesh government. Government staff were strongly involved in delivering training and in supporting the health and welfare interventions developed by the project. Pray that the Leprosy Mission can continue to maintain a good relationship with the Bangladesh government, and the project can run smoothly and effectively in helping leprosy-affected families.

Thursday 6 April

Praise God for the success of self-help groups in Bangladesh. There is a deeper sense of confidence and general awareness of community opportunities amongst group members. There is also a growing sense of dignity and self-worth amongst members as they receive wider acceptance from the community. Their confidence has helped them confront and overcome previous levels of stigma existing in the wider community.

Friday 7 April

55 year-old Mr Meah lived in a hut with his wife and children in an impoverished part of Bangladesh. Because of delayed treatment of leprosy, the ulcer on Mr Meah's leg was severely infected and he had to get his leg amputated. His life became very difficult and could not find a job. Thanks to a self-help group in his community, Mr Meah was able to take loans to start his own small business and build a new house for his family. Mr Meah is now self-sustainable. He leads a 11 member-strong group. People in his community now have more dignity, and there is vastly reduced stigma towards people affected by leprosy.

Saturday 8 April / Sunday 9 April

Ismail was 19 years old when he was diagnosed with leprosy. Although he was completely healed from leprosy, his life was still very difficult because of

desperate poverty. Thanks to a self-help group in his village, Ismail received training on vegetable cultivation and took loans to expand his vegetable growing. Now Ismail can repair the family house as well as provide clothes and books for his children to use at school. Pray for God's protection and provision on Ismail and his family.

Autumn inTouch Magazine

Monday 10 April

Pray for a positive response to the Autumn inTouch Magazine which is currently being posted to supporters. Pray that it will be well received, and that the message can reach the wider New Zealand community. Pray also the hearts of New Zealanders will be stirred into action with a willingness to support the work of the Leprosy Mission, in transforming the lives of those affected by leprosy.

Tuesday 11 April

Anjali's story was filled with sadness, however because of our incredible Cure One supporters, there is new hope and promise in her life. Anjali was sitting by the fire and burned her feet horrifically, she didn't feel them burn as she had leprosy. Praise God that she is now cured of leprosy. The terrible burns on her feet have been dressed daily to avoid further infection, and she has been fitted with special sandals which will help protect her feet.

Wednesday 12 April

Finding leprosy in someone as young as four is devastating. Lavu, who lives in PNG, was four when this happened to him. Praise God for village health volunteers in PNG, so that Lavu could be taken good care of. Because of early detection from the village health volunteers, Lavu has been completely cured and has not developed any disability or noticeable problems.

Thursday 13 April

Through the Grain Mills Project, the Leprosy Mission New Zealand works in partnership with a local grassroots leprosy organisation ENAPAL in bringing a stigma-free society in Ethiopia. The

project enables leprosy-affected people to support themselves by milling grains. The project is successfully breaking down barriers between people affected by leprosy and the wider community. Pray for on-going success of the project, and pray that the social stigma of leprosy can be eradicated.

Friday 14 April

Good Friday – Give thanks to Jesus, who understands the suffering of those who are despised and rejected and gave up His life on the cross for us. Pray those who are affected by leprosy, disability, war or poverty will come to know His amazing grace and unconditional love.

Saturday 15 April / Sunday 16 April

Praise for Kathy Tanner and Helen Newbrook for managing the Little Angels Knitwear. Knitters voluntarily knit some beautiful pure merino baby garments and every year the profits are used to help people affected by leprosy. Give thanks for Kathy, Helen and the knitters for their on-going support in helping raise funds and awareness for the Leprosy Mission.

Education and Advocacy

Monday 17 April

Easter Monday – Praise for Jesus who died for us, overcame death and was resurrected. Let us celebrate this day with joy and thanksgiving.

Tuesday 18 April

Pray for Pradeep Bagival, TLM International Head of Advocacy. Pradeep was appointed to this new role late last year and came to TLM with extensive international experience working as an advisor to governments and civil society organisations. Pray that Pradeep can strengthen the collective voice of people affected by leprosy.

Wednesday 19 April

The Leprosy Mission undertakes advocacy to ensure basic human rights, including an education, are available to all people regardless of their ability, background or gender. Pray that TLM advocacy skills training workshops can run smoothly for community leaders and educate

leprosy-affected people about their rights, empower them to challenge injustice and access their entitlements.

Thursday 20 April

Leprosy-affected people are most empowered when they are accepted back into their communities with a sense of pride, dignity and self-worth. All of TLM projects have a strong education component and aim to bring communities together to learn about the causes and consequences of leprosy. Pray that through education, the myths surrounding leprosy can be dispelled, and people affected by leprosy can build strong and inclusive families and communities.

Friday 21 April

Education is a vital way of bringing economic and social change to communities affected by leprosy, stigma and poverty. It opens up possibilities and opportunities and gives back the social standing that leprosy may have stolen. The Vocational Training Centre in Faizabad offers a range of courses including computing, electronics, car mechanics and sewing. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as students go through their training. Pray that they can use their new skills to find work or to set up their own business.

Saturday 22 April / Sunday 23 April

An education is the most valuable asset a young person can attain. The 'Catch Them Young' Programme in India gives children from leprosy affected families the opportunity to receive an education by paying all expenses related to their learning. Pray for God's blessings on these children that they will be diligent in their studies and be able to access better quality education, especially higher education.

Nepal

Monday 24 April

Remember TLM Country Leader Shovakhar Kandal, as he coordinates work with various government agencies and strategic partners spread across Nepal. Please pray for good health, wisdom, strength and guidance in all that he does.

Tuesday 25 April

2 years ago today, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake shook Nepal and took more than 9,000 lives. Remember families and communities that were affected by the earthquake. Pray for God's peace and provision in their recovery journey, that they can be emotionally and spiritually healed.

Wednesday 26 April

Please pray for the reconstruction work taking place at Anandaban Hospital and in the communities after the devastating earthquakes in 2015. May the construction work not impede day to day hospital operations, and the climate and political situation not affect its progress. Praise God for the staff in Anandaban Hospital and TLM Nepal, as they tirelessly serve leprosy-affected communities despite the difficult situation.

Thursday 27 April

TLM is involved in developing disaster resilient communities in Nepal. Last year, over 3,000 health workers and volunteers from all over Nepal were trained and equipped in disaster response. Pray that the community based rehabilitation projects will continue to support people affected by leprosy in communities devastated by the earthquake, that they can find hope for the future.

Friday 28 April

Praise the Lord for the continuing partnership between CBM and TLM Nepal which started in response to the earthquake in 2015. This partnership supports people affected by leprosy and disability through prosthetic assistive aids, support groups and access to training and education. Pray that their projects can run smoothly and more lives will be transformed.

Saturday 29 April / Sunday 30 April

Pray for Ruth Strestha, TLM Nepal's counsellor who responds to the emotional needs of patients at Anandaban Hospital and in leprosy-affected communities who are traumatised by the impact of the 2015 earthquakes. Praise God for her diligence and dedication in serving people affected by leprosy. Pray that with God's grace, patients can be completely healed and go on to live a happy life.