



April 2020

'Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none on earth that I desire beside thee.'

Psalms 73:25

Cure, Care, Restore

Wednesday 1 April

Praise God that The Leprosy Mission Trust India has been awarded the International Gandhi Award. The President of India commended them for successfully eliminating leprosy to the level of less than one case per ten thousand. Thank the Lord for the scientists, researchers, organisations and community workers who contribute towards the elimination of leprosy.

Thursday 2 April

TLM TI has received this recognition because of the ongoing efforts of many people and organisations towards the elimination of leprosy. Pray for all those who have contributed, both through activities on the ground and by giving finance.

Friday 3 April

The award recognizes that the stigma and discrimination against leprosy has reduced considerably through the work of TLM TI. Please pray that focus and commitment can continue, especially in areas where access to resources is an issue. Pray for early detection and access to appropriate treatment for more people affected by leprosy.

Saturday 4 April / Sunday 5 April

Pray that integrated leprosy services are able to be provided in areas currently low on resources, so that people can be cured and cared for and empowered to advocate for themselves and others so that the stigma of leprosy is broken down.

Bangladesh

Monday 6 April

Praise God for all those generous people who have contributed towards the establishment of self-help groups in Bangladesh so people like Raju can become empowered to help themselves in their recovery from leprosy. Pray that many more people affected by leprosy can find emotional support and learn valuable skills through self-help groups.

Tuesday 7 April

Training provided through self-help groups gives people a sense of belonging and new knowledge and skills which they can share with others. Praise God that people who have not been able to see a way forward can gain hope and be able to look towards the future positively.

Wednesday 8 April

Pray that self-help groups will give people affected by leprosy a powerful collective voice. Pray that leaders will grow in confidence to be able to advocate on behalf of group members and that many people will gain new skills and confidence.

Thursday 9 April

Pray for the leadership of TLM Bangladesh as they work to influence the policies and practices of government and other decision-making bodies so that the rights of people affected by leprosy are recognized.

Thank God that the government of Bangladesh is urging the society to stop isolating leprosy patients and to take initiative for their proper treatment.

Friday 10 April

Good Friday

Jesus was compassionate towards people affected by leprosy, touching and healing them in a time of great discrimination. He had dinner at the home of Simon, a person affected by leprosy. This is the example of compassion and breaking down of discrimination that we are to follow. Thank God for the gift of his Son, Jesus, this Easter.

Saturday 11 April / Sunday 12 April

Easter Weekend

Pray that the love of Jesus will inspire people towards compassion for people affected by leprosy and that His example of inclusiveness will be impressed on them this Easter. Pray that we will realise that those with leprosy are in great need, partly because of this disease, and that what we give can make a difference for them.

Papua New Guinea

Monday 13 April

As part of the Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project in Papua New Guinea the first mud crab farm has been set up in Biotou Village in Central Province. Crabs are to be exported to markets in Asia. Please pray that this will be the first of many successful crab farms that can help improve the living standards of many people, including those affected by leprosy.

Tuesday 14 April

Please pray that the mud crab farming project will be able to expand to other villages. Thank God that TLM PNG has been actively involved in this initiative and pray that it will contribute to the economic improvement of many families affected by leprosy.

Wednesday 15 April

Pray for the community facilitators who train their communities about income generation activities, clean environments, health, sanitation and equality. Pray that the results of their work will encourage them and will

mean that people affected by leprosy can improve their lives so their families have a good future.

Thursday 16 April

Pray that the programmes in Papua New Guinea will help to reduce the stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy so that they can have a voice and be able to gain leadership positions. In this way they can work towards reducing the social, economic and medical burden of leprosy in that nation.

Friday 17 April

Early detection of leprosy makes a whole lot of difference in the outcomes for those who have the disease. Please pray for the training of more community health volunteers who can recognize the early symptoms of leprosy so that more young people can be diagnosed before they develop complications from leprosy.

Saturday 18 April / Sunday 19 April

Because of the stigma attached to leprosy young children feel ashamed if they have the disease and will often isolate themselves from friends and family. Please pray that education and self-care programmes will address the stigma so the children don't feel bad about themselves.

Nepal

Monday 20 April

The 2020 Youth Advocates recently spent two weeks in Nepal, primarily at Anandaban Hospital, where they met patients and staff and gained a deeper understanding of the role each department plays in treating those suffering from leprosy. Please pray that the patients and staff will work well together and that the compassion of the staff will be a witness to the patients.

Tuesday 21 April

The 2020 Youth Advocate team is made up of Benjamin Wolyncewicz, Karan Banker, Jos Williams, Shelley Huggins, Emilie Greig, Lucy Ayers, Mehi Akauola and Leah Lacey. Please pray that their passion to see leprosy eliminated will continue and

that they will be blessed as they work to raise funds and the awareness of other people.

Wednesday 22 April

The fundraising project for the Youth Advocates is to raise \$25 000 for a quality clean water supply for Anandaban Hospital, which will be life-changing for the patients and staff alike. Please pray for creative ideas for each youth advocate for fundraising activities and for the confidence and energy to carry them out.

Thursday 23 April

The Youth Advocates met children who couldn't go to school because their hands were so clawed that they couldn't write and teenagers afraid to tell their friends why they were in hospital because of the fear of being shunned. What stood out was the hope these young people had. Thank God for the hope that remains in people despite the hard times they have and thank Him for the help provided for them because of the generosity of supporters.

Friday 24 April

Women who have been abandoned by their husbands and families and men who can no longer work because of the effects of leprosy are also at Anandaban Hospital for medical treatment, surgery, physiotherapy and counselling. Please pray for more provision so that more people can be cured, cared for and restored to a better life.

Saturday 25 April / Sunday 26 April

Pray a blessing on all those who work at Anandaban Hospital and at the local clinics held by staff from the hospital. People come from all over Nepal for treatment at this hospital, which deals with the most complicated cases of leprosy and its effects and is seen as a beacon of hope for people affected by leprosy.

Community Development & Advocacy

Monday 27 April

Please pray for the community education and development programmes in the countries where The Leprosy Mission works. These programmes help to break down the stigma of leprosy, which often stems from superstition, religious beliefs and fear of disfigurement.

Tuesday 28 April

In many countries there are still laws that discriminate against people affected by leprosy. Praise God for the governments of India and Bangladesh, both of which have clearly stated in the last six months that the stigma of leprosy must be addressed and steps taken to make their societies more inclusive for those affected by the disease.

Wednesday 29 April

One of the most harmful aspects of stigma is that people are too ashamed to admit they have the disease. This delays diagnosis and treatment, making the outcome far more serious than it needs to be. Pray that recent publicity about the disease and its treatment in India and Bangladesh will result in people overcoming their shame so they seek early treatment.

Thursday 30 April

As self-help groups grow and people are able to earn a living they become empowered in their groups to begin to advocate for themselves and their families. Please pray that there will be a growth in confidence among people affected by leprosy who are receiving training and being healed.