



## **Prayer & Praise**

### **Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer**

**April 2021**

***'Keep me safe, Oh God, for in  
You I take refuge.'***

***Psalm 16:1***

**Indonesia**

#### **Thursday 1 April**

The Leprosy Mission and No Leprosy Remains Indonesia support the work of the local health facilities by intensifying case finding and improving leprosy control as well as providing a preventative antibiotic to close contacts of someone affected by leprosy. Please pray that the relationship between the organisations and health facilities will continue to grow positively.

#### **Friday 2 April**

##### **Good Friday**

*'For in Christ, the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. And you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the Head over every power and authority in the universe.'* Colossians 2:8-9

Give thanks for those who have been cured of leprosy in Indonesia. Please pray that people who have been cured of leprosy will be able to encourage others in their communities to be tested so that diagnosis can be made early before disability occurs.

#### **Saturday 3 April / Sunday 4 April**

Discrimination and stigma will complicate the process of total elimination of leprosy, because these two things can make patients and their families reluctant to seek treatment, so the disease transmission cannot be stopped. Also, discrimination and stigma can limit economic activities of people affected by leprosy, leaving them in poverty. Please pray for success for all the activities in Indonesia that are working to break down the age-old stigma of leprosy.

**Nepal**

#### **Monday 5 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.

#### **Tuesday 6 April**

As the staff at Anandaban Hospital support people affected by leprosy by providing quality medical care, please pray that continuous support is able to be given. Pray also that those affected by leprosy will come for diagnosis early in the progression of the disease so that complications or disabilities do not set in.

#### **Wednesday 7 April**

TLM Nepal has a Training and Technical Support Centre, including a residential training facility, which provides extensive training. Pray that the training will build the capacity for Nepal's Government Health staff, national and international medical students and doctors, and community volunteers.

#### **Thursday 8 April**

In Nepal, leprosy is often perceived in village communities as a punishment for misdeeds in a former life. This leads people to hide the early signs of leprosy, making them vulnerable to severe disability. Please pray that training programmes can break down the

misunderstanding that has led to stigma for those affected by leprosy.

#### **Friday 9 April**

People affected by leprosy and other disabilities are encouraged to get together regularly to discuss their issues and support each other. Give thanks that TLM Nepal is able to provide these groups with training on group management and income generation. Groups are encouraged to do small projects with local communities, aiming to change attitudes and develop a normal level of participation in society.

#### **Saturday 10 April / Sunday 11 April**

Pray for the Mycobacterial Research Laboratory at Anandaban Hospital, where cutting edge research is carried out. Give thanks for this professional research facility dedicated to leprosy and for the significant international collaborations that have been built up.

**India**

#### **Monday 12 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.

#### **Tuesday 13 April**

TLM Trust India is working with more than 700 champions affected by leprosy and continues to identify and build more. These people take the lead in driving social change through awareness-raising and advocating for the rights of people affected by leprosy. Pray for God's strength for the champions so they can continue working despite the challenges they face every day.

#### **Wednesday 14 April**

Children affected by leprosy face discrimination because of stigma and often lose the motivation to study. TLM Trust India provides educational support to these children, and mentors them to continue their education. Pray that all children affected by leprosy will develop their potential and become responsible citizens.

#### **Thursday 15 April**

There are over 100 laws in India that discriminate against people affected by leprosy. These laws violate the right to participate in political life, the right to inclusion and the right to freedom of movement. Please pray for the government of India to repeal these discriminatory laws in a collaborative way.

#### **Friday 16 April**

Good relationships with government Ministries are very important for TLM Trust India as they implement their work. They need to build and strengthen relationships. Pray for God's guidance and favour with each Ministry and for the Ministries to acknowledge and appreciate the work of TLM Trust India, which will help them to work more closely.

#### **Saturday 17 April/ Sunday 18 April**

Give thanks for the staff who are devoted to the vision and mission of TLM Trust India. They are frontline warriors, serving with sacrifice and prayer. Pray for God's provision, peace and protection for them and their families.

### **Papua New Guinea**

#### **Monday 19 April**

Please pray for all those affected by Covid-19 in Papua New Guinea, as the virus continues to affect many people. Pray for wisdom for the government and for community leaders as they work to deal with the pandemic. Thank God for the awareness-raising and training that was carried out in communities in 2020 as part of the programmes undertaken by Leprosy Mission NZ and the PNG Department of Health. Pray that this training will enable communities to respond effectively to the surge of cases of Covid.

#### **Tuesday 20 April**

Please pray for success and good communication in the early stages of implementation of the Strongim Helt Long Komuniti, (Strengthening Health in the Communities), programme. The aim of this programme is to improve health outcomes, local leadership and governance for vulnerable and marginalised groups. It is a Negotiated Partnership

between Leprosy Mission NZ and the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

#### **Wednesday 21 April**

It is the final year of implementation of the Sustainable Living Development Programme, which aims to increase the livelihoods and income of people affected by leprosy and other marginalised groups. Give thanks for successful projects that have been set up, including mud crab farming, and pray for ongoing success and positive change for many communities that include people affected by leprosy.

#### **Thursday 22 April**

Pray for all the staff of Leprosy Mission PNG as they continue to implement the programmes to benefit the local communities and especially people affected by leprosy. Pray for protection for them from Covid-19 and pray that they will be safe as they travel to and from communities. Please pray for blessing on them and their families.

#### **Friday 23 April**

Thank God for the working relationship between LMNZ, TLM Papua New Guinea and the PNG Department of Health, aiming to reduce the medical, social and economic effects of leprosy in PNG. Give thanks that people affected by leprosy have received medical treatment, and that the detection and management of new cases is improving.

#### **Saturday 24 April/ Sunday 25 April**

Please pray for the Village Health Volunteers in PNG, people like Aimy's mother, Rose, who are trained to help people recognise the first signs of leprosy and get them medication. The Village Health Volunteers can tell people about leprosy and its cure, helping to break down stigma as well as helping people to get the treatment they need before hands and feet become clawed and damaged.

### **Global Fellowship**

#### **Monday 26 April**

Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship staff involved in raising funds for our hospitals and community development around the world will connect through online meetings this week. Pray for good connectivity,

with technology supporting discussions, learning and planning.

#### **Tuesday 27 April**

Give thanks and praise for all those involved in sharing their expertise and experience in raising funds. This will ensure that we continue to serve people affected by leprosy through a journey of Cure, Care and Restore. Pray that ideas new to some will be expressed and will be accepted and adapted as appropriate for different situations.

#### **Wednesday 28 April**

Give thanks and praise for people affected by leprosy who share their personal stories to help us better understand their daily life challenges and respond to the goal of 'No Child with Leprosy by 2035'. Pray that people will find their voice as they overcome barriers of shame and shyness.

#### **Thursday 29 April**

Please pray for the Country Leaders and Senior Management Teams throughout the world, many of whom have been infected with Covid-19. Pray that those who are ill will be healed and have no ongoing effects of the virus and pray for the families of those who have died. Give thanks for the life of every person who has given their life on the frontline of the fight against Covid-19.

#### **Friday 30 April**

In 2020 a team from The Leprosy Mission received an award under the Neglected Tropical Diseases Innovation Prize. This was awarded for initiatives and research, especially regarding early diagnosis of leprosy. Please pray for further initiatives to be recognised this year, so that leprosy can gain a higher international profile and efforts towards elimination can progress.