

August 2018

'I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.' Psalm 69v30

Community Awareness

Wednesday 1 August

Coast Really Good Gifts Day was held on 5th July. LMNZ was live on air all day with Coast radio to promote Really Good Gifts. It was a fruitful day and a record breaking sum was raised. Give thanks for the team at Coast FM and all who tuned in and supported people affected by leprosy. Their gifts will make a world of difference to people affected by leprosy.

Thursday 2 August

There is a cure for leprosy and the Leprosy Mission's global goal is to reach zero transmission of leprosy by 2035. Yet, most New Zealanders are not aware that leprosy exists today. Therefore, raising awareness and advocacy is at the core of our work. Pray that our message reaches the wider New Zealand community and inspires them to join with us in defeating leprosy.

Friday 3 August

This year's Youth Advocates are hosting different fundraisers around New Zealand to raise funds to upgrade the prosthesis and orthoses equipment in Anandaban Hospital, Nepal. Praise God for their heart for people affected by leprosy. Pray for successful fundraising outcomes, so that the work in

Anandaban Hospital can run more efficiently and more leprosy-affected patients can benefit.

Saturday 4 August / Sunday 5 August

Thanks and praise for the opportunities given to staff, volunteers and Youth Advocates to speak to church and community groups about leprosy. With God's favour, pray for increased support from churches and organisations, that more people will open their hearts to people affected by leprosy.

Nepal

Friday 6 August

With the declining number of people using cash, we are very appreciative of our moneybox supporters who faithfully support leprosy-affected people through our moneybox programme. Praise God for our nationwide moneybox collectors who devote their time in collecting money to help in curing, caring for and restoring people affected by leprosy.

Tuesday 7 August

Every year Nepal suffers from flooding and landslides which affect the lives of people affected by leprosy and the Mission staff, as well as hindering our projects. Pray for God's protection over the disaster prone areas. Pray also projects are planned wisely to reduce and overcome the effects from such disasters.

Wednesday 8 August

Please continue to pray for Shanti, a young girl we wrote to supporters about in May. Shanti will need to have reconstructive surgeries to correct her clawed hands, followed by at least 4 months of physio to help her tendons grow strong again. Pray for Shanti's emotional and physical wellbeing as she prepares for the surgeries. Shanti is interested in learning to sew, and setting up a small business to help support her family.

Thursday 9 August

The laboratory at Anandaban Hospital is one of the most important research centres for leprosy in the developing world. Praise for Deanna Hagge, Research Director for TLM Nepal and Mycobacterial Research Laboratories, for her diligence and devotion. Pray that her leprosy research projects will increase international knowledge about leprosy and further the work being done to bring an end to this dreadful disease.

Friday 10 August

Leprosy reactions are debilitating incidents that can continue damaging nerves for years, even after multi-drug therapy treatment. Pray for the research team as they focus on this issue and walk alongside patients. Pray also that they can identify better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat leprosy reactions so that less people develop long term disfigurement and disability.

Saturday 11 August / Sunday 12 August

TLM Nepal recently had their Annual Country Learning at Anandaban Hospital's Training Centre. Praise God for the success of the workshops. Staff members from different projects around the country gathered to share knowledge. It was also a privilege to have church leaders from some major denominations in Nepal join TLM Nepal's Annual Country Learning to share in the vision and build relationships.

India

Monday 13 August

TLM India is in the process of implementing its country strategy which calls for changing negative mindsets about leprosy. Staff members engage with strategic partners at state and national levels to highlight issues for people affected by leprosy, and change current negative attitudes and practises. Pray for God's guidance and provision in implementing this important strategy.

Tuesday 14 August

In 2017, there were more than 130,000 new leprosy cases reported in India. Many people affected by leprosy do not present for early treatment due to lack of awareness about the disease. Pray for God's guidance and blessings on TLM India's efforts to raise awareness of the disease and promote early diagnosis, and to provide appropriate treatment in time, so that patients can remain free from disability.

Wednesday 15 August

TLM India's Advocacy and Communication team supports people affected by leprosy to speak out on the issues that are important to them, defend their rights, and have their voices heard when policymakers make decisions that affect their lives. Pray for the success of the national leprosy awareness campaigns, that their voices reach the wider

community, myths are dispelled and leprosy-affected people live with hope and dignity.

Thursday 16 August

Last month, a Leprosy Mission medical team went out to remote villages in the Faizabad district to detect leprosy cases. Praise God for a successful outreach. Families were taught about the causes of leprosy and its consequences. They were also empowered to stand up for their own rights. Pray that marginalised people realise their worth, and are not fearful in coming forward to Leprosy Mission clinics to seek help.

Friday 17 August

TLM India delivers its healthcare programme through 14 hospitals across 9 states to serve leprosy-affected people in India. Give thanks for the quality leprosy care being provided through TLM India's hospitals to heal and restore fullness of life to leprosy patients. Pray for wisdom and strength for hospital staff as many of them are working in extremely challenging environments.

Saturday 18 August / Sunday 19 August

Pray today for leprosy-affected people who are staying in Muzaffarpur Hospital, one of the hospitals that LMNZ supports. Pray for God's comfort and peace upon them as they are away from their families. Pray they can receive all the care and medication they need to be physically and emotionally healed, that they will return to their lives refreshed and with a hopeful future.

New Zealanders Overseas

Monday 20 August

Dr. Julie is involved in ministry among Nepalis in both Nepal and Penang, Malaysia. Dr. Julie is currently in Malaysia applying for her visa so she can go back to Nepal. It has been a challenge for missionaries to get into Nepal. Pray God will open doors, and the visa application process will be smooth and efficient.

Tuesday 21 August

Whilst in Malaysia, Dr. Julie visited a migrant worker from Nepal who had signs of leprosy, with some deformity already showing in his hands. Dr. Julie

was able to advise and direct him to hospital. Pray that he receives the treatment and care he needs to be cured.

Wednesday 22 August

Dr. Julie is leading a weekly combined women's fellowship group for Nepali women migrant workers in Penang, Malaysia. They talk about topics like health, hygiene and development. Pray that these migrant workers can learn and benefit from these weekly meetings. That they can feel belonging and come to know the love of Jesus through Dr. Julie.

Thursday 23 August

Praise for Dr. Mark and Faye's opportunity to attend a Christian Medical Conference in Greece. It enables Mark to fellowship and stay up to date on current medical practices around the world. Missionary doctors shared experiences and learnt from each other. Faye also had the chance to visit refugee ministries and hear a wonderful testimony of a Syrian refugee who had come to Christ.

Friday 24 August

Praise the Lord and the power of prayer! Dr. Mark and Faye have found a local Christian doctor to start working in Danja Hospital, Niger. This is a huge relief for Dr. Mark as it is difficult to meet all patients' needs with only one doctor. Please continue to pray for another missionary doctor for Danja Hospital particularly for 2019 as Dr. Mark and Faye will be returning to New Zealand for home assignment.

Saturday 25 August / Sunday 26 August

Praise God for the impact to date of the prison ministry that Faye is involved in. Each Saturday morning, there is a group of young prisoners who listen attentively to the stories of scriptures. One woman recently released from prison accepted Christ. Pray that she continues to grow in her faith, and those within and released from prison will continue to seek the Lord.

Global Fellowship

Friday 27 August

Recently, around 70 representatives from around the Fellowship gathered together in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to participate in three different global workshops; Finance, Human Resources and Programmes. Praise

God for a fruitful learning experience. There was a real sense of togetherness and excitement about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the Leprosy Mission.

Tuesday 28 August

The Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) recently had their 3rd annual meeting. Scientists presented their research updates and new findings. They engaged in lively discussions. Pray for scientists and teams working on these projects, that their research will result in important new knowledge about leprosy transmission.

Wednesday 29 August

The WHO South-East Asia Regional Office has a draft patient charter in leprosy care and support, emphasising the rights of people affected by leprosy. The charter of rights will be displayed in prominent places that are visited by persons affected so that they are aware of their rights along with the service providers. Pray that people affected by leprosy realise their worth and are empowered to access their rights and seek help.

Thursday 30 August

TLM was one of only five civil society organisations chosen to speak at the Conference of the State parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in New York on 14 June. Brent Morgan, TLM International Director, spoke about the discrimination faced by persons affected by leprosy and called for immediate action to repeal 185 discriminatory laws in 44 countries. Pray all these discriminatory laws can be repealed, and the voices of people affected by leprosy are heard.

Friday 31 August

In late June, the UN released a press statement from Alice Cruz, the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination of persons affected by leprosy and their family members. She urged states to act now to stop the widespread, systemic, and institutionalised discrimination suffered by persons affected by leprosy and their family members. Pray that her message reaches worldwide and raises global awareness and an end to the discrimination of leprosy-affected people.