



## ***Prayer & Praise***

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

**August 2021**

***'You are the God who  
performs miracles; you  
display your power among the  
peoples.'***

***Psalms 77:14***

#### **Nepal**

##### **Sunday 1 August**

Pray for the continued safety of all staff in hospital, outreach clinics and community based projects, their families and communities they serve. Pray that Covid-19 will be curtailed so that Leprosy Mission staff can focus on their core activities to cure, care for and restore people affected by leprosy.

#### **Bangladesh**

##### **Monday 2 August**

Sustainable livelihoods will mean better nutrition and living conditions so people will not be susceptible to leprosy as their immune systems will be stronger. Please pray that the ongoing income generation

activities and training will be successful in lifting the living standards for many people affected by leprosy.

##### **Tuesday 3 August**

Bangladesh has been going in and out of lockdown because of Covid-19. Please pray for the members of self-help groups, who are struggling to get enough income to support their families and to pay back loans. People's livelihoods have been seriously affected.

##### **Wednesday 4 August**

The stigma of leprosy in Bangladesh is still deeply imbedded in society. Socially marginalised groups such as women and the urban poor are less likely to seek treatment. The Global Leprosy Strategy focuses on universal health coverage, to ensure women, children and vulnerable people have a healthy life. Give thanks for the Global Leprosy Strategy and pray that the goals can be achieved by 2030.

##### **Thursday 5 August**

Self-help groups in Bangladesh are organised into groups of co-operatives, which in turn become federations. There are eleven federations of co-operative groups under the Disadvantaged People's Association, a partner of Leprosy Mission in Bangladesh. Please pray for Rajesh Mallick the head of DAPA and for the federations of co-operatives as they try to help their members during these difficult times.

##### **Friday 6 August**

Before Covid-19, teams of doctors from Anandaban Hospital in Nepal would travel to Bangladesh to carry out operations on hands and feet of people affected by leprosy, so people's quality of life could be improved. At present this is not able to happen. Please pray that travel restrictions will be able to be lifted in the near future so that people affected by leprosy in Bangladesh can receive the life-changing treatment they need.

##### **Saturday 7 August/ Sunday 8 August**

Give thanks that self-help groups have been a vehicle to educate and support people affected by leprosy about Covid-19. Accurate WHO messaging about Covid-19 has been provided to these groups. Give thanks that through the generosity of supporters, personal hygiene items and emergency relief packages

have been able to be distributed to people affected by leprosy in Bangladesh.

#### **Global Fellowship**

##### **Monday 9 August**

Give thanks that, although Covid-19 has required staff of Leprosy Mission around the world to work and operate in different ways, the vision of seeing 'Leprosy Defeated and Lives Transformed' is still unchanged. Praise God for the technology that has meant people have been able to stay in touch. This has meant that decisions have still been made and meetings have been able to go ahead.

##### **Tuesday 10 August**

New Zealand is a member of the Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship, a global federation of thirty Leprosy Mission national organisations. Give thanks that this provides a platform and a way to work together towards our shared vision of 'Leprosy Defeated and Lives Transformed'. Pray that our passion for that vision will feed our prayer life and result in powerful answers to prayer.

##### **Wednesday 11 August**

Give thanks for the largest presence leprosy has ever had at the conference of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Give thanks also that our trustee, Amar Timalina was able to speak to the conference's General Debate about the stigma and discrimination that come with leprosy. Pray that countries will incorporate the UN Principles and Guidelines on leprosy within their human rights frameworks.

##### **Thursday 12 August**

Give thanks that one of the strengths of TLM is our experience in providing disability-related services in hospitals and in the community and in supporting community-based rehabilitation and home-based self-care. Please pray for success in the work being done at community level to promote models of self-care that empower people to manage their impairments.

##### **Friday 13 August**

29 countries still have laws that discriminate against people affected by leprosy. This discrimination is based on incorrect, outdated beliefs about leprosy that

foster fear in communities. Please pray that the education of communities so they have the truth about leprosy will change perceptions of the disease and allow persons affected by leprosy to access their human rights.

#### **Saturday 14 August/ Sunday 15 August**

Because of leprosy, a person can be legally banned, detained, forbidden, separated, segregated, expelled and divorced. Please pray for the success of the Leprosy Mission petition, calling on the UN to use their influence to help get the laws changed. The petition is to be presented to the Human Rights Council of the UN in September.

#### **Papua New Guinea**

##### **Monday 16 August**

The Strongim Helt Long Komuniti Project is a three-year project, started in July 2020. It focusses on health awareness and community development. Please pray for successful data collection, which will be used to assess how well the project is working at this stage.

##### **Tuesday 17 August**

Community mentors are an important link between villagers and local health clinics. Please pray for the strengthening of relationships so that Village Health Volunteers will feel confident to refer local people for treatment for leprosy.

##### **Wednesday 18 August**

The ever changing Covid-19 situation in PNG means that there are restrictions on numbers allowed to meet together for training. This has significant implications for budgets and for the results of training sessions, as less people are able to be trained at one time. Please pray that these issues will be able to be overcome for the good of the people.

##### **Thursday 19 August**

Peter Dama is the Project Co-ordinator for the Strongim Helt Long Komuniti Project. Please pray for him as he makes new connections within communities and with the local Department of Health. He is the link between these two groups.

##### **Friday 20 August**

The Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project has given training and mentoring to local people. They have had access to loans in order to set up an income-generating activity. Please pray for people whose small businesses are now affected because of Covid restrictions. Pray that they will be able to keep their businesses running, provide for their families and repay their loans.

##### **Saturday 21 August/ Sunday 22 August**

Please pray for people like Rose, who live with the shame of leprosy and suffer discrimination from other villagers. Pray that the fear of leprosy will go as people learn that it is curable and see that those they know with leprosy are cured and go on to live healthy, hopeful lives.

#### **Indonesia**

##### **Monday 23 August**

During the strictest lockdowns because of Covid-19 in Indonesia people have had to work from home. Activities of the project that Leprosy Mission is part of have been delayed because of the restrictions. Please pray that restrictions will soon be able to be lifted so that people affected by leprosy can be diagnosed and their close contacts given a dose of Rifampicin to reduce the likelihood of their contracting leprosy.

##### **Tuesday 24 August**

Please pray for the staff of No Leprosy Remains – Indonesia, which is Leprosy Mission's partner in Indonesia. Pray that they will be able to modify project activities as they are required to work from home. Pray also that the momentum built up in the project over the last two years will not be lost. Give thanks for the motivation of staff to continue what they have begun so that the lives of people affected by leprosy and their families can change for the better.

##### **Wednesday 25 August**

The stigma of leprosy, especially in the province of Southwest Sulawesi, is still strong, which results in great stress on people affected by leprosy. The stigma affects patients' mobility, interpersonal relationships, marriage, employment, leisure activities and attendance at social and religious functions. Please pray that the outcome of the project will be to curtail the increase of leprosy and to fight the stigma.

##### **Thursday 26 August**

Early case detection is vitally important in the fight against leprosy. This is the major aim of the project in Indonesia, which is one of the three countries with the highest number of new cases each year. Please pray that cases will be able to be diagnosed early so that disability does not occur and that those affected by the disease can go on to live productive, healthy lives.

##### **Friday 27 August**

If people can learn a skill to help them earn a living they can lift themselves from poverty and be seen as productive members of their communities. Please give thanks for all the groups that are providing training and opportunities for people who have been affected by leprosy to take up income-generating activities. Pray that people will be able to develop their skills and abilities for the future.

##### **Saturday 28 August/ Sunday 29 August**

Mohammed had leprosy as a young boy. His parents kept him separate from the others in his community until they learnt that a neighbour had been cured of leprosy. Then they sought treatment. Three years later Mohammed was cured. He is now so passionate for people to know that leprosy is curable, he is chairman of a group in East Java that lets people know leprosy can be cured and tells them that people affected by leprosy should not be locked away.

#### **Bougainville**

##### **Monday 30 August**

Pray for the senior management of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Project as they make important decisions and take the project forward. Pray that health issues within communities can be addressed so people become more aware of their symptoms and are able to get help early.

##### **Tuesday 31 August**

Give thanks that the BHCP is a holistic project, focussing on both health awareness and community development. It has been designed according to the needs of the people of Bougainville, focussing on preventative health needs rather than curative. Give thanks that the project covers 95% of the population.