



December 2017

***'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* John 3v16**

India

Friday 1 December/ Saturday 2 December

Give thanks for the private member's bill, listed by an MP who is a Senior Advocate in the Indian Parliament, to repeal and amend discriminatory laws in India. Pray that it will be heard and successfully voted through both of India's houses of parliament. Pray also that once passed, it will be implemented and it will make a huge difference so that people affected by leprosy see an end to discrimination and claim their rights.

Sunday 3 December

Today is the **International day of Persons with Disabilities**. The majority of persons affected by leprosy experience some form of disability. They often remain marginalised and neglected in the community. Remember leprosy-affected people with disability today. Pray that through LMNZ programmes and self-help groups, they will be empowered to speak for themselves, and gain the skills and confidence they need to become socially and economically included in their communities.

Papua New Guinea

Monday 4 December

This week Martin Malkaney, LMNZ Finance Manager, will be spending time with the team in PNG providing training and professional development. Pray for fruitful training so that TLM PNG staff can bring real impact to their communities. Pray also for Martin's health and safety while he is overseas that God will protect him from accidents and diseases.

Tuesday 5 December

For many years LMNZ has been working closely with TLM PNG in reducing the medical, social and economic burden of leprosy in PNG. We have provided access to medical treatment to people affected by leprosy and helped improve the detection and management of new cases which helps to limit the spread of the disease. Remember the team in PNG, pray for God's guidance as they work together in supporting people affected by leprosy.

Wednesday 6 December

The Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project in PNG is now eight months into implementation. This project is supported by the NZ government and aims to help individuals, communities and households affected by leprosy and disability to develop and implement improved and sustainable incomes. Pray that people affected by leprosy will be able to apply the business principles they have been learning.

Thursday 7 December

Early detection and diagnosis of leprosy is vital. If treatment with multi-drug therapy is started early enough, long-term disability can be completely avoided. Please pray for a smooth delivery of leprosy medication in PNG as it is a challenging task in PNG's terrain. Pray also people affected by leprosy can complete their full course of multi-drug therapy, to cure their leprosy forever.

Friday 8 December

Pray for the 52 community facilitators (volunteers – some affected by leprosy and disability) who are assisting the project by supporting the participants as they implement their livelihoods projects. They are also helping to educate their communities about healthy

lifestyles, good nutrition, clean environments, hygiene and sanitation.

Saturday 9 December / Sunday 10 December

PNG is not the safest country to live in. Continue to pray for safety and security for the team in PNG. Pray and praise for Natalie Smith, Country Leader of TLM PNG, as she has for many years so faithfully served people affected by leprosy in PNG. Pray for God's wisdom and provision as she leads the team in bringing an end to leprosy in PNG.

Really Good Gifts

Monday 11 December

LMNZ has recently launched personalised electronic cards for Really Good Gifts. Personalised cards can be sent directly to family and friends no matter when and where they are. Pray this new initiative receives a positive response and more people will be stirred into action and purchase Really Good Gifts to help transform lives of people affected by leprosy this Christmas.

Tuesday 12 December

A day in hospital is truly a wonderful gift. For 12 year old Nasrat in India, it is a lifeline as she must stay in hospital for months to cure her leprosy but it is something her family simply cannot afford. Pray that Nasrat can receive all the medicine and care she needs to cure her leprosy. Pray also she feels loved and well rested during her stay at the hospital.

Wednesday 13 December

In PNG, we rely on donations to train volunteers to go into communities to find and diagnose people with leprosy. This can be done through the gift of **train a health volunteer**. This gift enables a village health volunteer to be trained and learn the foundations of public health. Pray that through village health volunteers, more leprosy-affected people can be detected at the early stage, so long-term disability can be completely avoided.

Thursday 14 December

Abdul first discovered he had leprosy when he was at school. For 10 years he scraped a living as a casual labourer, he had no hope in his life. Thankfully, he was gifted a **watermelon farm**. And through the

training from Leprosy Mission, Abdul learnt new skills and now earns an income growing watermelons. Pray for God's provision that Abdul feels hopeful again and is able to support his family.

Friday 15 December

Girls in poverty often miss out on school. Even more so for girls affected by leprosy. Gratefully, 13 year old Rani from India was given the gift of **education for a girl** through the 'Catch Them Young' programme. This gift provides everything Rani needs for school including tuition fees, uniform, books and pens. Praise God for Rani's opportunity and pray that more girls affected by leprosy in India can receive an education and improve their future prospects.

Saturday 16 December / Sunday 17 December

10 year old Yasin from Bangladesh was gifted a **back to school kit** including a school bag, exercise books and pens to last all year. Yasin is now very happy that he can go to school every day and dreams of becoming an engineer. Pray for God's guidance and provision that Yasin never gives up on his dreams, and he gains the qualifications he needs to become an engineer one day.

New Zealand

Monday 18 December

Give thanks for the faithful support from churches around New Zealand. Many have supported us for decades and collectively have transformed the lives of thousands of people affected by leprosy. Pray that they always feel valued and inspired to continue in this role and encourage others to support the Mission work, to break the chains of leprosy, and to empower people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Tuesday 19 December

Pray and Praise for Anne Ratliff, Board Chair of LMNZ for her leadership and contribution. Anne has been voted by the TLM Global Fellowship Board as the Vice-Chair. She is taking a lead in the strategic direction of the Global Fellowship in conjunction with her role on the Governance Committee. Pray for God's blessing and wisdom as she takes on this important role.

Wednesday 20 December

Leprosy is a significant but manageable disease, and with enough help, it can be overcome within a generation. Therefore, gathering New Zealanders' support for the Mission's work is fundamental in defeating leprosy and transforming lives of leprosy-affected people. Pray for God's guidance and provision that LMNZ will be successful in acquiring new and committed supporters.

Thursday 21 December

Brent Morgan, TLM International Director (formerly LMNZ Executive Director) is flying back to New Zealand today with his wife, Tracy from London for Christmas holiday. Praise God for his humble service and heart for leprosy-affected people. Pray for safe travel and they will have a wonderful time with family.

Friday 22 December

Today is the last working day this year for LMNZ staff and the office will reopen on Monday 15th January. Pray for rest and recreation with families and loved ones; that all will be kept safe and will return refreshed, renewed and inspired to take up the many challenges the new year presents.

Saturday 23 December / Sunday 24 December

Give thanks for the many hard working Leprosy Mission staff worldwide. Pray for those who are working over the Christmas period that God will sustain them and they will know His blessing upon them. Pray also for people affected by leprosy that they would know the light and love of Christ this Christmas.

Successes to celebrate

Monday 25 December

Christmas Day – Give thanks on this day for the wondrous birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate this day with joy and thanksgiving. We at the Leprosy Mission would like to wish you a happy and blessed Christmas.

Tuesday 26 December

Brent Morgan, TLM International Director, is on the Executive Board of ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Association), he is also an Executive Committee of Leprosy Research Initiative, and representation on Neglected Tropical Diseases Network Committee. Pray that these opportunities can

strengthen the collective fight against leprosy and its consequences. They can also provide a platform to make sure the voice of people affected by leprosy is heard and included in global issues.

Wednesday 27 December

Praise God for the strong inter-country relationships within the Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship, which consists of 29 TLM national organisations. Pray for oneness in heart and God's guidance that we can work diligently together towards our shared vision of *leprosy defeated and lives transformed*. We want to see lives transformed through the work we do, not just the lives of people affected by leprosy, but also the lives of our staff and supporters.

Thursday 28 December

The Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI) and American Leprosy Mission had announced the start of a Phase 1 clinical trial for a promising leprosy vaccine called LepVax. It is an exciting breakthrough in leprosy treatment since multi-drug therapy, the current treatment for leprosy, which was launched in the 1980s. Please pray for God's wisdom and strength for all scientists and TLM staff involving in this project.

Friday 29 December

The Leprosy Mission is part of the new Zero Leprosy Coalition, with a vision of *zero transmission; zero disabilities; zero discrimination*. We promote societal inclusion by addressing all forms of discrimination and stigma. We also promote early case detection through active case-finding to prevent long-term disability. Pray for positive outcomes for Leprosy Mission projects around the world that we can bring lasting impact to the lives of people affected by leprosy.

Saturday 30 December / Sunday 31 December

Wellesley Bailey, the founder of The Leprosy Mission once said '...from the beginning to the present time, the work has been the Lord's, and that no human instrument can take to himself any credit in the matter.' Praise the Lord for his blessings and provision for the Leprosy Mission New Zealand in 2017, that He trusts and works through the people of LMNZ in transforming lives of people affected by leprosy.