

## December 2018

***‘But the angel said to them,  
“Do not be afraid. I bring you  
good news that will cause  
great joy for all the people.”  
Luke 2v10***

**Saturday 1 December / Sunday 2 December**  
***International day of Persons with Disabilities -***  
Pray for all those persons affected by leprosy who suffer some form of disability and who have faced discrimination. Give thanks that through LMNZ projects, these people are being encouraged and empowered with the skills and training they need to integrate back fully into their communities.

### **Papua New Guinea/ Bougainville**

#### **Monday 3 December**

This week Martin Malkaney, LMNZ Finance Manager, and Jasleen Kler, Programmes Manager, will be spending time with the team in PNG at the Reflections and Annual Country Learning held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December. Pray for safe travel for all those attending the meeting and a fruitful time of discussion.

#### **Tuesday 4 December**

Pray for the staff and stakeholders orientation workshop for the new phase of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (2019-2023). Praise God for the programme's success which improves awareness and hygiene practices as part

of a community based primary health programme which now covers 95% of the population of Bougainville.

#### **Wednesday 5 December**

Pray today for a successful meeting with MFAT, the Bougainville Department of Health and LMNZ. Pray that the next phase of the BHCP project will flourish. Give thanks for the radical improvement in health in rural communities in Bougainville who are seeing reduced numbers of leprosy and malaria cases; and increasing numbers of communities with access to safe water supplies.

#### **Thursday 6 December**

Pray for the Sustainable Livelihoods Project in Papua New Guinea from 2017 to 2022. Pray for the success of this project as it seeks to provide people affected by leprosy with sustainable livelihoods through income generating activities and training.

#### **Friday 7 December**

Praise God for the trained village leaders and health volunteers in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville who are recognising cases of leprosy in their community and referring them for treatment. Give thanks that these communities are being educated on disease prevention, health practices and their rights to healthcare.

#### **Saturday 8 December / Sunday 9 December**

Praise God for the Leprosy Mission staff working in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville. Pray for safety and security as these countries are often threatened by political and economic instability and the teams make long journeys through treacherous terrain to reach rural communities. Give thanks for the lives that are being transformed in the furthest corners of these countries.

### **Really Good Gifts**

#### **Monday 10 December**

Praise God for New Zealand supporters who so generously support leprosy-affected people every year through Really Good Gifts. Pray that through the sharing of these gifts, new supporters are inspired to partner with the Mission in transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy.

#### **Tuesday 11 December**

The Really Good Gift of a **sewing kit** can transform the life of someone living in poverty and affected by leprosy. Lakhi's hands have been severely affected by leprosy. She was given a sewing kit and training and now makes beautiful embroidery to sell in her community. Praise God that Lakhi now has the confidence to use her talents.

#### **Wednesday 12 December**

If left untreated, leprosy can damage nerve endings meaning many leprosy-affected people suffer further injuries and disabilities. Praise God that Pavi, a person affected by leprosy in India, was able to receive the Really Good Gift of a pair of **protective sandals** with soft padding, which enable her to get out and about and protect her feet from further damage.

#### **Thursday 13 December**

Give thanks for the Really Good Gift of a **sewing machine** that was given to Maya, a leprosy-affected person in Nepal. This sewing machine is adapted to her needs. Praise God that Maya now has the opportunity to provide for herself and her daughter through making and selling clothes and that Maya's daughter will be able to continue her education.

#### **Friday 14 December**

Praise God that Anjali, a person affected by leprosy in India was able to access **the cure for leprosy** through Really Good Gifts. She completed her full course of multi-drug therapy and is now cured of leprosy. Anjali is now back to school. She enjoys learning and her favourite subjects are science and maths. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance in Anjali's studies so she can flourish at school and improve her future prospects.

#### **Saturday 15 December / Sunday 16 December**

Leprosy threatens the most basic ability of someone to earn a living using their hands or feet. Give thanks that the Really Good Gift of **vocational training** is training people affected by leprosy in trades where their disabilities do not matter. Pray that more people affected by leprosy will have access to this training and grow in confidence and independence.

## Praise and Thanksgiving

### Monday 17 December

Give thanks for the faithful support of churches around New Zealand, many of whom have supported our work for decades and collectively, have transformed the lives of thousands of people affected by leprosy. Pray that doors will be opened for LMNZ to reach out to new churches and they will be moved to support the work of The Leprosy Mission in defeating leprosy and transforming lives.

### Tuesday 18 December

Praise God for our dedicated and committed Board and committee members who have worked so diligently over the year. Pray for rest and refreshment for them and their families as they enter the Christmas period and for God's guiding hand over the decisions they will make next year. Remember especially Anne Ratliff, Board Chair, and Grant Pollock, Treasurer, today.

### Wednesday 19 December

Praise God for supporters who have so generously given to the work of the Leprosy Mission this year and supported us in prayer. Pray that their hearts are moved to share our work with their families and friends so that the wider New Zealand public will know about the Mission work, and the lives of more people affected by leprosy can be transformed.

### Thursday 20 December

Pray for Brent Morgan, the International Director of the Leprosy Mission and his family this Christmas time. Praise God for Brent's dedication to the work of The Leprosy Mission worldwide. Pray for safe travels as his family meets for Christmas from all over the world and for rest and refreshment for him as he looks to the challenges of the new year.

### Friday 21 December

Today is the last day that the LMNZ office is open for 2018. Praise God for the hard work of the LMNZ team over 2018 as they have worked diligently and dedicated every day to supporting people affected by leprosy. Pray that the LMNZ staff will be refreshed over the Christmas period in preparation

for the New Year; and for safe travel for all those visiting family.

### Saturday 22 December / Sunday 23 December

Praise God for the introduction of a Private Member's Bill on the issue of leprosy that was introduced into India's Parliament this year. The 'Rights of Persons affected by Leprosy and Members of Their Family Bill' will repeal discriminatory legislation and enshrine in law the human rights of people affected by leprosy. Pray that a movement will be started to repeal the other 119 laws in India that have discriminatory provisions against persons affected by leprosy.

### Monday 24 December

At Christmas, we remember the blessings in our lives. Give thanks for the support and love that people affected by leprosy are shown at our hospitals and clinics around the world. Pray for God's peace and comfort for all those who will receive the devastating diagnosis today. Pray also they will complete their full course of multi-drug therapy and receive all the care and support they need to be completely cured.

### Tuesday 25 December

**Merry Christmas!** We rejoice today for the precious gift of Jesus Christ, born to us this day. Praise God for the hope we have in His birth. Pray for the good news of Christ's birth to be spread around New Zealand and across the world.

## Global Fellowship

### Wednesday 26 December

Give thanks for the 27 member countries who are part of the Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship working to support people affected by leprosy around the world. Give thanks for the 2035 goal of zero transmission of leprosy which the Global Fellowship is working towards. Pray that around the world, breakthroughs will be made in the discovery of the ways leprosy can be diagnosed, treated and ways to stop transmission.

### Thursday 27 December

Pray for the preparations for World Leprosy Sunday which take place on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Pray for those making presentations around the world that they will be given the encouragement and words they need so that

more support and awareness can be raised to start the final journey towards ending leprosy.

### Friday 28 December

Research into the unanswered questions surrounding leprosy is hugely important. Give thanks for the TLM research laboratory in Anandaban Hospital Kathmandu, Nepal, which recruits and supervises masters and PHD students. Pray for these students as they pursue their studies that they will be called to dedicate their skills and talents to the eradication of leprosy.

## New Zealand

### Saturday 29 December / Sunday 30 December

Praise God for the wonderful volunteers at LMNZ who give their time freely each week to support the Mission work. Give thanks for their devotion and heart for people affected by leprosy. Pray that new volunteers will feel the calling to support the work of the Mission next year.

### Monday 31 December

Pray for the 2019 Leprosy Mission Youth Advocates as they prepare to travel to Nepal next month. Give thanks for their commitment and passion to seeing leprosy eradicated within their generation. Pray that they will find new and fruitful ways of fundraising next year.

