



February 2019

'But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.'

Jeremiah 17v7

New Zealand

Friday 1 February

Praise God for the wonderful LMNZ volunteers who work so diligently to assist with our office administration work. They play a vital role in the Leprosy Mission's work by allowing our office to run more smoothly and we are blessed by their help. Pray that in 2019, LMNZ will have the volunteer help that they need.

Saturday 2 February / Sunday 3 February

Give thanks for the safe arrival of Gillian Whitley and our Youth Advocates back into New Zealand after their two week trip to Nepal. Give thanks for the Youth Advocates and their commitment to being a voice for people affected by leprosy. Pray that over the coming year, the team will find new and fruitful ways of raising funds and awareness in their communities.

India

Monday 4 February

Many of TLM Trust India's hospitals, vocational training centres and projects are working with a new multi-year strategic plan from this year. Pray for God's wisdom for the respective teams to

understand the plan and implement it with God's guidance. Remember Dr. Mary Verghese, Executive Director of TLM Trust India today. Pray for God's provision and wisdom for her as she leads the rest of the team in serving people affected by leprosy in India.

Tuesday 5 February

For more than 100 years, The Leprosy Mission Muzaffarpur Hospital has served thousands of people from Bihar and adjacent states in India, and New Zealanders have been supporting the Hospital for many years. Last year, Muzaffarpur Hospital received the Father Tong Memorial Award for its outstanding performance and contribution in community health and development. Praise God for the hospital and thanks for the staff at Muzaffarpur who work so faithfully and show so much love as they provide the patients with the treatment and care they so urgently need.

Wednesday 6 February

Give thanks for Faizabad Vocational Training Centre in India which supports people affected by leprosy and their families with much needed skills, training and employment assistance. Praise God for New Zealanders who donated Really Good Gifts of Vocational Training to young men and women from leprosy-affected families so they can receive an education which will help them to break free from the cycles of poverty and stigma.

Thursday 7 February

In December 2018, BMW India (the German luxury cars and SUVs manufacturer) donated some advanced diesel engines to all six vocational training centres in India. This is part of BMW's commitment under its Corporate Social Responsibility programme to support the Leprosy Mission in providing training to students in the diesel mechanics trade, so they will have an edge in the job market. Praise God for this initiative that students affected by leprosy and disabilities can get better job skills.

Friday 8 February

Specialised protective footwear is crucial in preventing injuries and ulcers in people affected by leprosy. In 2016, Google awarded a grant to TLM Trust India to pioneer 3D scanning and manufacture of customised protective footwear for leprosy patients. Currently, 3 Leprosy Mission Hospitals are using this innovative

technology for shoemaking. Praise God for this initiative. TLM Trust India is now planning to use this technology in all its 14 hospitals, and extend this service to people with diabetic and orthopaedic foot problems as well.

Saturday 9 February / Sunday 10 February

Praise God for the five Snehalayas in India, meaning 'House of Love'. The Snehalayas take care of elderly people, many of whom have leprosy-related disabilities. Give thanks for the love, care and support these people are being shown, who have been rejected and abandoned by their families. Pray they will continue to be empowered to live healthy lives with dignity.

Advocacy

Monday 11 February

Give thanks for LMNZ supporters, many of whom advocate to their church communities about the work of The Leprosy Mission. Praise God for their heart and compassion for people affected by leprosy. Pray that more New Zealanders will be inspired to support the Mission's work in defeating leprosy and transforming lives.

Tuesday 12 February

Praise God for the 2019 Youth Advocates who will be advocating in their churches and communities for the work of the Leprosy Mission. Give thanks for their passion and dedication in seeing the transmission of leprosy eradicated by 2035. Praise also for the incredible opportunity they have to influence the heart and minds of the younger generation.

Wednesday 13 February

Individuals and families living with leprosy and disability are often socially excluded and denied access to basic services. Praise and pray for the advocacy skills training workshops which run for community leaders all around the world, informing leprosy-affected people about their rights and empowering them to challenge injustice and access their entitlements.

Thursday 14 February

LMNZ has projects which advocate for the rights of people affected by leprosy and aims to reduce the

physical and social barriers that they face. Praise God for the success of self-help groups. There is a growing sense of dignity and self-worth amongst members as they receive wider acceptance from the community. Their confidence has helped them confront and overcome stigma existing in the wider community.

Friday 15 February

TLM Nepal has a close partnership with IDEA Nepal, a leprosy-affected persons' organisation with 1,000 members throughout Nepal. Give thanks for the incredible work IDEA is doing to strengthen the voice and confidence of its members. Pray that through this partnership, we can effectively get rid of the stigma associated with leprosy.

Saturday 16 February / Sunday 17 February

Pray for God's hand of protection and comfort over Leprosy Mission staff who are working in countries where their support of people affected by leprosy goes against the cultural beliefs of their communities. Give thanks for their unwavering dedication in the face of adversity.

New Zealanders Overseas

Monday 18 February

Niger - **Dr. Mark** was invited to teach about health care at a Bible School at Guesheme in December last year. Praise God for this special opportunity. Many of the graduates will then be placed in isolated spots for their ministry. Pray for God's protection and guidance for these graduates, that they would be able to use their new found knowledge of hygiene principles and diagnosing leprosy, treating malaria and other common illnesses to help people in their communities.

Tuesday 19 February

Praise God for the impact to date of the prison ministry that **Dr. Mark and Faye** are involved in. Each Saturday morning, there is a group of young prisoners who listen attentively to the stories of scriptures. Recently, several from the prison had made definite commitments to follow the Lord. People from their neighborhood had also expressed interest in hearing more of the gospel. Pray that with

the help from the Holy Spirit, these people will continue to seek God and learn His words.

Wednesday 20 February

Today is **World Day of Social Justice**. Often people affected by leprosy are subject to discrimination and stigma in their communities because of leprosy. Praise God for the success of Leprosy Mission projects like Chittagong People-led Development Project in Bangladesh which is breaking down the stigma surrounding leprosy as communities gather together to learn the causes and consequences of leprosy. People affected by leprosy are now receiving wider acceptance in their community and are participating in social events like weddings.

Thursday 21 February

This year **Dr. Mark and Faye** are returning to New Zealand for home assignment. Please continue to pray for another missionary doctor to help **Dr. Rousseau** at Danja Hospital while **Dr. Mark and Faye** are away. Pray that a doctor with a heart for mission will be stirred and willing to step out in faith in serving people in Niger.

Friday 22 February

Give thanks for the opportunity that **Julie** is able to serve the Nepali community outside Nepal. There are many Nepali migrants in Malaysia. **Julie** is leading a fellowship group for Nepali migrant workers every week. 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 **Julie**.

Saturday 23 February / Sunday 24 February

While in Malaysia, **Julie** is still able to contribute to Nepal-based projects. **Julie** mentors Nepali staff and advises on projects from a distance, these projects include health, community development, education and spiritual ministry. Praise God for **Julie's** dedication and her heart for people in Nepal. Pray God will open doors, and **Julie** will be granted a visa to return to Nepal.

Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship

Monday 25 February

'no branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain on the vine...' *John 15:4* Jesus referred here to the body of

Christ, the branches image is also relevant for the Fellowship. Pray that as we start this new year, the Fellowship can be a place of unity, where the spirit of God blows every member in the same direction in defeating leprosy. Pray also it can be a place of mutual learning, support and constant growth in achieving our shared vision.

Tuesday 26 February

Pray for all country leaders as they deal with the unique situations they each face in the countries where they serve. Pray for wisdom and strength as they overcome challenges. Pray each leader will grow in their leadership experience, and seek God's guidance as they lead their team in transforming lives of people affected by leprosy.

Wednesday 27 February

Remember today **Colin Osborne** and **Anne Ratliff**, Board Chair and Vice Chair of TLM International; and **Philip Putman**, Board Treasurer. Governance is challenging when dealing with a diverse 27-country body. Pray for mutual understanding between TLM Fellowship Member countries. Pray also for oneness in hearts and minds as Member countries work together to end leprosy transmission by 2035.

Thursday 28 February

Globally, The Leprosy Mission is part of a range of networks and partnerships relating to leprosy, disability, neglected tropical diseases and our Christian identity. Give thanks for these existing connections and pray that doors will be opened to work with new organisations so more people affected by leprosy around the world can be supported.