



## ***Prayer & Praise***

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

**January 2021**

***'A blessing for you, because  
the Lord your God loves you.'  
Deuteronomy 23:5***

**A New Year**

### **Friday 1 January**

Thank God for the freshness of a new year and for the blessing we have to be able to support people around the world who have been affected by leprosy. Pray for great success in raising awareness and funds in 2021 as we stretch towards the goal of zero leprosy transmission by 2035.

### **Saturday 2 January / Sunday 3 January**

Praise God that even though 2020 was filled with uncertainty for many, we can put our faith and trust in God. Pray for a renewal of strength and faith for

our team in New Zealand and overseas, as we begin this new year in our continued fight to help those affected by leprosy.

### **Vital Support in 2021 and Bougainville**

#### **Monday 4 January**

As we begin the 21st year of the 21st century inspiring new supporters this year for the Mission's work is vital in achieving our goal of bringing an end to the transmission of leprosy by 2035. Pray for God's provision and guidance that LMNZ will be successful in acquiring new and committed supporters.

#### **Tuesday 5 January**

Our supporters are valuable to people affected by leprosy. The care and concern shown by supporters for those whose lives have been blighted by leprosy is moving and inspiring. Please pray that the lives of our supporters will be blessed in 2021 in every way.

#### **Wednesday 6 January**

LMNZ truly is part of a global fellowship, with countries all over the world working towards the goal of seeing leprosy defeated and lives transformed. Pray that the work done by TLM will touch people's hearts this year and show them God's love and that He has a plan for each life.

#### **Thursday 7 January**

The Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme has recently been focused on training and capacity building workshops within wards across Bougainville. Ward Development Plans, Ward Need Assessments and Ward Health Action Plans have been undertaken. Ward-based Health Committees have also been established. Praise God! Because of these Ward Programmes, we have seen increased knowledge of health issues at the Ward level which results an increased identification and referral of sick people.

#### **Friday 8 January**

Pray for the training team of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme as they travel to remote communities and provide health and leadership training. Pray for wisdom to fulfil their roles and for safety and good health. Please pray that they will see positive results from their work.

### **Saturday 9 January / Sunday 10 January**

In Bougainville, a general election was held last year to elect the President. Bougainville's new government has now formed and is beginning to move forward on a number of community based issues. Pray for wisdom for the president and officials, and for a smooth transition.

### **Bangladesh**

#### **Monday 11 January**

Leprosy can cause a tragic cycle of disability: damaged nerves lead to injuries, burns and infections which sometimes results in the loss of a limb. Praise God that 248 pairs of custom shoes, 6 pairs of crutches and an artificial limb have provided increased mobility for people affected by leprosy last year. Praise for the prosthetic technicians making and fitting custom-made prostheses for leprosy-affected people in Bangladesh.

#### **Tuesday 12 January**

Left untreated, leprosy can result in hands becoming rigid, clawed and unusable. The tasks we take for granted become impossible for a person in this situation. Thankfully we have some amazing surgeons in Bangladesh to help people affected by leprosy regain function of their hands and ankles. Pray for the surgeons in Bangladesh and the people who will benefit from these reconstructive surgeries.

#### **Wednesday 13 January**

When a leprosy-affected person in a self-help group is successful with an income generating activity, this in turn helps the whole community that they live in. Pray that all income generating activities will result in increased incomes and that the self-help group leaders will provide good governance.

#### **Thursday 14 January**

The Covid-19 pandemic has created a huge challenge for implementing project activities in Bangladesh (IGA training, organizational management, monitoring, business plan). The project is struggling financially due to the lockdown and a negative budget is now forecast. Pray for a turnaround in finances and for the team in Bangladesh to not be discouraged.

### Friday 15 January

Last year in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, some limited activities were able to continue. Staff continued to work in the field where possible, using personal protection equipment and following strict hygiene guidelines. Give thanks that even in the midst of a pandemic, some vital activities were able to continue to help those affected by leprosy.

### Saturday 16 January / Sunday 17 January

Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world and leprosy is a major health problem. Please pray that through the work of The Leprosy Mission, leprosy will lose its stigma so that those who have been diagnosed with the condition are able to still live and work in their communities.

### Advocacy

### Monday 18 January

This time last year Leprosy Mission youth advocates were traveling to Nepal. The experiences of young people meeting and raising funds for people affected by leprosy is life changing. Pray that we will one day soon be able to undertake these trips again.

### Tuesday 19 January

Special Rapporteur, Alice Cruz has been given another term with the United Nations. She is focusing on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their families. Praise God for the opportunity to present leprosy on the global stage so that world leaders can hear this important message.

### Wednesday 20 January

Leprosy Mission New Zealand is leading a global petition to support the elimination of discrimination against people affected by leprosy. The campaign will be run on social media. Pray the 28 members of the fellowship each take part in the campaign so it will be fruitful in eliminating discriminatory laws.

### Thursday 21 January

Praise God for people affected by leprosy who are engaged in advocacy as individuals and at a national and international level around the world. Pray for courage for each individual as they seize

their moment and find their voice. Pray that it will be a positive experience and bring lasting change.

### Friday 22 January

Leprosy Mission New Zealand is writing a children's e-book to educate children aged 5-8 years to learn about leprosy and discrimination. It is a story of a little boy who experiences love overcoming fear. Pray it is welcomed by parents and grandparents and inspires the next generation of New Zealanders in caring for others.

### Saturday 23 January / Sunday 24 January

India has a strong advocacy department led by Nikita Sarah that was able to respond quickly to providing information and support to people affected by leprosy during Covid-19. Education and advocacy go hand in hand. Pray for the staff that they are blessed with the skill and resources in their work.

### World Leprosy Day

### Monday 25 January

'My life has been ruined by leprosy... most days I don't leave the house' Rima was just seven when she was diagnosed with leprosy. Today she is suffering the double blow of severe life-affecting disabilities, in a crowded city that has been paralysed by Covid-19. Pray for protection for Rima as she goes about her daily tasks and for a breakthrough through in our Goal of no child with leprosy by 2035.

### Tuesday 26 January

World Leprosy Day was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of Mahatma Ghandi's death. The Christ-like compassion of Gandhi helped others overcome their fear of people with leprosy. We pray to overcome fear surrounding the disease so people come forward for treatment and that those affected are treated with love and compassion.

### Wednesday 27 January

In Bangladesh, New Zealand are supporting self-help groups for people affected by leprosy and disability. The unique micro-finance loans have a 99% repayment rate and are loaned out again and again. Thank God for the miracles He is working by multiplying the donations which life-changing business are created.

### Thursday 28 January

Rima in Bangladesh would love to join a self-help group. There is one near her home. Before Covid-19, she attended a few meetings and loved being with people who understand how hard her life has been. Pray for people like Rima in Bangladesh to have access to the self-help project where they can form friendships and find the comfort in shared experience.

### Friday 29 January

Pray that social media will be used to reach a wider audience for World Leprosy Day, to educate and inspire people to become involved in the eradication of leprosy and to improve the lives of people affected by the disease.

### Saturday 30 January / Sunday 31 January

World Leprosy Sunday is celebrated around the world today. Give thanks for the awareness raising in churches. Pray that through the prayers and presentations in churches and youth groups around the world, more support will be raised for leprosy-affected people.

