



Prayer & Praise

Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer

July 2021

**'Give thanks to the LORD, for
He is Good. His love endures
forever.'**

Psalm 136:1

Indonesia

Thursday 1 July

Leprosy is not just a clinical problem, but also a social problem. Discrimination and stigma complicate the process of total elimination, because they can make patients and their families reluctant to seek treatment, so the disease transmission cannot be stopped. Please pray that education will bring transformation in the way people see leprosy and so encourage those with the condition to seek treatment.

Friday 2 July

Please pray that people affected by leprosy will be empowered to participate fully in family and community life as they are cured and cared for, so

they can experience a better life and have hope for their own future and that of their families.

Saturday 3 July/ Sunday 4 July

Contact tracing has become part of the fight against Coronavirus. In Indonesia a project that involves contact tracing has been underway for over a year in order to find those in close contact with a patient affected by leprosy so that they can be given one dose of Rifampicin, which reduces their chances of contracting leprosy by sixty percent. Please pray for the success of this project towards the elimination of leprosy.

Bougainville

Monday 5 July

Please pray for District Facilitators who travel long distances over land and sea, swampy areas and bushland to provide awareness and leadership training to remote communities. Pray that God will bless them and their families with good health and that they will be safe in their travels.

Tuesday 6 July

Community Health Volunteers are change agents in their communities and are an important link for referral of people affected by leprosy to local health centres. Each community has one male and one female volunteer, who have had training over the years so have a base of knowledge available to their communities. Please pray that any cases of leprosy in a community can be diagnosed so that the spread of the disease can be stopped.

Wednesday 7 July

The Leprosy Control Officer works closely with the Officer of Health to track cases of leprosy and to ensure that people affected by leprosy complete treatment. Please pray that the Leprosy Control Officers can do their work well and are able to get to all the communities as necessary.

Thursday 8 July

Water use and sanitation are vital to improving the lives of families. Over the years of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme a lot of training has taken place and awareness has grown of the need for clean water and good hygiene and sanitation practices.

Please pray for changes in behaviour at community level so the best practice becomes the norm and the overall health of the people can improve.

Friday 9 July

Pray for the leaders of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme and for strengthened partnership with the Department of Health and the Department of Community Government. Pray that the programme can be sustained and positive outcomes result as there is increased local ownership of the programme.

Saturday 10 July/ Sunday 11 July

Gender-related issues, including gender based violence, alcoholism and sexual violence are being addressed through training as part of BHCP. Please pray that keys will be found to bring breakthrough in people's lives so that ongoing change can come.

Papua New Guinea

Monday 12 July

The Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project (SLDP) involves the encouragement and facilitation of income-generating activities. Please pray that small-scale business owners coming up through the programme will have success and be able to generate a profit.

Tuesday 13 July

People in communities involved in the SLDP have been introduced to the concept of saving. There has been considerable success with women opening bank accounts. Please pray that savings within families can grow to provide for the future.

Wednesday 14 July

Please pray for the relationship between the SLDP and the Women's Micro Bank regarding revolving banking facilities. Pray that the relationship continues to support existing savings and loans for people affected by leprosy and their communities.

Thursday 15 July

The crab farming initiative started with one village but has grown in popularity so more villages are involved. Crabs are caught and kept and fattened so they can sell for a better profit. Please pray for success for the

crab farms as they use new technology to increase their catch.

Friday 16 July

Please pray that Covid-19 does not spread further in Papua New Guinea and that it can be controlled if not eliminated. Give thanks that staff of Leprosy Mission PNG have been active in Covid Awareness Training for villagers and have the ability to do this again if necessary.

Saturday 17 July/ Sunday 18 July

Pray for blessing on the Senior Management Team of Leprosy Mission PNG. Please ask for wisdom to make effective decisions and that they will be able to provide strengthened oversight of the programmes.

Bangladesh

Monday 19 July

The prevalence of Covid-19 has been increasing in Bangladesh and strict lockdowns are in place. Income-generation activities are being seriously affected by this. Please pray that people will be able to make enough income to support their families.

Tuesday 20 July

Give thanks to God for the training in preventing transmission of Covid-19 that has taken place for people affected by leprosy in Bangladesh. The message of handwashing and social distancing is the same everywhere. The training has been done through self-help groups set up to assist those affected by leprosy. Thank the Lord that soap and masks have also been available for distribution to these vulnerable people. Pray that people will continue to put into practice what they have learnt.

Wednesday 21 July

Thank God that The Leprosy Mission undertakes leprosy control programmes through much of the country. These programmes raise awareness, stop the transmission of leprosy from person to person, and prevent disability, all strengthening the Government's health services. Pray that funding will continue to be available in order to continue with the cure, care and restoration of people to their families and communities.

Thursday 22 July

Community-based rehabilitation activities ensure that Leprosy Mission projects address more than just people's physical needs. Thank God for self-help groups that provide mutual support and improve health and livelihood opportunities for people affected by leprosy, disability and extreme poverty.

Friday 23 July

TLM supports the groups with skills development for improved livelihoods, access to micro credit, food security and educational opportunities for children. Give thanks for provision for these groups, for disability care, raising awareness of people's rights, improvement of social status and economic and income development.

Saturday 24 July/ Sunday 25 July

The Leprosy Mission has a referral hospital in the northwest of Bangladesh, the largest dependable, specialised leprosy treatment centre in the country. Give thanks for the services it provides, including reconstructive surgery and the provision of devices to help people with disabilities.

Nepal

Monday 26 July

Covid-19 has become rampant in Nepal, with soaring numbers of cases. The disruption in community services at outreach clinics and outpatient departments can have a discouraging effect on people affected by leprosy, who are already struggling with health issues and possibly the stigma of having leprosy. Please pray for encouragement and peace for these people and pray that the disruption to services will end soon.

Tuesday 27 July

To be able to continue to offer services to people affected by leprosy during the pandemic is an ongoing challenge. Please pray that patients with leprosy will still be able to obtain the medication to continue their treatment so they can be cured. Pray that there will be no interruption in the supply of medication.

Wednesday 28 July

Please pray that community services will not be disrupted for too long, as people affected by leprosy are among the poorest and most vulnerable in each community. The projects assist with not only physical

needs but emotional as well and are vitally needed so that people affected by leprosy can be restored to their communities.

Thursday 29 July

Give thanks and praise for the separate Covid ward at Anandaban Hospital that can deliver treatment for patients who have acute or chronic conditions and have also tested positive for Covid-19. Give praise for the commitment and skill of medical and nursing staff for all patients.

Friday 30 July

Many people affected by leprosy have multiple consultations with doctors and health workers without receiving a correct diagnosis of leprosy. This increases the risk of lifelong disability. Pray for the ongoing training of government health workers by staff of The Leprosy Mission Nepal to recognise symptoms of leprosy.

Saturday 31 July

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.

