



**June 2018**

***'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.'* 2 Timothy 4v7**

**New Zealand**

**Friday 1 June**

Leprosy Mission New Zealand had its Annual General Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May. We praise God for a fruitful meeting. We give thanks to members who takes time to attend and together we celebrated the successes in 2017. We also had Youth Advocates – Andre Donald, Justine Milina and Jack Jonathan Maran joined us this year. They shared about their experience in Nepal and their fundraising initiatives.

**Saturday 2 June / Sunday 3 June**

Next month Coast FM Radio will be hosting the Leprosy Mission Really Good Gifts Day. Praise for this wonderful partnership and opportunity to raise awareness of our vital work with a new audience of supporters. Pray that listeners will open their hearts to the difficulty that people living with leprosy experience daily.

**Successes in 2017**

**Monday 4 June**

The goal of the Chittagong People-led Development Project in Bangladesh is to improve quality of life for disadvantaged people, particularly those affected by leprosy and disability, through social and economic development. The total membership of self-help groups grew to 225 involving 3451 members. We pray leprosy-affected people will feel empowerment and belonging through these self-help groups.

**Tuesday 5 June**

3,451 people affected by leprosy and disability are part of self-help groups in our project in Bangladesh. They are supported and trained in skills to pursue new employment and business opportunities such as: tailoring, cow rearing, vegetable gardening, vermicomposting, grocery and clothing businesses. Praise God for these opportunities and that the majority of self-help group members reported that their income had increased last year.

**Wednesday 6 June**

One of the goals of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme is stronger governance and leadership. To date, there is an increased proportion of village leadership engaged in the programme, and 80% of the communities have active village authorities. There is also an increased number of female leaders. Praise God for the significant progress made and pray more leaders will be trained and make a positive impact in their communities.

**Thursday 7 June**

Village health volunteers in Bougainville have raised awareness in their communities on issues like tuberculosis, malaria, leprosy, water and sanitation, safe motherhood and immunisation. With the support of village health volunteers, 120 new cases of leprosy were detected in 2017. Give praise and pray that with the help of village health volunteers, leprosy-affected people can be diagnosed at the early stage so permanent disability can be avoided.

**Friday 8 June**

The Sustainable Livelihoods Development project is LMNZ's new project in PNG. In 2017, 44 Community Facilitators and 32 Community Leaders were selected and received training on basic health and hygiene, leprosy awareness, livelihoods, community governance and community leadership. Pray for God's wisdom and perseverance for these leaders as they work day in and day out to serve people affected by leprosy.

**Saturday 9 June/ Sunday 10 June**

LMNZ is a supporting partner of the Leprosy Mission hospital in Muzaffarpur, India. Praise the Lord! In 2017, 9,638 leprosy related consultations were provided free of charge with 588 new cases of leprosy diagnosed and

treated with multi-drug therapy. 131 reconstructive surgeries were conducted including hand, foot and eye surgery. We give thanks for the generosity of NZ supporters, and the diligence and expertise of the staff in Muzaffarpur Hospital who made this possible.

**Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship**

**Monday 11 June**

The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship consists of 29 TLM organisations in countries around the world, who work together towards the shared vision of '*leprosy defeated, lives transformed*'. Pray for strong connections in the fellowship and good relationships with other leprosy and disability organisations, so that quality work can be done in reaching out to people affected by leprosy, and dispelling the myths surrounding the disease.

**Tuesday 12 June**

This week Martin Malkaney, LMNZ Finance Manager, and Jasleen Kler, LMNZ Programme Manager, along with representatives from other country members will be attending Global Fellowship Workshops which is taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Pray for safety and good health for them as they travel and attend these workshops.

**Wednesday 13 June**

We give thanks for the opportunity to collaborate and learn from each other. Pray for the Finance, Human Resources and Programmes workshops taking place this week in Ethiopia, to run smoothly and be beneficial for all participants. Pray for a spirit of trust and unity in being together as a global family. Pray also for positive results from these workshops going forward.

**Thursday 14 June**

Remember Tanny Hagens, TLM Ethiopia Country Leader, and Berihun Legesse, Finance and Admin Officer today. Praise God for their diligence and devotion in serving people affected by leprosy despite the difficult situation in Ethiopia. Praise also for the time and effort they put into making this week's Global Fellowship workshops possible.

### **Friday 15 June**

In Ethiopia, the Leprosy Mission New Zealand works in partnership with a local grassroots leprosy organisation called ENAPAL (Ethiopian National Association of People Affected by Leprosy). Give praise and pray for Tesfaye Tadesse, Managing Director of ENAPAL today. Through his leadership, ENAPAL has been benefiting thousands of people affected by leprosy in Ethiopia. Pray the Spirit of God will fill Tesfaye with the wisdom and discernment he needs every day.

### **Saturday 16 June/ Sunday 17 June**

Give thanks for Leprosy Mission's faithful supporters, as well as all diligent staff members from all countries. Praise God for the contribution each and every single one makes to the life of TLM. Pray the Spirit of God will breathe through the work of the entire Mission in ending leprosy.

### **National Volunteer Week**

#### **Monday 18 June**

It is *National Volunteer Week* (17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June). Leprosy Mission New Zealand is very thankful for all our valuable volunteers who have a heart for the Mission work and people affected by leprosy. Today LMNZ is providing a mid-winter thank you lunch for all Auckland-based volunteers. We praise God for their time, devotion and compassion.

#### **Tuesday 19 June**

Give thanks for Rowan Spackman, Ron and Cynthia Butler, Carole Warnock, Lynn Gautier and Ellen Butland, who for so many years have volunteered in our Auckland Office to assist with our Prayer and Praise mail out. They do amazing work to make sure all Prayer and Praise diaries can reach our supporters on time.

#### **Wednesday 20 June**

Today we especially thank Betti Reddell, who has been volunteering in our Auckland Office once a week since January 2011. Praise God for Betti's long-term service and commitment. She plays a vital role in the Leprosy Mission New Zealand's work by assisting our office to run smoothly. Pray for God's abundant blessings upon her as she devotes her time to serve people affected by leprosy.

### **Thursday 21 June**

LMNZ could not achieve its goals without the expertise of its Board members. Praise God for the volunteer contribution each of them makes to the life of the Leprosy Mission. Pray for oneness in hearts and minds as they work together with the rest of the team in supporting people affected by leprosy. Pray for productive meetings, wise decision making and the Lord's blessings on all resolutions made.

### **Friday 22 June**

We give thanks for Susan Maiava who has completed her time as a Board member. She has humbly served the Leprosy Mission NZ for the past 12 years both on the Board and the supporter engagement committee. She also served on the Board of Leprosy Mission International. Praise for the legacy of Susan's contribution to the Mission and her heart for people affected by leprosy.

### **Saturday 23 June/ Sunday 24 June**

Give praise for Anne Ratliff, Board Chair of LMNZ and Vice-Chair of the Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship Board. 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, wisdom and guidance for her.

### **New Opportunities**

#### **Monday 25 June**

**DR Congo** - In 2017, LMNZ provided a small grant to the Leprosy Mission Congo. The grant was towards a project based in the Sankuru Province. TLM Congo works in health districts that are endemic with leprosy. Our goal is to control leprosy and its complications in the Sankuru Province. 59 people were referred by health workers and community leaders for leprosy diagnosis. Pray for God's comfort and peace for leprosy-affected patients as they go through treatment.

#### **Tuesday 26 June**

Thanks to supporters in New Zealand, LMNZ also provided a new electricity generator for TLM Congo's Country Office. The electricity supply is erratic and there can be a lack of main electricity for several days at a time. The existing generator was a manual start, noisy and could only provide enough electricity for priority work. The new generator has an automatic start.

It is also sufficiently powerful to provide for all the needs of the office and reduces disruption to their work.

### **Wednesday 27 June**

Geography, poverty and lawlessness combine to make DR Congo a very challenging country to work in. Pray today for Country Leader, Louis Paluku Sabuni as he leads the rest of the team in fighting against leprosy in Congo. Pray also for safety for all TLM Congo staff as they travel across the country to serve people affected by leprosy- that God will protect them from accidents and armed conflicts.

### **Thursday 28 June**

**Indonesia** - Indonesia sees the third highest number of new leprosy cases each year. At present, Leprosy Mission does not have an active programme in Indonesia but we recognise the size of the leprosy challenge in the country. Gillian Whitley, LMNZ Executive Director, and Jasper Oei, Programme Manager, visited Indonesia last month to meet with leprosy mission partners and local government for future partnership. Pray for open doors so we can reach out to those whose lives are devastated by leprosy in Indonesia.

### **Friday 29 June**

Leprosy continues to afflict the most vulnerable in Indonesia. However, leprosy is no longer seen as a public health problem in Indonesia so getting funding for leprosy treatment is difficult. Pray the Indonesian government recognises the need for leprosy-related services and will be willing to partner with the Leprosy Mission in defeating this age old disease.

### **Saturday 30 June**

Leprosy is a complex disease and is connected not only to medical aspects but also extends to social issues. The public's knowledge and understanding of leprosy in Indonesia is still low. Therefore, education about leprosy is at the core of the Mission work. Pray for God's provision and guidance so we can reach out to those most in need, and the chains of leprosy can be broken in Indonesia.