



## Prayer & Praise

*Strengthening the Leprosy Mission  
Family through Prayer*

**June 2020**

***'...All the days ordained for  
me were written in your book  
before one of them came to  
be.'***

***Psalm 139:16***

**India**

### **Monday 1 June**

Understanding the need for education about Covid-19 the Leprosy Mission Trust India have been proactive in using traditional and digital methods of educating people about the virus. Methods have included wall paintings, mime, radio interviews, folk songs and quizzes, as well as videos on WhatsApp and a social media campaign. Give praise for their ideas and being able to put them into practice in the ten states in which TLMTI has projects.

### **Tuesday 2 June**

TLMTI hospitals, vocational training centres and community empowerment projects across the country are raising awareness about symptoms and

prevention of Covid-19, providing information on mental well-being and care at-home under lockdown, and encouraging social distancing. Please pray that the key messages will reach the target communities and encourage them to work to stop the spread of the virus.

### **Wednesday 3 June**

Pray that more young people affected by leprosy can be diagnosed early and be able to get the treatment they need so that they do not become disabled. Please pray that children like Kanti are able to complete their courses of treatment and receive the surgery or physiotherapy they need so they do not have a lifelong battle against disability and discrimination.

### **Thursday 4 June**

There is often no respect for people affected by leprosy and they are discouraged from participating in family and community events. This results in isolation, rejection and a belief that they are unworthy. Please pray for the work of The Leprosy Mission Trust India, working to empower those affected by leprosy to challenge discrimination and claim their human rights as equals in society.

### **Friday 5 June**

Sustainable livelihoods are a major driver in ensuring dignity for living. Please pray for the success of vocational training programmes so that people affected by leprosy and disability can bring resources into their households, which can increase their standing in their families and wider communities.

### **Saturday 6 June / Sunday 7 June**

The action of collective groups in India is effective in challenging discrimination and building people's hope and skills to improve their lives. Please pray that the threat of Covid-19 does not divide but causes people to pull together and continue the gains that have been made by their involvement in such groups.

## **Coronavirus and Leprosy**

### **Monday 8 June**

'Unprecedented' is a word we have heard a great deal over the last few months. The lockdown has been unprecedented in New Zealand. Please pray that God will remove the unprecedented difficulties of getting

help to people affected by leprosy, some of the poorest and most disadvantaged people in the world.

### **Tuesday 9 June**

In many countries, outpatients departments and outreach clinics have been closed in order to limit the spread of Coronavirus. There has been disruption all over the world, as well as in New Zealand. Please pray that God will open the way for those affected by leprosy to be diagnosed early enough not to develop disabilities.

### **Wednesday 10 June**

Please pray for staff in hospitals around the world where Personal Protective Equipment is not readily available. Also pray for the supply of ventilators and intensive care facilities to be available to meet the needs of more vulnerable communities. Give thanks for the resourcefulness of those coming up with solutions for shortages, and for those who are risking their own safety to serve others.

### **Thursday 11 June**

We have lived in partial isolation for several weeks, but have been able to stay in touch with people we care about through technology. Please pray for those affected by leprosy who have been living in isolation from their communities and families because of the stigma of leprosy. Pray that more people will show understanding of the difficulties associated with the stigma of leprosy.

### **Friday 12 June**

Isolation has been difficult for the mental health of many vulnerable people in our communities. Please pray for the mental health of these people and for people affected by leprosy, who have experienced hatred, rejection and abandonment as a result of leprosy. Pray that the counselling and outreach services will soon be able to resume.

### **Saturday 13 June / Sunday 14 June**

People with weak immune systems are at risk from Coronavirus, which can become a deadly condition. People affected by leprosy also have weak immune systems, usually because of poor nutrition. Please pray that the reasons people are vulnerable to leprosy

will be recognised and faced so that work towards eradication of the condition can accelerate.

## **Indonesia**

### **Monday 15 June**

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.

### **Tuesday 16 June**

The Indonesian public's knowledge and understanding of leprosy is still low and medical professionals sometimes don't recognise leprosy symptoms. Please pray that more awareness can be raised so that people affected by leprosy can be diagnosed and receive treatment, confident that they can be cured.

### **Wednesday 17 June**

Indonesia has the third highest number of new leprosy cases diagnosed each year, about 15 000, and leprosy is one of the major causes of preventable disability in that nation. Please pray for effective co-operation between The Leprosy Mission and other partners in Indonesia, so that the best outcomes can be achieved for people affected by leprosy.

### **Thursday 18 June**

The stigma associated with leprosy is still very strong in Indonesia. This affects the lives of people affected by the condition in every way, so that people do not feel safe to be diagnosed. Please pray that education programmes will be successful in Indonesia so that the stigma is eradicated as people learn that leprosy is curable.

### **Friday 19 June**

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.

### **Saturday 20 June / Sunday 21 June**

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.

## **Volunteers**

### **Monday 22 June**

We are extremely grateful for our faithful local volunteers, who carry out tasks that keep supporters informed and bring order to our administration. Praise God for their diligence and commitment to being part of the team working to change the lives of people affected by leprosy. Please pray for their well-being during the challenging times they are facing with the pandemic.

### **Tuesday 23 June**

The Youth Advocates, between 18 and 25 years of age are also volunteers, raising funds for a clean, regular water supply at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. Please pray that in these challenging times each advocate is able to find creative ways of carrying out their commitment so the everyday lives of people affected by leprosy are improved.

### **Wednesday 24 June**

Please pray that tertiary students with a heart for mission will be inspired to apply to be Youth Advocates for 2021. Pray that God will direct the paths of those He has chosen and that they will find clarity in the way to move forward for the future.

### **Thursday 25 June**

In Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, Community Health Volunteers are a vital weapon in the fight to eradicate leprosy in their communities. Please pray that they will safely be able to continue their work so that more people can receive the cure for leprosy before the condition has caused lifelong disability.

### **Friday 26 June**

Self-help groups in projects supported by New Zealanders are run by volunteers. These are local people affected by leprosy in countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia and India. Thank God that through these groups many volunteers have gained confidence and a sense of worth as they have learnt new skills and developed relationships with others.

### **Saturday 27 June / Sunday 28 June**

Praise God for the leadership being shown by Community Health Volunteers and by the facilitators of self-help groups in various parts of the world. Pray that they and their families will be blessed. Pray also that they will see fruitful results as more people affected by leprosy are cured, cared for and restored within their communities.

## **Papua New Guinea**

### **Monday 29 June**

There are a small number of Coronavirus cases in Papua New Guinea. Please pray that there will be no major outbreak in that nation and for the safety and protection of the community teams who are assisting in awareness-raising for Coronavirus detection.

### **Tuesday 30 June**

Praise God that the funding for the PNG Healthy Communities Project has been received. Give thanks for the persistence and co-operation of those involved in the application for funding. Please pray that the implementation of this project will go ahead on schedule and successfully so that many more people affected by leprosy can be diagnosed early and their lives can be improved.