



**March 2019**

***'I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in His word I put my hope.'***

***Psalm 130v5***

**Global Fellowship**

**Friday 1 March**

Pray for safe travels for Gillian Whitley, Executive Director, and Sarita Divis, Fundraising Manager as they travel to London for the Leprosy Mission International Fundraising Conference. Fundraising teams from all around the world will meet to discuss and share ideas on how to effectively raise funds and awareness for people affected by leprosy.

**Saturday 2 March / Sunday 3 March**

Pray for oneness in heart and fruitful meetings at the Fundraising Conference as participants discuss the new global fundraising strategy, that all those participating will be engaged and open to discussions as decisions are made for the future of TLM's fundraising activities.

**Bougainville Appeal**

**Monday 4 March**

Leprosy hotspots are areas where there is high incidence or risk of leprosy cases. This week we are writing to our supporters to help raise funds for our project in Bougainville, to help young children like

Philomena and Philomon, and to tackle leprosy hotspots in Bougainville. Pray for a good response to this appeal, so we are able to ensure people in Bougainville have access to early diagnosis and the cure for leprosy.

**Tuesday 5 March**

Philomena and Philomon are two shy 10 year old twins living in a remote village of Bougainville. They were first diagnosed with leprosy 3 years ago but they did not complete their full course of multi-drug therapy. Philomena and Philomon both have visible patches on their bodies, Philomon also has a deep ulcer on his foot. Pray that Philomena and Philomon can receive all the care and treatment they need to recover.

**Wednesday 6 March**

Health Clinics in Bougainville are far away from people affected by leprosy, and with no real transport, people must get there on foot or do without. Pray that more village health volunteers will be trained to diagnose leprosy in communities, so children affected by leprosy, like Philomena and Philomon can be diagnosed at an early stage, to prevent long-term disability.

**Thursday 7 March**

The twins' mother Wendy is a single mother with 5 children. She works hard in her small garden to provide fruit and vegetables for her children. She also sells the excess in the local market to earn a living and support her family. Pray for God's provision and guidance. Pray for Philomena and Philomon's future as they attend school and receive an education.

**Friday 8 March**

Praise God for the success of the Bougainville project over the past few years, LMNZ has been able to establish a health programme that covers 95% of the population. In this new phase of the project, TLM staff are looking into using innovative technology to monitor leprosy cases in Bougainville. It will allow the team to record, analyse and tackle the incidence of leprosy. Pray that this new technology will be successful in supporting the leprosy control project in Bougainville.

**Saturday 9 March / Sunday 10 March**

Praise God for the fruits of the project that have brought lasting improvement to the quality of life for people

affected by leprosy in Bougainville. Praise also for the New Zealand Government's on-going support of the Leprosy Mission work in Bougainville, and New Zealand supporters for donating and praying for this work.

**Anandaban Hospital**

**Monday 11 March**

Anandaban Hospital in Nepal is one of the hospitals that LMMZ supports. The large outpatients' clinic serves the general community as well as those affected by leprosy. Please pray for Medical Director, Dr. Indra Napit and his team of doctors and nurses. They maintain a very busy Operating Theatre, with more than 1,500 surgeries per year. Pray the Lord will give them strength and bless their hands to transform more lives in Nepal.

**Tuesday 12 March**

Since the 2015 earthquakes, TLM Nepal has been restoring the damaged infrastructure of Anandaban Hospital. A new trauma centre, staff quarters, guesthouse and ward building are underway. Pray for God's provision and guidance in the restoration process so that Anandaban Hospital can serve leprosy patients and the community to its full potential.

**Wednesday 13 March**

Patan Clinic, an outreach clinic in Kathmandu city, provides people affected by leprosy easier access to the expertise to diagnose and treat leprosy. Praise God for all the staff who tirelessly serve in Patan Clinic. In 2018, 816 ulcer patients received outpatient visits, and 1,782 patients received prosthesis or orthopaedic and disability aids. 793 new leprosy cases were diagnosed and given multi-drug therapy, the cure for leprosy.

**Thursday 14 March**

Praise God for our 2018 Youth Advocates for their time and commitment last year. Praise also for all those who supported the Youth Advocate's fundraising project. Together, we were able to help Anandaban Hospital to upgrade its Prosthetics and Orthotics workshop with some advanced and reliable equipment. Pray that with this new equipment, more prosthetic and orthotic procedures can be done and in a more timely and precise manner.

### **Friday 15 March**

20 year old Shanti arrived at Anandaban hospital after injuring her leprosy-affected hands. Thanks to the hospital staff in Anandaban Hospital, she was given a skin test and put on a 12 month multi-drug therapy treatment. She is now cured of leprosy. Pray that after her hand surgeries, Shanti can learn to sew and set up a small business to support her family.

### **Saturday 16 March / Sunday 17 March**

Remember Shovakar Kandal, TLM Nepal Country Leader, as he diligently coordinates work with various government agencies and strategic partners spread across Nepal. Pray for good health, wisdom, strength and guidance in all that he does. Pray that God's love is reflected through his actions and words, and many more lives are transformed through TLMN's ministry.

### **Cure, Care, Restore**

### **Monday 18 March**

Ridding the world of leprosy is at the heart of our mission. The global fellowship is working hard with international organisations for zero transmission of leprosy by 2035. Pray for God's provision and guidance as the Leprosy Mission continues to seek His will in defeating leprosy and transforming lives.

### **Tuesday 19 March**

The Leprosy Mission refuses to neglect those who live in remote and hard to reach communities. Praise God for the village health workers and volunteers who travel long hours each day to make sure no one is missing out on the cure for leprosy. Praise God for their diligence and dedication in serving people affected by leprosy despite the challenging circumstances.

### **Wednesday 20 March**

11 year old Niran is our Cure One ambassador this year. Leprosy has attacked his young body and left him with numbness and loss of feeling in his face and hands, and a left eye that cannot fully close. Thankfully, Niran was put on multi-drug therapy and is also receiving physiotherapy on his hands. Pray Niran can have the opportunity to receive

reconstructive surgery to correct his eye and clawed hands.

### **Thursday 21 March**

Recently, we wrote to supporters like you about Abu from Bangladesh. Abu was rejected by his own family and community because of his leprosy. Give thanks for the self-help groups in Abu's community. Villagers learnt about the causes and consequences of leprosy. Abu also received training and a loan to set up his own grocery shop to earn a living and support his family. Abu is now respected as a businessman.

### **Friday 22 March**

**World Water Day** – a day to remind us about the significance of fresh and clean water and proper sanitation. Easy access to clean water can make a huge difference to the health of a whole community. Yet, people affected by leprosy are often overlooked, and face discrimination. Give thanks for projects around the world that help to transform the health and livelihoods of communities by improving their access to clean water.

### **Saturday 23 March / Sunday 24 March**

Khaleda is a young mother in Bangladesh. Leprosy has taken parts of Khaleda's fingers and toes. Praise God for the Leprosy Mission health workers. Khaleda learnt to protect her leprosy-affected vulnerable hands and feet. Khaleda is also part of a self-help group now. She started her vocational training in tailoring and she is also taking a loan from her self-help group to open her own tailoring business.

### **Africa**

### **Monday 25 March**

**WHO Meeting** – *Pray for a successful meeting hosted in Botswana by the World Health Organisation to discuss ways to accelerate the battle against leprosy in Africa. Most countries and NGOs in Africa will be represented at the meeting, including stakeholders like The Leprosy Mission. Pray that positive decisions will be made in working towards the eradication of leprosy.*

### **Tuesday 26 March**

Give thanks for Birke Nigatu Teka, a leprosy-affected woman from Ethiopia who won the Wellesley Bailey Award last year at the Annual Conference in Ethiopia.

Praise God for Nigatu's work advocating for the rights and entitlements of persons affected by leprosy.

### **Wednesday 27 March**

Praise God for LMNZ's partnership with **ENAPAL** (Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy). ENAPAL provides educational support for children from families affected by leprosy. Praise God 280 children have received educational support across Ethiopia last year; this includes exercise books, pens, pencils and grants for school uniforms and registration fees.

### **Thursday 28 March**

Remember today Tadesse Tesfaye, Managing Director of **ENAPAL**, as he works diligently and leads the rest of the team in serving people affected by leprosy in Ethiopia. ENAPAL has a board of 14 leprosy-affected people and works through over 63 local associations and regional branches. Pray for oneness in hearts that all staff will have the same understanding of ENAPAL's vision, and work effectively in helping leprosy-affected communities.

### **Friday 29 March**

**Chad** – Praise the Lord! The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been discussed in the Chadian Parliament and is ready for approval. Pray that the convention will be signed and that local organisations and communities will put its principles into practice in working towards inclusion and active participation of person living with leprosy-related disabilities in Chad.

### **Saturday 30 March / Sunday 31 March**

**Chad** is a semi-desert country which makes providing enough food for its 11.8 million citizens a struggle. Pray that food security programmes will meet the needs of the poor and disadvantaged during the rainy season from June to October. Please pray for all TLM Chad staff as they partner with other non-government organisations and the government in delivering leprosy services.