



Prayer & Praise

**Strengthening the Leprosy Mission
Family through Prayer**

March 2021

***'Even strong lions sometimes
go hungry, but those who
trust in the Lord will lack no
good thing.'***

Psalm 34:10

Cure, Care, Restore

Monday 1 March

'I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them'.¹ Timothy 2:1

Please pray that the 200,000 people diagnosed with leprosy in the past year will be able to have access to multi-drug therapy to provide the cure for the condition as soon as possible.

Tuesday 2 March

Thank God for all those working around the world to inform people that leprosy is curable and to break

down the stigma of the disease so that people are not afraid to come forward for treatment.

Thank Him for all those who have been cured and are willing to encourage others to get the medical help they need.

Wednesday 3 March

The physical consequences of untreated leprosy can be serious injury to hands and feet leading to ulcers and even amputation. Nerve damage can lead to muscle paralysis, resulting in clawed hands and drop foot. Eye muscles can become paralysed, leading to blindness. Please pray that more people will be able to get the care they need so the serious disabilities can be avoided or treated.

Thursday 4 March

Pray for all the countries that have strategies to increase their fundraising activity so that more people can receive the care they need to recover from the effects leprosy has had on their bodies. Pray that the Lord will guide these strategies to success. Give thanks for the thousands of faithful donors who have given in order to care for people affected by leprosy.

Friday 5 March

The stigma of leprosy is real in many countries. Part of the effort for people to be restored to a place of dignity within their communities involves education about leprosy so that prejudice against people affected by leprosy can be eradicated. Please pray for encouragement for those involved in this work. Also pray that laws that specifically discriminate against people affected by leprosy will be changed.

Saturday 6 March / Sunday 7 March

Please pray that as people are cured and cared for they will also gain hope for the future. Pray that self-help groups and income-generating activities will provide positive focus and that groups will be able to become more self-sustaining during these changing economic times.

Bougainville

Monday 8 March

Ruby Mirinka, the former Country Leader for TLM Bougainville, has come back to assist with the

programmes over the next year or so. Please pray for Ruby to slot into her role easily and that the programmes in place will continue to operate successfully.

Tuesday 9 March

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.

Wednesday 10 March

Pray that the delivery of community training around health and governance begins well this year. Pray that there is minimal disruption so that effective delivery can take place to communities throughout Bougainville. Give thanks for gains that have been made and pray for measurable success from the training.

Thursday 11 March

Thank the Lord for the electronic monitoring system that has taken the place of the paper-based system so that the improvements to people's situations can be seen and recorded. Pray that the electronic monitoring system continues to be embedded within the programme and that District Facilitators and others using it continue to grow in confidence.

Friday 12 March

Cross-cutting issues are those that have an impact on leprosy or are affected by it. They include health, sanitation, gender, food security, maternal health and natural resources. Please pray that a replacement Co-ordinator for Gender and Cross-cutting issues can be identified and recruited in Bougainville as the position has been vacant for some months.

Saturday 13 March / Sunday 14 March

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.

India

Monday 15 March

Give thanks that TLM Trust India is continuing to build a powerful profile and to inform the population through the media about the work of the organisation. Please pray that many more people will come to know that leprosy is curable and is not to be feared. The vision of TLM Trust India is to see 'people affected by leprosy living with dignity in a transformed, inclusive society that has overcome leprosy'.

Tuesday 16 March

TLMTI has 14 hospitals and five aged care homes across ten states, serving people affected by leprosy, disability and other marginalised people. Give thanks that thousands of sick and suffering patients receive treatment each year, both as outpatients and inpatients. Please pray for God's touch on the work, that healing may flow to people and that the love of Christ may be shown through the committed staff who serve.

Wednesday 17 March

Six Vocational Training Centres provide skills training to young people who are otherwise excluded from mainstream education. Please pray that many students would seek training in the Vocational Training Centres, in order to support themselves and their families. Pray for success in the training they undertake so they can have hope for the future.

Thursday 18 March

Thank God for the livelihood and empowerment projects that work among communities that have been isolated and marginalised. Praise Him for the leprosy-affected champions who advocate for people denied basic human rights. Pray that these communities will overcome their challenges and eliminate stigma and exclusion.

Friday 19 March

During 2020, several doctors and other frontline staff died of Covid-19. Thank God for the staff who are devoted to the vision and mission of TLM Trust India, and who are the frontline warriors. Please pray for God's protection, peace and provision for

them and their families. Also pray for comfort, peace and provision for those who lost loved ones in 2020.

Saturday 20 March / Sunday 21 March

The Leprosy Mission Trust India is the largest leprosy-focused, non-governmental organisation in India. Please pray that through the work they do, people affected by leprosy will realise God's love and care for them. Pray for God's guidance in their service, so their effectiveness will continue to grow.

Papua New Guinea

Monday 22 March

Give thanks that Covid-19 cases continue to remain low in PNG. Pray that community transmission does not flourish there and that the country is not greatly affected economically by the pandemic. Pray for wisdom for the government of Papua New Guinea, that they will be able to make the right decisions for their nation.

Tuesday 23 March

Pray for the continued strong implementation of the Sustainable Livelihoods Development Programme as it enters its final year of implementation. Give thanks for the start of another community programme, the Strongim Helt Long Komuniti programme into communities affected by leprosy. Pray for the 25 communities involved in this project as they learn how to manage their own health better within their communities.

Wednesday 24 March

Give thanks that loans provided as part of the Sustainable Livelihoods Development Programme continue to be taken up. These provide life-changing resources to vulnerable and marginalised communities as they begin developing income-generating activities. Pray that people will be able to gain income and dignity and that their lives will be improved.

Thursday 25 March

Give thanks that work continues to be done to find hidden cases of leprosy, reducing the burden of disease and disability. Thank God that people affected by leprosy can undertake a course of multi-drug therapy and be completely cured. Pray that the supply of drugs continues to be available consistently.

Friday 26 March

Pray that the Leprosy Mission PNG team continue to develop important analytical skills to effectively analyse data gathered from the field, ensuring they are able to achieve the best outcomes possible. Give thanks for the willingness of staff to undertake this new way of working and pray blessing on them as they overcome the challenges.

Saturday 27 March / Sunday 28 March

Pray for the Country Leader, Natalie Smith, and her team as they put together the annual report and financial report for 2020. Give thanks for Natalie's leadership and pray for wisdom and vision as she and her team develop the annual plan and budget for 2021.

Indonesia

Monday 29 March

Indonesia is one of the three countries in the world with the highest numbers of cases of leprosy. Covid-19 has affected the work of case finding in 2020. Please pray that the team will continue to build momentum after the delays in the training, awareness raising and active case finding.

Tuesday 30 March

Pray that the combined approach of three organisations fighting leprosy in Indonesia will have a positive effect on finding new cases. Pray also that people will want and be able to continue the treatment and there will be positive outcomes from tracing the contacts of people affected by leprosy so the transmission can be stopped.

Wednesday 31 March

Adherence to medication can help to reduce disability for people affected by leprosy. In many communities the stigma associated with leprosy is a major factor preventing people from seeking early treatment. Please pray for good connections to be made within communities so that the stigma can be addressed through training and awareness-raising activities.