



May 2017

‘Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.’

1 Thessalonians 5v16-18

Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme

Monday 1 May

The goal of this project is to develop healthier Bougainville communities through villages and government sharing responsibility for health awareness and community development. Project trainings directly impart knowledge on how people can take responsibility to live in a healthy environment. Pray that this project can make a lasting impact on leprosy-affected communities in Bougainville.

Tuesday 2 May

Gillian Whitley, Executive Director; Jasleen Kler, Programme Manager and Tony Wrightson, Programme Consultant are in Bougainville at the moment for a support visit of BHCP. Please pray for their safety and security, that God will protect them from accidents and diseases when travelling.

Wednesday 3 May

Gillian, Tony and Jasleen will be having a BHCP Functional Analysis Workshop with the Autonomous

Bougainville Government to discuss BHCP’s sustainability after 2018 when the project ends. Pray for good outcomes for the workshop and that the new village assemblies will be well equipped to take ownership of BHCP.

Thursday 4 May

Praise God for the positive impact BHCP has brought to the community. To date, programmes have been well established in 12 out of 13 districts in Bougainville. And since the project began, more than 2,500 village health volunteers and 2,100 village leaders have been receiving training on community health development, leadership and governance.

Friday 5 May

This project plays a large part in bringing communities together that have been in conflict. Pray for wisdom for all staff, that God will smooth the way with regards to restoring communities’ relationships. Remember Ruby Mirinka, Programmes Director and Neil Toura, Operations Director. Praise God for their heart in serving leprosy-affected communities in Bougainville.

Saturday 6 May / Sunday 7 May

Village health volunteers undertook a two week health care training course with Leprosy Mission staff and are doing incredible work in identifying people with leprosy, and making sure they receive the full course of multi-drug therapy, the cure for leprosy. Pray that all health volunteers will actively use their new found knowledge to transform lives in their communities.

Muzaffarpur Hospital

Monday 8 May

Muzaffarpur Hospital in India is one of the main hospitals that LMNZ supports. It recently received a TLM India innovation award for their continuous incremental improvement in all that they do to ensure sustainability of hospital services and effective use of limited resources. Thank God for the quality leprosy care being provided through Muzaffarpur Hospital to heal and restore fullness of life to leprosy patients.

Tuesday 9 May

Please pray for God’s provision for surgery camps in

Muzaffarpur Hospital. So often people affected by leprosy need to undergo reconstructive surgery due to leprosy damage and complicated ulcers. Pray for more funding and skilled staff so that these surgery camps can operate smoothly in helping leprosy patients.

Wednesday 10 May

Praise God for Dr Hemblom, Superintendent of Muzaffarpur Hospital and his team for their diligence and devotion in serving leprosy patients. They provide access to treatment and work long days to ensure every patient who needs medical assistance receives it. Pray for strength and good health as they serve leprosy-affected patients.

Thursday 11 May

Ulcers and infections in the hands and feet are common with people affected by leprosy, because cuts and burns are ignored when skin loses sensitivity. Muzaffarpur Hospital provides ulcer care and protective footwear so that infections can be prevented. Pray that people affected by leprosy take good care of their wounds and that they can be completely healed from leprosy without any further complications.

Friday 12 May

Delayed treatment of leprosy often leads to clawed hands and disfigurement. Praise God for the physiotherapists in Muzaffarpur Hospital, for the patience and compassion they have towards leprosy-affected patients. Pray that patients will continue with their daily physiotherapy, so they can regain movement in their hands and go on with their everyday life with hope and confidence.

Saturday 13 May / Sunday 14 May

Kabita, a patient in Muzaffarpur Hospital, was only 10 years old when she first discovered patches on her hands. Because of delayed treatment, she needed to have reconstructive hand surgery and did physiotherapy. Her dream is to become a teacher when she grows up. Pray that she has the opportunity to receive a higher education and all that she needs to fulfil her dream.

Leprosy and Stigma

Monday 15 May

People affected by leprosy often say that the most damaging aspects of the disease are the stigma and social exclusion they experience. The Leprosy Mission works in partnership with local organisations in speaking out against the myths and misunderstandings that lead to exclusion. Pray that their voice can reach the wider community, myths will be dispelled and leprosy-affected people can live with hope and dignity.

Tuesday 16 May

The Global Leprosy Strategy 2016-2020, endorsed by the World Health Organisation and organisations like TLM, calls on governments to repeal legislation that discriminates against people affected by leprosy. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance, as they work out strategies and projects to influence governments for change.

Wednesday 17 May

Snehalayas ('a house of love' in Hindi) in India, take care of elderly people who are severely disabled by leprosy. These people were rejected and abandoned by their families due to leprosy. Pray for an end to the deep-rooted social stigma attached to leprosy in India. Pray also for a change in mind of family members of the Snehalayas residents, so that they will be welcomed back to their families.

Thursday 18 May

Praise God for the staff in Snehalayas for their love and dedication in serving leprosy-affected people. Pray for strength and patience as they go about their daily work. Pray that through their life and service, they would be able to demonstrate Christian love and compassion to the residents in Snehalayas.

Friday 19 May

People affected by leprosy are often ostracised and prevented from accessing community resources and are excluded from festivals and community gatherings. They are denied education and employment. Pray that through the work of TLM, the social stigma and discrimination of leprosy can come to an end and leprosy-affected people can be accepted back into their communities and have access to their rights.

Saturday 20 May / Sunday 21 May

Pray for the LMNZ's Board Members as they come together this weekend for Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting. Praise God for their expertise and contribution to the Mission's work. Pray for wisdom and guidance as they prioritise the greatest project needs, working within the planned budget for this year.

Papua New Guinea

Monday 22 May

Praise God for the approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for funding our new project in PNG. This is vital for the continuation of LMNZ's work in mainland PNG from 2017 to 2021. The new projects will be focused on sustainable livelihoods development. Building on the foundation of previous projects to reduce leprosy, improve health and employment opportunities for people affected by leprosy, living with disabilities and living in poverty.

Tuesday 23 May

Gillian Whitley, Executive Director, and Anne Ratliff, LMNZ Board Chair are meeting with TLM Australia counterparts to discuss a closer working relationship to support the work in PNG. Pray for good discussion and oneness in hearts. As LMNZ and TLM Australia work together, pray that new projects can provide a greater support to the leprosy-affected communities in PNG.

Wednesday 24 May

With God's grace, TLM PNG has already found a temporary office in Port Moresby. It enables a move of activities closer to leprosy-affected communities and partner organisations, which means the team now has a place to start their new projects. Pray for a long-term office space in Port Moresby, so the team can have a secured place in carrying out these projects to cure leprosy and transform lives.

Thursday 25 May

Pray for Natalie Smith, Country Leader of TLM PNG, as she builds a new team and implements new projects in three leprosy endemic districts of PNG. Give thanks for her faithfulness and service to the Mission and leprosy-affected people. Pray for God's wisdom as she leads the team in supporting people affected by leprosy.

Friday 26 May

Praise God for the new project staff for the PNG Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project funded in collaboration with the NZ Aid programme (NZ Government's official aid for developing countries). Pray that their project training and expertise will have an immediate impact on the lives of people affected by leprosy. Pray for God's provision and guidance as they work together in bringing an end to leprosy in PNG.

Saturday 27 May / Sunday 28 May

Pray for the Gender Analysis under the PNG Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project, that it can run smoothly in identifying gender issues in our target communities. Pray also for effective strategies to ease gender inequality in these communities in PNG, that more woman will be empowered and have access to their basic rights.

May Appeal

Monday 29 May

This week we are writing to our supporters to raise funds for leprosy-affected people, like Naseem. Pray the appeal is well received and people open their hearts to poor Naseem so that we are able to cure, care for and restore more leprosy-affected children, and give them hope and assurance for the future.

Tuesday 30 May

14 year old Naseem is from an extremely poor family in India and was diagnosed with advanced leprosy. He needs to take multi-drug therapy for 12 months. He also needs to do physiotherapy on his clawed hands and needs to have surgery for his drop foot. Pray for comfort for Naseem and other leprosy-affected children that they can finish their treatment, be cured of leprosy and live a happy childhood.

Wednesday 31 May

Naseem's family struggle financially, as paying for medication and hospital time has put a huge strain on them. Pray for financial provision for Naseem and his family. Also pray that when Naseem is older, he would be able to attend the Vocational Training Centre and receive training in literacy and trade, and that he can find work or set up his own small business in the future to help support his family.