



May 2018

'I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.'

Psalm 69v30

Youth Advocates

Tuesday 1 May

Connecting young people to our mission is something LMNZ does with great joy. In January, Gillian Whitley, Executive Director, led a group of Youth Advocates to Nepal. They visited Anandaban Hospital and leprosy-affected communities. Give thanks for a safe and fruitful trip.

Wednesday 2 May

During their two-week trip in Nepal, the Youth Advocates witnessed the need for some new equipment for the Prosthetics and Orthotics workshop at Anandaban Hospital. Their mission this year is to raise \$30,000 for some advanced and reliable prosthesis and orthoses equipment to improve the medical facilities in Anandaban Hospital. Pray Youth Advocates will enthusiastically share their experiences from the trip to churches and community groups.

Thursday 3 May

At the moment staff members in Anandaban Hospital make all prostheses manually. It takes 2-3 days to complete one prosthesis. With advanced equipment the prosthetics and orthotics can be

produced in a more timely and precise manner. So that the work in Anandaban can run more efficiently and more patients can benefit. Pray for strength and resilience for all staff at the Prosthetics and Orthotics Department.

Friday 4 May

Youth Advocates are hosting different fundraisers around New Zealand to raise funds for their project to provide new prosthesis and orthoses equipment for Anandaban Hospital. Praise God for their heart for people affected by leprosy. Pray also for successful fundraising outcomes and more people will learn about leprosy and its consequences.

Saturday 5 May / Sunday 6 May

Praise for our 2017 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 provide Anandaban Hospital with a reliable digital X-Ray Machine. Pray that more patients can receive quality treatment at Leprosy Mission clinics and leprosy-affected people can be diagnosed and treated effectively.

Praise and Thanksgiving

Monday 7 May

I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us. Isaiah 63:7 Abdul first discovered he had leprosy when he was at school. It made him feel so ashamed so he stopped going, he isolated himself from others. For 10 years he scraped a living as a casual laborer, he had no hope in his life. Praise the Lord! He was invited to join a Leprosy Mission self-help group in his community. He learnt new skills and now earns an income by growing watermelons.

Tuesday 8 May

Farida was treated for leprosy when she was only 12 years old. She later took part in a course at Faizabad Vocational Training Centre in sewing. She then received a sewing machine which is adapted to her needs, so she is able to sew even though her hands have been affected by leprosy. Farida has started her own business. She also enjoys training other young girls affected by leprosy in her community who look up to her for guidance.

Wednesday 9 May

In Bangladesh, leprosy affected Mabul so badly that one of his legs had to be amputated. He lost his small business as he couldn't move around, and his family were becoming destitute. Praise for the prosthetic leg received from LMNZ, Mabul can now walk like everyone else. 'I lost everything but now I have a new life.' He declares with joy.

Thursday 10 May

In Nepal, 19 year old Munna had open sores on his foot and was virtually bedridden in hospital because of leprosy. Praise for the diligent hospital staff at Anandaban hospital, Munna received specialist care for his foot and has completed his full course of multi-drug therapy. Munna is recovering well. He no longer has open sores and he has regained some feeling back in his hands.

Friday 11 May / Saturday 12 May

Laxmal was completely cured from leprosy but it was the stigma of leprosy, not its physical effects that made it impossible for him to find work to support his family. Thankfully, Laxmal received a pedal rickshaw from the Leprosy Mission. He can now earn a reliable income by riding a rickshaw to provide for his three children.

Sunday 13 May

Mother's Day – Today we give thanks and honour mothers for their love and sacrifices. Pray God fill every mother with wisdom, joy and strength, especially on this day.

Community-Based Rehabilitation

Monday 14 May

Leprosy is a disease with complex physical, psychological and societal effects on the individual. Community-based rehabilitation is a powerful and multi-faceted approach that equips people affected by leprosy and disability to establish sustainable livelihoods, and to live confidently in their communities. Pray for God's abundant blessing so that leprosy-affected people can experience real transformation in their quality of life.

Tuesday 15 May

Today is the *International Day of Families*. This year's theme is 'Families and inclusive societies'. Leprosy-affected people and their families are most empowered when they are accepted back into their communities. Leprosy Mission brings entire communities together through community development projects. They teach communities about the causes and consequences of leprosy. Pray that through education we can dispel the myths surrounding the disease and build strong and inclusive families and communities.

Wednesday 16 May

The deep-rooted stigma attached to leprosy often leads to people being barred from community gatherings and prevented from accessing community resources. Pray for an end to social stigma and discrimination towards leprosy-affected people in communities where the Leprosy Mission is implementing its community-based rehabilitation programmes.

Thursday 17 May

Community-based rehabilitation schemes restore people affected by leprosy to full participation in society. They are encouraged to meet together on a regular basis, discuss their issues and support each other. Praise God there is a deep sense of confidence and a growing sense of dignity and self-worth amongst leprosy-affected people as they receive wider acceptance in the community.

Friday 18 May

People affected by leprosy who are part of the Leprosy Mission Chittagong People Led Development project can receive a small loan through its micro-credit scheme. Pray that this can have a lasting impact on their lives, as they set up their own business and support their families.

Saturday 19 May / Sunday 20 May

Countries like India, Nepal and Bangladesh have experienced increased insecurity and political turmoil lately, with Christian organisations particularly under threat. Please pray for a stable working environment with peace and safety for TLM staff around the world. Pray also for good relationships between TLM and the governments of

its support countries, so that TLM can continue its work in transforming lives.

Bougainville

Monday 21 May

LMNZ has been supporting communities in Bougainville since 1999. This is the final year of our Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP). The project established health care programmes in local communities so that families can take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing. Pray that the programme will continue to flourish, impact and faithfully serve the health needs of people affected by leprosy in Bougainville.

Tuesday 22 May

We praise God for Ruby Mirinka, Programme Director, and Neil Toura, Operation Director of BHCP. Praise God for their commitment and hearts in serving communities affected by leprosy in Bougainville. Pray for God's wisdom and provision as they lead the rest of the team in reaching out to those most vulnerable.

Wednesday 23 March

BHCP has had a significant impact on the overall health of rural Bougainvilleans. Praise God for the positive impact BHCP has brought to the community. More than 2,500 leaders have been trained to be village health volunteers. 90% of communities have a safe water supply, an increased proportion of families have a toilet and other sanitation provisions, and 95% of babies are now being born under supervised situations.

Thursday 24 May

This week Tony Wrightson, Programme Consultant, will be spending time with the team in Bougainville and representatives from the Autonomous Bougainville Government to explore and design the new phase of BHCP. Praise God for the successes to date and for the strong relationship between the Autonomous Bougainville Government and LMNZ.

Friday 25 May

BHCP has been having significant impact on village governance, community development, social empowerment and peace-building. There are more than 2,100 village leaders receiving training on community health development, leadership and governance. Pray

that these leaders can actively use their newfound knowledge in helping others in their communities.

Saturday 26 May / Sunday 27 May

Augustine is a 70 year old man living in Bougainville. He was identified as having leprosy by a village health volunteer from BHCP last year and has commenced multi-drug therapy treatment to cure his leprosy. Recently, his two granddaughters were also diagnosed with leprosy and started their treatment. Thankfully, because of early detection, they did not develop any disability.

May Appeal

Monday 28 May

This week we share the story of Shanti in Nepal. 20 year old Shanti was diagnosed with leprosy nine years ago, but still she is grappling with its effects. Leprosy had taken so much from Shanti but it was her downcast eyes that were the most heartbreaking. Pray through the help from hospital staff, Shanti's spirit can be uplifted, knowing there is still hope in her future.

Tuesday 29 May

Leprosy bacterium attacks nerve endings and takes away Shanti's ability to feel pain in her hands. Shanti burnt her fingers from doing the simple act of making popcorn. Her wounds then became severely infected. Pray for God's healing and protection for people with leprosy, like Shanti.

Wednesday 30 May

When Shanti went to the local hospital, the doctor recommended amputation of several of her fingers. Thankfully, Shanti traveled for 19 hours to reach Anandaban Hospital where her fingers were able to be saved. Praise for the medical expertise of Anandaban Hospital.

Thursday 31 May

Shanti was put on a 12 month multi-drug therapy treatment. The nurses change her dressings and help Shanti do daily physiotherapy exercises. Praise for the diligence of staff at Anandaban Hospital. Pray Shanti completes her full course of MDT and will be completely cured of leprosy.