



**The Leprosy  
Mission**  
New Zealand

**May 2019**

***'You are the light of the world.  
A town built on a hill cannot  
be hidden.'***

***Matthew 5v14***

**Youth Advocates**

**Wednesday 1 May**

Connecting young people to our mission is something LMNZ does with great joy. Praise God for the 2019 Youth Advocates who are advocating in their churches and communities for the work of the Leprosy Mission. Give thanks for their passion and dedication in seeing the transmission of leprosy eradicated by 2035.

**Thursday 2 May**

To reach the most vulnerable communities in rural areas of Nepal requires reliable vehicles which are robust enough to deal with narrow unsurfaced roads. Therefore, this year's Youth Advocates are aiming to raise \$30,000 to help upgrade the bus for Anandaban Hospital. Pray Youth Advocates will enthusiastically share their experiences from the trip to churches and community groups.

**Friday 3 May**

The new bus in Anandaban Hospital will enable hospital staff, medical supplies and equipment to be transported between the hospital and satellite clinics. This is significant as it will allow a much

greater outreach to the wider regions of Nepal, and for many more people to be treated who would otherwise be unable to reach medical help. Pray that through this new bus, more people affected by leprosy can receive the cure and care they so desperately need.

**Saturday 4 May / Sunday 5 May**

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

**Papua New Guinea and Bougainville**

**Monday 6 May**

For many years, TLM has provided access to medical treatment to people affected by leprosy and helped improve the detection and management of new cases which helps to limit the spread of the disease. Remember the team in PNG and Bougainville. Pray for God's guidance as they work together in supporting people affected by leprosy.

**Tuesday 7 May**

In PNG and Bougainville, many areas in which the Leprosy Mission works are poverty stricken with high crime rates. Pray for God's protection over the staff in PNG and Bougainville as they travel rough terrain to visit project communities. Praise God for their devotion and heart for leprosy-affected individuals and families.

**Wednesday 8 May**

This is the third year of the Sustainable Livelihood Development Project in PNG. Praise God for the community facilitators and leaders who received trainings on basic health and hygiene, leprosy awareness, livelihoods development and micro-credit introduction. Pray these community facilitators and leaders can use their skills and knowledge to educate the wider communities.

**Thursday 9 May**

One of the goals of the Sustainable Livelihood Development Project is to educate people with leprosy and disability about their rights and empower them to advocate for their entitlements. Praise God LMNZ was able to partner with likeminded organisations to address

gender-based discrimination and violence in the communities.

**Friday 10 May**

LMNZ has been supporting communities in Bougainville since 1999. The Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP) 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.

**Saturday 11 May**

BHCP has had a significant impact on the overall health of rural Bougainvilleans. Praise God for village health volunteers who have raised awareness in communities on issues like leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria, water and sanitation, safe motherhood and immunisation.

**Sunday 12 May**

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

**Community-based Rehabilitation**

**Monday 13 May**

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 14 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 people affected by leprosy in communities.

**Wednesday 15 May**

Today is **International day of Families**. Leprosy-affected people and their families are most

empowered when they are accepted back into their communities. Leprosy Mission brings entire communities together to learn about the causes and consequences of leprosy. Pray that through education, the myths surrounding the disease can be dispelled and we can build strong and inclusive families and communities.

#### **Thursday 16 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 17 May**

LMNZ's Chittagong People-led Development Project (CPDP) aims to improve the quality of life for people affected by leprosy and disability, through social and economic development. Self-help groups have been the key to the project, providing leprosy-affected individuals and their families with income generating activities, like sewing and fishing. Pray this project can bring lasting impact to the lives of people affected by leprosy.

#### **Saturday 18 May / Sunday 19 May**

Self-help groups and training provided through CPDP has meant many people affected by leprosy now have a sense of belonging and are able to acquire knowledge and skills. Praise God there is also a deep sense of confidence amongst self-help group members, which has helped them confront and overcome previous levels of stigma existing in the wider community.

#### **Praise and Thanksgiving**

#### **Monday 20 May**

Give thanks to the Lord for the ongoing support, gifts and prayers from LMNZ's wonderful supporters which have made it possible to cure, care, and restore so many people affected by leprosy around the world.

#### **Tuesday 21 May**

Throughout the year, LMNZ has gratefully received hundreds of hours from volunteers in our Auckland office. They play such a vital role in our work in the office and in the community. Praise God for leading them to us, and pray they will feel blessed and renewed as they go about their daily tasks and in their support of the Mission.

#### **Wednesday 22 May**

In our projects, people affected by leprosy are comforted to hear that supporters in New Zealand are praying for them. Pray and praise today for LMNZ's prayer partners across New Zealand who faithfully pray for those suffering with leprosy.

#### **Thursday 23 May**

Praise God for LMNZ supporters who are inspired to talk about the Leprosy Mission with their friends, family, community and churches. Pray that as the message and the needs of people affected by leprosy is shared, it will resonate and more people will be willing to support the Mission's work and join hands with those affected by leprosy.

#### **Friday 24 May**

Due to the terrible stigma, Abu was forced to leave school and beg for food. Praise God through a Leprosy Mission self-help group, Abu was given a loan, from which he was able to start a grocery shop. He is now accepted and respected by his wider community. A lot of people buy goods from Abu's shop and he is able to support his family.

#### **Saturday 25 May / Sunday 26 May**

Give thanks that some physical disability caused by leprosy can be cured and restored through surgeries and physiotherapy. Shanti's hands were severely burnt and infected when she arrived at Anandaban Hospital. Thankfully, through the care of kind doctors and nurses she has received reconstructive hand surgeries, allowing her to hold a pen again, and return to school.

#### **Muzaffarpur Hospital**

#### **Monday 27 May**

Muzaffarpur Hospital in India is one of the hospitals that LMNZ supports. It recently received a TLM India

innovation award for their continuous improvement in ensuring sustainability of hospital services and effective use of limited resources. Thank God for the quality leprosy care being provided through Muzaffarpur Hospital to cure and restore fullness of life to leprosy patients.

#### **Tuesday 28 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 29 May**

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

#### **Thursday 30 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 31 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 continue their everyday life with hope and confidence.