



Prayer & Praise

Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer

May 2021

'I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from You I have no good thing."

Psalms 16:2

Global Fellowship

Saturday 1 May / Sunday 2 May

Please pray for the Leprosy Mission International Office team in Britain, as they come out of lockdown and re-adjust to life in the office rather than working from home. Please pray that people can adapt to the changes after such a long time in lockdown.

Covid-19

Monday 3 May

The global pandemic has had a great effect on the work for people affected by leprosy internationally. Give thanks that although it has often meant the suspension and limitation of project activities it has also led to opportunities for unplanned activities. Our partners have expertise in infectious disease control and in educating the public on health issues. Praise God that in many countries they have been able to support Government efforts to combat the spread of Covid-19.

Tuesday 4 May

Through recent campaigns, The Leprosy Mission Trust India was able to raise awareness of the effects of Covid-19 and lockdown on people affected by leprosy. Give thanks for the successes of the campaigns which are reaching remote areas. Praise God for the ability to distribute relief packages, increase mobile clinics, conduct tele-counselling through specially set up centres and generate innovative income ideas through the production of protective masks and shields.

Wednesday 5 May

Programmes staff of Leprosy Mission supporting countries are not physically visiting projects at this time. In place of this, regular online meetings have been scheduled to manage project monitoring. Give thanks that teams are working with overseas partners to adapt overseas work plans where necessary, where lockdowns and other public health measures affect planned activities. Please pray that relationships and trust between teams in supporting and implementing countries continue to develop during this time, so that people affected by leprosy can get what they need.

Thursday 6 May

Give thanks that The Leprosy Mission Nigeria has reached at least 2.3 million people through a radio and television messaging campaign, raising awareness of Covid-19 and other neglected tropical diseases. The team has also been distributing PPE to health clinic workers and people affected by leprosy. Over 800 of those affected by leprosy and disabilities have been given food supplies.

Friday 7 May

The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste is partnering with the nation's Ministry of Health to protect at-risk communities. Give thanks that they are sending out health messaging and have provided food supplies to 250 people affected by leprosy and disabilities. Also give thanks that the four doctors on staff of TLM Timor Leste have been trained for frontline service controlling Covid-19 and have also helped train staff at two regional hospitals in setting up and operating an ICU.

Saturday 8 May / Sunday 9 May

Mothers' Day is this Sunday. Please pray that the mothers of children affected by leprosy will be encouraged to seek treatment for their children and that

the treatment will give them hope. Also pray that God will comfort the hearts of mothers who have leprosy and have been abandoned and are prevented from being with their children.

Bangladesh

Monday 10 May

Income-generating activities for people affected by leprosy in Bangladesh include cow rearing, car mechanics, clothing businesses, land cultivation, and grocery shops etc. Due to the effects of Covid-19, many members of Self-Help Groups lost most of their income during 2020. Please pray that the encouragement of group leaders and other members will help people to pick up activities again.

Tuesday 11 May

Give thanks that during the last year, training sessions in business planning and development were held for members of Self-Help Groups. A training course in cow rearing and homestead gardening was also held, so people have still received training that they need for the future. Give thanks to God for the good relationship between the Government Livestock & Agriculture Managers and the group members.

Wednesday 12 May

Although for three months from April to June 2020 the loan programme could not operate because of the lockdown imposed by the Government of Bangladesh, new Self-Help groups have continued to be formed. Give thanks that some members received loans from available funds last year and 650 leaders of Self-Help Groups received training in leadership and book-keeping.

Thursday 13 May

Give thanks that 310 children of families affected by leprosy have received educational materials and support to encourage them in their study and to attend school regularly. Praise God that having an education will give children hope for the future for themselves and their families. Also give thanks that the supply of mobility devices and ulcer care services for those affected by leprosy have continued and it was reported that healing of their ulcers helped increase people's social acceptance and inner feeling of joy and security.

Friday 14 May

Humayun joined a Self-Help Group in 2015. Since then he has received training in vegetable cultivation and has been able to lease land from a neighbour. Give thanks that he planted 120 papaya and capsicum plants in 2019, which he harvested in 2020 and received an unexpectedly good income. Himayun has now been able to lease more land to extend his garden and now also grows more vegetables. Give thanks for the Self-Help Groups which give tangible help to many people like Himayun.

Saturday 15 May / Sunday 16 May

Give thanks that the kind generosity of New Zealand supporters has assisted people affected by leprosy in Bangladesh. Self-Help groups that are fully-funded by New Zealand supporters are working towards being self-sustainable. Today is **International Day of Families**. Please pray that people like Rima can continue to get emotional support, training and loans to improve their income so their future is filled with hope.

Partners, Volunteers & Staff

Monday 17 May

Wellesley Bailey, the founder of The Leprosy Mission, spoke of the organisation as ‘...born and cradled in prayer’. We believe this is still true. Give thanks to God for all those who faithfully pray and for the powerful results of those who join us in prayer.

Tuesday 18 May

Give thanks for our project partners in Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Ethiopia – for good relationships and the chance to nurture each other spiritually and by the sharing of information. Pray for our partners for perseverance and blessing in their hard work.

Wednesday 19 May

Churches in NZ have been very generous to people affected by leprosy. On World Leprosy Day, 5000 people from over 65 churches spent time in prayer. Many gave towards the World Leprosy Day appeal to help those in need. Thank the Lord for the generosity shown by so many people and the change this will make to the lives of many affected by leprosy.

Thursday 20 May

Give thanks for the openness and understanding of many new supporters who join with people affected by leprosy. Thank the Lord for the ability to use social media platforms to reach people who would not otherwise hear that leprosy is still in existence in many places today. Pray that many hearts will be opened to respond to people affected by leprosy.

Friday 21 May

Many Moneybox Supporters have supported people affected by leprosy for many years. Give thanks for the many faithful people who have co-ordinated and given so that the lives of others are improved. Pray a blessing on all Moneybox Supporters, both past and present.

Saturday 22 May / Sunday 23 May

Give thanks for God’s faithfulness to people affected by leprosy and for the great number of former and existing volunteers. All have contributed towards the vision of seeing leprosy eliminated and people’s lives improved. Pray for blessing on our volunteers, who are offering remarkable services with their different skills, time and enthusiasm.

Bougainville

Monday 24 May

Please pray for Bougainville, as cases of Covid-19 are now surging there. Pray that the messaging people have had over the last year, about hand hygiene, sanitation and social distancing will bear fruit as people try to avoid catching the virus. Pray for the supply of testing kits to ensure that everyone who needs to can be tested.

Tuesday 25 May

Give thanks for a partnership between UN Women and the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme. This means that gender inclusion and equality issues will be addressed in training sessions to be conducted this year. The actions of women in Bougainville were a catalyst for the historical peace agreement signed twenty years ago.

Wednesday 26 May

Give thanks that as training is delivered, BHCP has the opportunity to become a role model for behaviour in a Covid environment. Group sizes will be limited to fifteen, socially-spaced participants. Trainers will wear face masks and participants will be asked to make up

their own face coverings. Hand sanitiser will be provided and each day will start with an awareness session about Covid. Please pray that these measures will help to spread stronger understanding to local government and communities.

Thursday 27 May

Plans are being made for a lockdown in case the Autonomous Bougainville Government puts this in place, in which case staff would have to work from home. Management will be developing work plans for each staff member who would be working from home. Give thanks that a lot of thought has already gone into developing some output tasks for all staff in the case of this eventuality.

Friday 28 May

Give thanks for the Training of Trainers in immunisation. All District Facilitators and District Facilitator Co-ordinators will be trained in giving immunisations. The Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme will be involved in the rollout of the upcoming immunisation programme. Give thanks that this training will give opportunity to clarify BHCP’s role in the programme.

Saturday 29 May / Sunday 30 May

Pray for the integration of a new communication system, scheduled for this year. Pray that it will mean improved communication ability for the team in Bougainville and that this will result in effective use of time. Pray that the outcome will be that more people affected by leprosy will be diagnosed and be able to receive treatment.

Research

Monday 31 May

TLM Bangladesh, in partnership with Leiden University Medical Centre, are doing field trials of a finger-prick test, like the one used to diagnose diabetes. The aim is to test ten household or neighbouring contacts of 100 people affected by leprosy. They will be followed up to see if any develop leprosy symptoms over the next few years. The researchers hope they can have an effective way to diagnose leprosy and give treatment before complications develop. Please pray for successful development of methods of early diagnosis of leprosy.