

November 2018

‘The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.’ ***Psalm 188v24***

New Zealand

Thursday 1 November

The LMNZ Management Team and Board Members have had a series of meetings to finalise the new Leprosy Mission NZ Strategic Plan 2019-2023. Pray for God’s wisdom and a strong consensus as LMNZ senior staff members and Board members seek God’s will for the organisation for the next five years.

Friday 2 November

World Leprosy Day falls on 27th January next year. It is a time people around the world set aside to raise awareness and knowledge about leprosy, the fact that it can be cured and to change attitudes that stigmatise people affected by leprosy. Pray that more people will be inspired to take part in this global movement, that more New Zealanders learn about leprosy and the fact that it is curable.

Saturday 3 November / Sunday 4 November

Leprosy is a significant yet manageable disease, and we believe it can be eradicated within a generation. To achieve this, inspiring new supporters to the Mission’s work is vital. Pray for God’s provision and guidance that LMNZ will be successful in acquiring new and committed supporters.

Bangladesh

Monday 5 November

Jasper Oei, Programmes Manager, is in Bangladesh at the moment to visit project work. Praise God for Jasper’s expertise and his heart in serving people affected by leprosy. Please pray for safety and good health as he travels to and around Bangladesh.

Tuesday 6 November

While Jasper is in Bangladesh, he will be meeting up with the local Leprosy Mission team and visiting the Chittagong People-led Development Project. This five year project is coming to an end and we praise God for the successes and achievements to date. Pray for fruitful meetings for Jasper and the team as they are planning the next phase of the project, and working towards self-sustainability.

Wednesday 7 November

Self-help groups have been the key to the success of the Chittagong People-led Development Project, providing support and skills training to more than 3,000 people living with leprosy and disability. Pray for God’s guidance and wisdom as people step up to lead their own self-help groups. Pray these groups can bring lasting impact to leprosy-affected individuals and communities

Thursday 8 November

Praise God for the positive impact the Chittagong People-led Development Project has brought to the community in Bangladesh. The project delivers a range of income generation activity trainings such as: farming, weaving, business plan development and vocational training. In 2017, 75% of self-help group members reported that their income had increased, enabling them to pay for school fees for their children.

Friday 9 November

LMNZ could not achieve its goals without the expertise of its volunteer Board and Committee members. The full Board meet twice a year, and they are meeting the next two days to prioritise project needs and approve the budget for 2019. Praise God for their devotion and passion in seeing leprosy defeated, and lives transformed. Pray for wisdom in all decision making and oneness of heart.

Saturday 10 November / Sunday 11 November

All leprosy MDT (multi-drug therapy) centres in Dhaka city have been transitioned over to the government’s Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Assistants to improve the sustainability of the leprosy programme. Please pray that leprosy services and the new MDT centres continue to run smoothly, and carry on providing quality leprosy services to leprosy-affected communities.

Elderly people living with leprosy

Monday 12 November

There is an age-old social stigma associated with leprosy, and because of this, many families do not accept elderly members of their families, even when they are cured of leprosy. Elderly people living with leprosy can often find themselves marginalised and rejected. Pray for advocacy for older people to access benefits they are entitled to from the local government.

Tuesday 13 November

World Kindness Day – it is a global movement created with the aim to make this world a better place by celebrating and promoting good deeds, and pledging acts of kindness. Pray through these acts of kindness, we can spread happiness, joy and peace to individuals and communities around us; people affected by leprosy will feel loved and have a sense of belonging.

Wednesday 14 November

Snehalayas (‘house of love’ in Hindi) in India take care of elderly people who are severely disabled by leprosy. Please pray for all residents’ health and spiritual wellbeing. Residents of Snehalayas often contribute to the Mission by doing work suited to their age and disability, for example: gardening, making dressing sets or packing medicines. Pray that they can find joy and self-worth in all that they do.

Thursday 15 November

In India, hundreds of leprosy-affected older people are staying in Snehalayas (care homes), many with crippling deformity in their hands and feet. Praise God for the dedicated staff who take care of elderly people living with leprosy in Snehalayas. Pray for strength

and wisdom as they go about their daily work. Please also pray for committed and qualified staff to join the Mission so that we can bring healing, inclusion and dignity in the lives of leprosy-affected people.

Friday 16 November

Pray for successful eyelid reconstructive surgeries that give a new lease of life and independence to people affected by leprosy in their later years. Please pray for the health and wellbeing of the elderly living with leprosy, that God will grant them speedy physical, psychological and emotional healing.

Saturday 17 November / Sunday 18 November

Delayed diagnosis often results in disfigurement and disability. This makes the lives of elderly people living with leprosy even more difficult, as they often get abandoned by their family. Pray that self-help group members will continue to welcome elderly leprosy-affected people, allowing them a growing sense of community as well as personal dignity and self-worth.

Praise and Thanksgiving

Monday 19 November

Give thanks for LMNZ Supporter Services team for their diligence, dedication and positive attitude in helping and maintaining good relationships with supporters. Pray and praise especially for Ngaira Lynch today. Ngaira has been working at the Leprosy Mission for the past 13 years and she will be retiring at the end of this year. She is a great asset to the team and we pray for God's favour and blessings upon her.

Tuesday 20 November

Give thanks for the faithful support from churches around New Zealand. Many have supported us for decades and collectively have transformed the lives of thousands of people affected by leprosy. Pray they always feel valued and inspired to continue to partner with the Leprosy Mission and inspire others to support the Mission work. Together we will achieve the goal to bring an end to the transmission of leprosy by 2035.

Wednesday 21 November

Praise God for the wonderful response from New Zealanders to our Indian Sandals campaign by purchasing sandals for people affected by leprosy, and the Cure campaign by helping a person affected by leprosy access a month of multi-drug therapy – the cure for leprosy. Give thanks for their generosity and their heart for people affected by leprosy, as they show God's love in a tangible way.

Thursday 22 November

Give thanks for technology available today which allows LMNZ to share information and stories freely and widely. Pray that LMNZ would be able to make much more effective use of its website and digital platforms to raise awareness of leprosy, and to help supporters understand the impact of their gifts, actions and prayers.

Friday 23 November

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

Saturday 24 November / Sunday 25 November

LMNZ would not be able to achieve so much without its wonderful prayer partners. Give thanks to people like you who partner with us in prayer for people affected by leprosy. We have seen the power of prayer, as Jesus taught and shows us daily prayers open doors and opportunities that otherwise seem impossible.

Nepal

Monday 26 November

Last month, Shovakhar Kandel, TLM Nepal Country Leader, was representing Nepal in the ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Association) meetings in the UK. Praise God for a fruitful conference. Shovakhar was able to share national leprosy updates and efforts to other attendees and to also absorb and disseminate learning from the meetings to the Mission team in Nepal. Please pray for an increase in partnership to tackle the global and national leprosy challenges.

Tuesday 27 November

Today is **Giving Tuesday** - a global movement when the world comes together to celebrate a day of giving. *'...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "it is more blessed to give than to receive."* Acts 20:35 Let us challenge each other today to give, whether that means giving food to a homeless person, volunteering at a local charity, donating to a cause, or praying for a person in need.

Wednesday 28 November

Refurbishment and construction are still ongoing at Anandaban Hospital, Nepal, since the 2015 earthquakes. TLM Nepal has been restoring the damaged infrastructure of Anandaban Hospital with the support of Leprosy Mission supporters around the world. Pray the Lord will remove all barriers and difficulties from the swift refurbishment of the Training Unit building and construction of a new water tank.

Thursday 29 November

Dr. Indra Napit is the Surgeon Medical Director of Anandaban Hospital. He is a highly-skilled doctor in reconstructive surgery for leprosy patients in Nepal. Praise today for his expertise and diligence as he humbly and tirelessly serves people affected by leprosy not only in Nepal but also in neighboring countries like India and Myanmar. May God bless his hands and the lives of those he touches.

Friday 30 November

Pray today for Ruth Strestha, counsellor at Anandaban Hospital, who responds to the emotional needs of patients at the hospital and in leprosy-affected communities. Her role is important as every so often a diagnosis of leprosy will have a negative impact on a person's mental health and wellbeing. People affected by leprosy may feel unwanted and hopeless about their future. Pray that through God's grace and Ruth's support, patients can be mentally and spiritually healed, and go on to live a free and hopeful life.