



Prayer & Praise

Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer

November 2021

‘The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.’

Psalms 145:18

Papua New Guinea

Monday 1 November

Gender inequality is a critical development issue in Papua New Guinea and the levels of gender-based violence are very high. Women and girls continue to face barriers in accessing opportunities to develop their skills and resources in order to fully participate in PNG society. Please pray that the projects of Leprosy Mission will be able to address these issues through their activities.

Tuesday 2 November

Papua New Guinea has a high rate of teenage pregnancy, which is a big issue in the communities in which Leprosy Mission works. Young mothers often face a lot of physical, emotional and financial

hardships. Pray that girls and young women will gain access to reproductive health information and support. Activities and training will be successful in lifting the living standards for many people affected by leprosy.

Wednesday 3 November

Please pray for Natalie Smith, the Country Leader of Leprosy Mission PNG. Give thanks to God for the leadership and support she provides for her team and for her valuable communication with Leprosy Mission NZ. Pray for her continued safety, as she lives alone in Port Moresby, which has a high crime rate.

Thursday 4 November

As we have heard about with Rose, the ambassador of Leprosy Mission's Annual Appeal for 2021, people affected by leprosy still face a lot of stigma and discrimination. Give thanks that as Leprosy Mission programmes are implemented people are healed of leprosy. Please pray that as others in their communities see that leprosy is curable the stigma will be broken, and discrimination will end.

Friday 5 November

Community Mentors and Mobilisers often travel to communities in remote, isolated parts of Papua New Guinea. Please pray for safety as they travel over mountains and through rivers. Also pray that they will remain healthy as they are far from home. Pray blessing on their lives and those of their families.

Saturday 6 November/ Sunday 7 November

Please pray for the Covid-19 situation in Papua New Guinea. The vaccination programme is off to a slow start and there are logistical issues getting immunisation programmes running across the country. There are high levels of hesitancy, which authorities largely blame on misinformation and social media. Please pray that information and education programmes will be able to counter the fear that people have.

Nepal

Monday 8 November

IDEA is a grassroots foundation formed by people affected by leprosy in Nepal in 1998. IDEA is a local partner of Leprosy Mission NZ that works to break the

chain of misunderstanding about leprosy by raising public awareness through mass media, and through health education programmes in schools. Please pray that as the general public are more informed about the true nature of leprosy, misunderstanding about the disease and the fear it invokes will be greatly reduced.

Tuesday 9 November

A new Trauma Centre at Anandaban Hospital has been in construction since 2019 and has had significant delays due to lockdowns in the Covid pandemic. Pray for the final stages of development to be completed by the end of 2021 and the opportunity to give thanks for the expansion of services.

Wednesday 10 November

Give thanks and praise for TLM Nepal Country Leader, Shovakhar Kandel, and his ability to build relationships with central and local government. This enables the Leprosy Mission to continue to serve people affected by leprosy and their communities across Nepal.

Thursday 11 November

The Mycobacterium Research Laboratory at Anandaban Hospital undertakes molecular research and conducts clinical trials, operational research and social research. Give thanks and praise for the generosity of New Zealand supporters, enabling a new -80-degree freezer to be purchased and installed to support the Laboratory's vital work.

Friday 12 November

The Mycobacterium Research Laboratory is sited in one of the original 1950s buildings. Pray for the team as they develop plans for upgrading the Laboratory and please pray for funding to undertake this vital and significant project.

Saturday 13 November/ Sunday 14 November

The Biratnagar Satellite Clinic is a monthly clinic held 400km km east of Anandaban Hospital, Kathmandu. A team from Anandaban Hospital hold a mobile clinic to provide leprosy control, dermatology, physiotherapy, prosthesis and orthopaedic services. Some clinic visits were suspended due to the Covid pandemic lockdowns. Pray that people affected by leprosy dependent on these services will receive the

treatment and support they need as Clinic visits resume.

India

Monday 15 November

Dr Mary Verghese has retired as Country Leader for TLM Trust India after she contracted COVID-19 and trod a tough path to recovery. We give thanks for her ten years of service and dedication to people affected by leprosy. Pray for healing, with a return to full health.

Tuesday 16 November

Pray for Dr Premal Das as Acting Country Leader for TLM Trust India, and for the Senior Leadership Team. Give thanks for their wealth of experience and expertise and pray for God's grace and wisdom in steering the Mission through this season of change.

Wednesday 17 November

Poverty, marginalisation and discrimination are the main barriers to education for children affected by leprosy. They are often discriminated against because of the misplaced fear about the disease. Lack of education further intensifies the marginalisation. Pray for the Children United For Action programme in Muzaffapur, Bihar that provides educational opportunities for children and empowers families affected by leprosy to understand the importance of education to break the cycle of poverty and discrimination.

Thursday 18 November

Pray for the planned new state-of-the-art Operation Room facility at The Leprosy Mission Hospital in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh. This facility will enable doctors to perform reconstructive surgery for people affected by leprosy and, in time, will expand into general surgery for fee-paying patients.

Friday 19 November

During lockdown in the Covid pandemic, it is essential that people affected by leprosy have the knowledge and skills for self-care to protect vulnerable hands and feet. Pray for the success of training on the prevention of disability and for

awareness raising that empowers people to have greater control over their own health.

Saturday 20 November/ Sunday 21 November

We give thanks for New Zealand supporters who responded to the emergency appeal for breathing apparatus and resources for TLM Trust India's Covid response. The learning from this intense period of activity, and the supply of equipment has enabled the Leprosy Mission Hospitals to plan and prepare their ongoing Covid response with greater confidence.

Bougainville

Monday 22 November

Please pray for continued health and wisdom for Ruby Mirinka, Programme Director of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme, as she provides strategic leadership to the programme. Data that reflects the impact of the programme is very important. Give thanks for Joanne Kamuka, who provides excellent support in processing the data collected from communities.

Tuesday 23 November

The engagement of BHCP volunteers and workers with village leadership is vital for the success of the programme. The engagement is maintained with personal visits and with training sessions. Give thanks for the positive relationships that have been built. Please pray that the village leaders will continue to be advocates for change in their communities.

Wednesday 24 November

Praise God for the new telecommunication system that has recently been installed for the BHCP. This has greatly improved the quality of internet connectivity, which means staff of Leprosy Mission NZ can more easily communicate with Ruby and others in Bougainville. Please pray that the programme can continue to enjoy good internet access.

Thursday 25 November

Neil Toura, the Human Resources Manager for BHCP recently lost his wife to an ongoing condition. Please pray for Neil and his family as they work through grief and begin to re-organise their lives without their wife

and mother. Please pray for God's comfort and peace for the whole family.

Friday 26 November

Thank God for the highly skilled drivers working for the BHCP. They drive in very challenging conditions, often facing flooded rivers, broken roads and broken bridges. Please pray for the safety of the drivers and other staff as they travel. Also pray that the vehicles will stand up to the conditions.

Saturday 27 November/ Sunday 28 November

In Bougainville, four parliamentary seats are held by women, out of a total of forty-one seats. Gender inequality is maintained by the interpretation of traditional customs, even though men and women have equal rights under law. Violence against women and girls is a big issue in Bougainville. Please pray that communities will become aware and begin to engage in challenging gender-based violence.

Worldwide

Monday 29 November

In Myanmar, because of Covid-19 Leprosy Mission staff had to find innovative ways of being in touch with people affected by leprosy who live in remote areas. Zoom, Skype, SMS, Facebook Messenger and mobile phones have all been used. For those without reliable internet, physiotherapists have arranged for volunteers from local churches to visit and get video of the problem then send it to the physiotherapist. Church members have also received training through Zoom so that they are able to support basic physiotherapy work themselves. Give thanks for the innovation and for the willingness of volunteers to help. Give praise also for the community.

Tuesday 30 November

Please continue to pray for Myanmar's security situation and for the difficult, stressful time the people are having. People affected by leprosy and disability are among the most vulnerable to shortages of any kind. Please pray for God to provide what is needed so that people affected by leprosy can continue to be cured and cared for. Give thanks for the resourcefulness being shown by Leprosy Mission staff and church leaders.