



**September 2017**

***‘Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.’***

***Lamentations 3v22-23***

**Youth Advocates**

**Friday 1 September**

Katherine Riceman, one of our 2017 Youth Advocates, hosted a clothes swap fundraiser in Wellington to help raise funds for a new digital X-ray machine for Anandaban Hospital. The turnout was great. Praise God for this successful fundraising event, which was also a wonderful opportunity to educate the younger generation about leprosy.

**Saturday 2 September / Sunday 3 September**

The applications for 2018 Youth Advocate Scholarships are closing on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Pray that tertiary students who have a heart for mission and people affected by leprosy, will have courage and take a leap of faith in becoming Youth Advocates in 2018, to help raise awareness and funding for the Mission’s work.

**Papua New Guinea**

**Monday 4 September**

Praise God for the significant increase in village health volunteers in leprosy affected communities. These volunteers were taught about basic health care and how to spot the signs of leprosy. Pray that leprosy-affected people can be diagnosed in the early stages and receive the full course of multi-drug therapy, the cure for leprosy.

**Tuesday 5 September**

Praise God for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project. This is an opportunity to help leprosy-affected people start small businesses and break the cycle of poverty. Remember the team in PNG, pray for God’s provision and guidance as they work together in defeating leprosy, and transforming lives.

**Wednesday 6 September**

Individuals and families living with leprosy are often socially excluded from their community. Pray that through this new project in PNG, leprosy detection, treatment, education and training can help to reduce stigma and discrimination against leprosy-affected people, and lead to successful reintegration into their community with a sense of dignity and self-worth.

**Thursday 7 September**

Early detection and diagnosis of leprosy is vital. If treatment with multi-drug therapy is started early enough, long-term disability can be completely avoided. Pray that through Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project, people affected by leprosy can be diagnosed in the early stage, so they can be rescued from worse effects of the disease and limit further transmission.

**Friday 8 September**

It is International Literacy Day. Literacy skills are key drivers for sustainable development. Today one in five adults are illiterate and of these, two thirds are women. Pray that TLM Adult Literacy Centres and Literacy classes for self-help group members will enable people with leprosy to manage their own small business and thus lift themselves out of poverty.

**Saturday 9 September / Sunday 10 September**

TLM PNG is continuing to look out for new funding opportunities. TLM PNG’s Annual Country Learning (ACL) meetings will be held in October and November. Pray that the meeting preparations go well and that the team will be able to strengthen ties with key partners through this process, especially to support Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project.

**The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship**

**Monday 11 September**

Staff and board members from around The Leprosy Mission are coming together for a series of meetings, to discuss critical matters that affect TLM globally. These will be Ken Martin’s last meetings as Chairman of the TLM Global Fellowship Board. Ken has served The Leprosy Mission since 1978. Give thanks for Ken and his wife Shirley, for their faithful service, and pray that God will bless them in all that they do.

**Tuesday 12 September**

Colin Osborne will be taking over from Ken Martin as Chairman of the TLM Global Fellowship. Pray for wisdom and discernment for Colin as he takes up his new role. Pray too for people standing for the Global Fellowship Board, give thanks for their servant hearts. The Board is vital to the running of the Global Fellowship, please pray for a diverse team with complementary skills and outlooks.

**Wednesday 13 September**

Next week Gillian Whitley, Executive Director of LMNZ, and Anne Ratliff, Board Chair of LMNZ, will be having a series of meetings with other TLM’s Country Leaders and National Chairs. Pray for safety and good health as leaders travel to London for these annual meetings. Pray also for wisdom and understanding, that all those participating will be engaged and open to discussion, that positive decisions may be made for the future of TLM’s work.

**Thursday 14 September**

Around 65 leaders and chairpersons will be attending the TLM Members’ Meetings next week. This is the time when all member countries meet to hear one another, for group decision making, relationship

building and mutual understanding. Pray for a spirit of trust and unity in being together as a global family. Pray especially for discussions around the planning for the new global Strategic Plan 2019-23, for a strong consensus as we seek God's will for the Mission in the next five years.

#### **Friday 15 September**

Many people around the world are not aware that leprosy exists today. Therefore, advocacy and education are at the core of TLM's work. Please pray for discussions relating to new initiatives during the TLM annual meeting, namely the Advocacy and Fundraising strategies and the Leadership Development. Pray these new initiatives can be effective in speaking out for people affected by leprosy, and in educating the wider public.

#### **Saturday 16 September / Sunday 17 September**

One of the joys of fellowship is that all member countries support each other and work together towards our shared vision of 'leprosy defeated, lives transformed'. TLM Member Review Working Group will be meeting for trainings next week. Pray for effective trainings which enable all member countries to grow and support each other as a global organisation.

### **Spring inTouch Magazine**

#### **Monday 18 September**

Pray for a positive response to the Spring inTouch Magazine which is currently being posted to supporters. Pray that it will be well received, and that the message can reach the wider New Zealand community. Pray also the hearts of New Zealanders will be stirred into action with the willingness to support the work of the Leprosy Mission, in transforming the lives of those affected by leprosy.

#### **Tuesday 19 September**

We wrote to our supporters about 8 year old Rabiul earlier this year. Praise God for our incredible supporters, as Rabiul is now receiving physiotherapy treatment, and he is attentive to the daily exercises that are improving his hand movements. Please continue to pray for Rabiul, that he continues to visit the clinic and do his physiotherapy, so he can have hand surgery in

the future.

#### **Wednesday 20 September**

Our Cure One ambassador, Anjali's story was heart-breaking but thanks to our wonderful supporters, she received dressings for her horrible wounds, antibiotics to cure her leprosy and protective sandals to prevent further ulcers. She is now back at home with her family and is also able to go to school and receive an education.

#### **Thursday 21 September**

Already suffering from extreme poverty, right now 9 year old Hasan in Bangladesh is having his life torn apart by leprosy. Pray that Hasan can complete his full course of multi-drug therapy, the cure for leprosy. Pray also Hasan has the opportunity to receive an education so he can build a future for himself and be lifted out of poverty.

#### **Friday 22 September**

In PNG and Bougainville, village health volunteers are trained to detect leprosy. They visit leprosy-affected patients regularly to encourage them to seek diagnosis and to make sure they complete their treatment. Early detection works miracles. Praise God for the dedication of village health volunteers, through them many people in PNG and Bougainville have received help, and are now completely cured from leprosy without any complications.

#### **Saturday 23 September / Sunday 24 September**

Rosi from Bangladesh is cured of leprosy and he has been part of a self-help group for 12 years. He received training on how to run and sustain a business. He bought his own land to grow vegetables, and has also learnt to use vermicompost and the impact on his crops has been phenomenal. Praise God for Rosi's transformed life, pray that his successful story can inspire and influence others in his village.

### **Elderly people living with leprosy**

#### **Monday 25 September**

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 into their midst, allowing them a growing sense of dignity and self-worth.

#### **Tuesday 26 September**

Stigma towards leprosy-affected and disabled people is still widespread. Elderly people living with leprosy can find themselves marginalised and rejected from their community. Pray for advocacy for older people to access benefits they are entitled to from the local government.

#### **Wednesday 27 September**

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

#### **Thursday 28 September**

Shelter, medical care, food, clothing and a safe environment are given to elderly leprosy-affected persons in care homes who have no families or caregivers. Pray staff at TLM India, Bangladesh and Nepal are successful in being able to unite these elderly persons with their families after decades of having been separated.

#### **Friday 29 September**

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.

#### **Saturday 30 September**

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 people affected by leprosy.