

# ASK 2023

PRAYER  
DIARY



The Leprosy  
Mission  
International



# Élodie's story

Élodie is from DR Congo and was diagnosed with leprosy in 2009 when she developed patches on her back and started to find it hard to pick things up. She was finding it very difficult to work.

She was provided with the cure for leprosy, a combination of three antibiotics known as multi-drug therapy (MDT). One of the antibiotics included in MDT can darken the colour of your skin and Élodie's skin went very black, which made her so embarrassed that she stayed home. She felt stigmatised by the other people in her community.

In 2012, Élodie started to experience leprosy reaction, which made it feel like her hands were burning. This carried on for three years. Sadly, this is when Élodie's husband left her and remarried. He left her with their five children and died of malaria shortly afterwards.

"I stayed in the house alone and felt so sad. I was very anxious and got very high blood pressure. Life was very hard for me, I had to feed my children, and no one from my husband's family would help. This is still the case."

Élodie received advocacy training from an organisation called OPALCO (Organisation des Personnes Affectées Par la lepre au Congo) which is an organisation of persons affected by leprosy in DR Congo. Thanks to this training and her continued engagement with OPALCO, Élodie is now the head of OPALCO for the whole of Kongo Central.



Photo © Tom Bradley

## WELCOME FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR



**Dear praying friends and colleagues,**

At the time of writing I have just returned from the island nation of Timor-Leste in South East Asia. It was a special privilege to be involved in the inauguration of the new office of 'Misaun Lepra Timor-Leste' (The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste). This beautiful island nation is just twenty years old, but is relatively poor by global standards (ranked 141st out of 189 countries) and continues to experience high numbers of new leprosy cases for the size of its population. It was inspiring to see the work my colleagues at Misaun Lepra are doing to see Leprosy Defeated and Lives Transformed.

Across the globe, and as we emerge from the Covid pandemic, persons, families and communities affected by leprosy continue to face challenges; accessing food and daily staples, having a regular income, accessing health services and treatment, and often being excluded from community life. Your prayers and generosity are helping to make these challenges far less – thank you for all that you are doing!

The ASK Prayer Diary highlights the work and ministry of The Leprosy Mission and the journey we are on together to see Leprosy Defeated and Lives Transformed. I pray that you are encouraged by what you read and, by God's provision, what your prayers and generosity are making possible. Thank you!

Take care and God bless,

**Brent Morgan**  
International Director

## OUR VISION

Leprosy Defeated,  
Lives Transformed

## OUR MISSION

Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission seeks to bring about transformation: breaking the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

## OUR VALUES

Because we follow Jesus Christ, we value

- Compassion
- Justice
- Integrity
- Inclusion
- Humility

*I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.*

1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT)

Trusting in the knowledge that God hears and answers prayer, holding to the belief that our work is the Lord's, and realising that all our human efforts are in vain without God's blessing and power, we share this ASK Prayer Diary to encourage believers everywhere to pray for the extension of God's Kingdom through this work.

**International Chairman**  
Colin Osborne

**International Vice-Chair**  
Anne Ratliff

**Treasurer**  
Philip Putman

**International Director**  
Brent Morgan

### ASK 2023 PRAYER DIARY

Published by The Leprosy Mission International  
Founded in 1874

**Production Editor**  
Tim Burton

**Design**  
Mark and Heather Knight

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## WHAT IS LEPROSY?

Leprosy is often considered a disease of the past. In fact, it continues to destroy lives all over the world as one person every two minutes is diagnosed with the disease.

Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease caused by the bacillus *Mycobacterium leprae*. It is most common in places of poverty as overcrowding, poor nutrition, and bad sanitation weaken people's immune systems, so they are less able to fight the disease.

### WHAT DOES LEPROSY MEAN FOR THOSE AFFECTED?

#### PHYSICALLY

The first signs of leprosy are pale patches of skin. Leprosy is curable with a treatment known as Multi Drug Therapy (MDT), but if it goes untreated the consequences can be severe.

*Mleprae*, the bacillus that causes leprosy, also attacks the nerves of the body, meaning people affected by the disease see changes in their bodies.

These changes can mean people affected by leprosy may lose feeling in their hands and feet, which is dangerous as a cut on the foot from walking on rough terrain goes unnoticed, or a boiling pan is picked up without realising the damage that is being done to the skin. These injuries can lead to ulcers and even amputations in extreme cases.

The damage that leprosy does to nerves around the elbows and knees, can also lead to muscle paralysis resulting in clawed hands and drop foot. Paralysis of the eye muscles can eventually lead to blindness.

Acute episodes of inflammation called 'reactions' happen in up to half the people

#### KEY LEPROSY FACTS:

- Globally, around 200,000-200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy every year
- There are more than 100 laws that explicitly discriminate against people affected by leprosy
- We believe that, if we work together, there will be no new cases of leprosy by 2035
- Leprosy is reported in 127 countries, with 79% of all new cases occurring in India, Brazil, and Indonesia (2019 data)

diagnosed with leprosy. Reactions cause swelling and pain in skin, nerves and eyes, and patients may need to be hospitalised for months.

#### SOCIALLY

The social consequences of leprosy can be as severe as the physical consequences. The stigma surrounding leprosy in many communities means that people affected by the disease face incredible levels of discrimination from their communities, friends, and family.

Children will find they are turned away from their schools and their families. Adults are turned away from jobs and from housing. Far too many people affected by leprosy have no choice but to beg in order to get by.

In the coming pages you will see a glimpse of how we are trying to turn the tide on that discrimination across the world.

## YOUR LOVE LIVING ON IN THE NAME OF JESUS

▶ **Leaving a gift in your Will** is an opportunity for you to make an impact for generations to come, as together we can bring God's Kingdom here on earth for the least, the last, and the looked over.

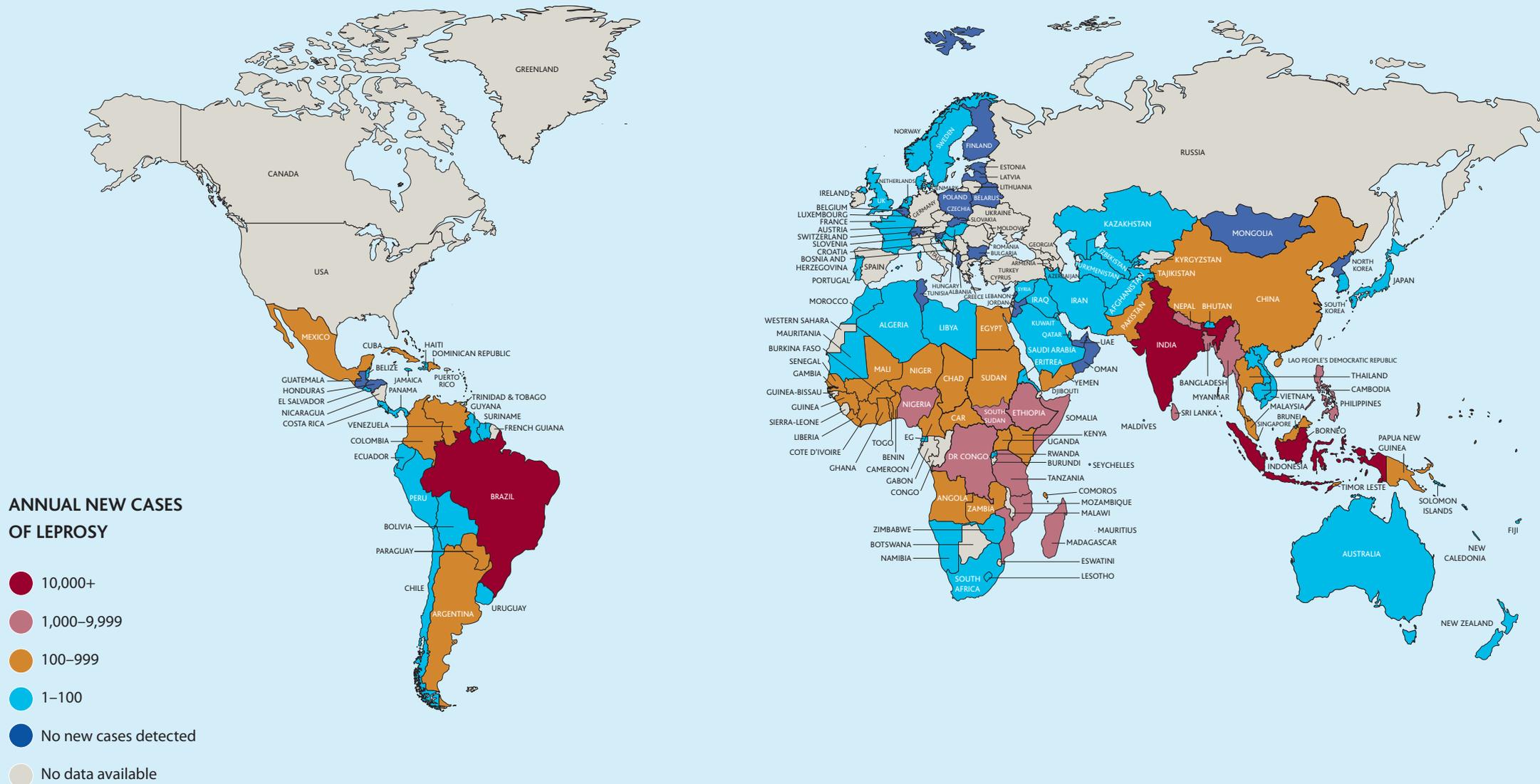
We know that you share our dream of a world free from the devastating effects of leprosy – will you help us to continue working passionately to make that dream a reality with a gift in your Will?

**To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact The Leprosy Mission's office in your country (see pages 84-85).**

# WHERE LEPROSY IS FOUND TODAY

For a map of the countries where TLM works see page 80

TLM is committed to providing long-term quality care and support in the name of Jesus Christ as long as there are people affected by leprosy who need it.



SOURCE: WHO 2020

**Pray for people affected by leprosy** with the latest prayer requests from the fight to defeat leprosy available on your phone every day.



No matter when or where you are, if you are struck by an inspiration to pray for people affected by leprosy, you can do so by following The Leprosy Mission on the PrayerMate app.

PrayerMate is the only place to find the very latest prayer requests from across the world of TLM.

[praynow4.org/leprosymission](http://praynow4.org/leprosymission)



## THE LEPROSY MISSION'S GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP 1-8 JAN

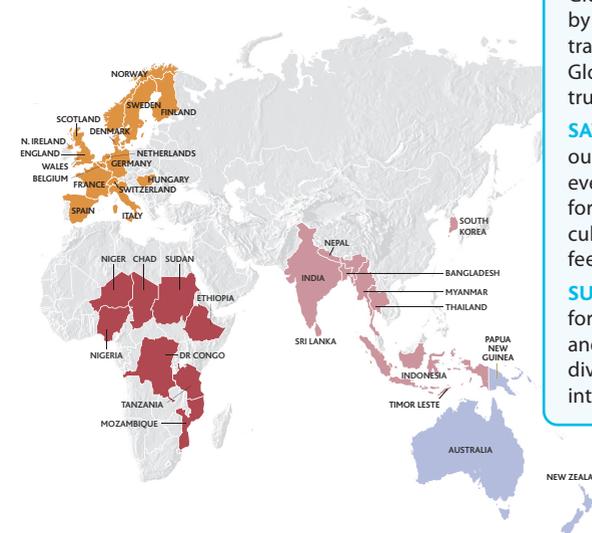
The Leprosy Mission is a Global Fellowship. This Global Fellowship consists of 30 Member and Affiliate countries across the world.

Each of these Members and Affiliates has committed to work together as one to defeat leprosy through:

- Upholding our common purpose and identity
- Contributing to the shared life of the Mission
- Strengthening our global unity
- Being mutually accountable
- Observing financial stewardship

Christ is at the heart of everything we do as a Global Fellowship. Our Global Fellowship meetings start and end with prayer and each year we mark a Global Day of Prayer so that we can listen to God's voice.

Whether you are Chair of the Global Board, a regular donor, a nurse in one of our hospitals, a fieldworker in a remote part of the world, a volunteer speaker, a finance officer, or a person affected by leprosy who partners with TLM, you are a part of this Global Fellowship.



A map of TLM's Global Fellowship in 2023

### PRAYER POINTS

**SUN:** The diversity within the Global Fellowship is a blessing to us all. Give thanks to God for all the cultures and settings we get to work in and the joy this brings so many within TLM.

**MON:** With 30 different country offices working together across the world, it is always important to pray for unity of vision and direction. May God grant us this.

**TUE:** We pray for the smallest Members of TLM's Global Fellowship; those offices that are run by volunteers who so diligently raise money for the work to defeat leprosy. Give thanks for them!

**WED:** Every year we see the devastating impact that the climate crisis is having on the lives of persons affected by leprosy. Please pray that our Global Fellowship will rise to the challenge of responding to this crisis in whatever way God calls us.

**THU:** Please pray that the voices of persons affected by leprosy will find a space within our Global Fellowship and that we will be open to their leadership.

**FRI:** Please pray for the leaders within the Global Fellowship, that they will be led by God's wisdom. Pray for the leadership training that is happening across the Global Fellowship, that it will create honest, trustworthy, and just leaders.

**SAT:** Please pray for safeguarding across our Global Fellowship. Please pray that everyone within TLM will take responsibility for safeguarding and that we may have a culture where anyone can speak up if they feel uncomfortable.

**SUN:** Pray that we will always create space for God in the life of the Global Fellowship and that this space will allow for the diverse ways in which God is worshipped internationally.

*The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.*

Numbers 6:25



The Leprosy Mission Nepal (TLMN) has been working in Nepal since 1957, when Anandaban Hospital was established. Now a local NGO with its own Board, TLMN works in partnership with the Government of Nepal to provide specialist tertiary care and technical support for leprosy activities. The TLMN Country Office has a team of 11 staff.

The Khoj Project will prioritise ending leprosy transmission, and actively seek leprosy in communities within the high endemic Dhanusha district, aiming to find leprosy cases early and provide timely treatment.

The Tertiary Student Education Project will offer support for students studying for their bachelor's degree course at tertiary institutions in Nepal. Half of the students will be girls and all will either have leprosy, have a disability, or be the children of a family marginalised by leprosy or disability.

**Top:** The TLM Nepal Country Office team with Country Director, Mr Shovakhar Kandel.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Please pray for Country Director, Mr Shovakhar Kandel and TLMN Board Chairman, Mr Ashok Adhikari, as they have a huge responsibility in leading the organisation. Pray that God will give them wisdom to make the right decisions for the organisation, decisions that will glorify our Lord.

**TUE:** The FOUND project is ending in December 2023 after supporting many persons with disability to access employment. We thank God for the remarkable achievements that FOUND has had over the past three years, despite the Covid crisis, and pray that persons with disabilities and employers supported by FOUND will be able to take independent leadership on inclusive employment even after the project.

**WED:** Please pray for the field staff of the Khoj project, as they carry out health screening and identify potential new cases. Once they identify new cases, they will identify and trace 25-50 contacts per index case. Pray that they can conduct contact tracing and slow the transmission of leprosy.

**THU:** Please pray for the Counselling Support Structure that is in place to monitor the students under the Tertiary Student Education Project. Please pray that this project can help students find formal job opportunities after their graduation.

**FRI:** There are 36 Self Help Groups which were formed under the IMPACT Project. Please pray members of these groups will be empowered socially and economically.

**SAT/SUN:** Please pray for the active participation of the church and other faith groups in our project areas. Let their involvement increase local ownership of the projects.

### SENIOR STAFF

Shovakhar Kandel - Country Director  
 Dr (Mrs) Jemish Acharya – Head of Programmes  
 Mr Abidan Parajulee – Head of Operations & Finance  
 Mr Chiranjivi Sharma – Project Director, FOUND Project  
 Dr (Mr) Indra Napit – Project Director, RIGHT Project  
 Mr Ashok Adhikari – Chairman of TLM Nepal Executive Board

*Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart... God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7



At TLM's 2022 Fundraising Conference, we focused on developing 'heart to heart' connections with our supporters so that we can serve their need to express love and care for people affected by leprosy. This 'heart to heart' connection is rooted in God's love for us, and this is what gives us the freedom and privilege to approach all people to ask for support.

Faith-based fundraising is a key enabler for the service, love, and care given by our brothers and sisters through all TLM projects. At the time of writing, the world is suffering from a cost of living crisis, which could make fundraising even more difficult. However, our confidence is based on God's boundless love, knowing that He can work fruitfully through us and 'do infinitely more than all we can ask or imagine according to the power that is working among us' to defeat leprosy and transform lives.

**Top:** Generous-hearted supporters have enabled TLM to give Hélène training in hairdressing and wig-fitting. She says, "People invite me to them, or they come here. I earn maybe 5000 CDF a week". © Tom Bradley

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Many countries find it difficult to recruit fundraisers and there are many vacancies. We pray the Lord will raise up the right people for all the vacancies 'for such a time as this'.

**TUE:** With the lack of travel during Covid, fundraising stories and images have become depleted. We pray that we will be able to find the right resources to help us to stir the hearts of our supporters to give generously. We give thanks for the willingness of all the contributors affected by leprosy, who generously give their stories and photos to raise money to help others. We pray we will humbly and faithfully let supporters hear their voices.

**WED:** We thank God for over 100,000 loyal supporters and pray that we will be able to continue to nurture existing and new supporters in a way that contributes meaningfully to their sense of who they are, and the different ways they wish to express themselves through donating, praying, and volunteering.

**THU:** We praise God that we are finding more ways to share fundraising capacity and skills throughout TLM. We pray that these initiatives will bear much fruit to help defeat leprosy and transform lives.

**FRI:** We pray for the Lord's guidance and inspiration to adapt to the changing fundraising trends, channels and environment. We pray for wisdom to 'discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect', so that we choose a few important initiatives and implement them well.

**SAT/SUN:** We give thanks for the many TLM people who speak in churches to raise awareness and funds for people affected by leprosy. We pray that we will continue to build strong relationships with more churches of all denominations.



World Leprosy Day takes place on the last Sunday of every January. This year, World Leprosy Day will take place on Sunday 29 January.

The day is an opportunity to raise awareness of leprosy, a disease that many people think no longer exists. Through this awareness raising, we have an opportunity to bring more people on board the journey towards a world without leprosy.

World Leprosy Day is an opportunity to host events across the world. Some events are hosted by churches who want to raise funds for the work to defeat leprosy. Other events raise awareness of the disease in endemic countries so that people who are at risk of developing the disease can recognise the symptoms. Lastly, there are events that celebrate persons affected by leprosy, their achievements, the challenges they have overcome, and everything they contribute to their communities.

Please do join us in celebrating World Leprosy Day in 2023!

Top: World Leprosy Day celebrations in Timor-Leste in 2022.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Our goal of reaching zero leprosy transmission will be easier to achieve if people in leprosy endemic countries can recognise the symptoms of the disease and come forward for treatment. Please pray that our awareness raising campaigns this World Leprosy Day will reach many people who need to know about the disease.

**TUE:** We are fortunate to have the tools that will allow us to defeat leprosy in our lifetime, but we need resources to make this a reality. Please pray for everyone who is raising funds on World Leprosy Day. May God bless the work of their hands.

**WED:** The Leprosy Mission is working towards a world where persons affected by leprosy no longer face stigma. World Leprosy Day is an opportunity to wash away stigma and create space for persons affected by leprosy to be celebrated. Pray that this World Leprosy Day will help us move closer to a world without leprosy stigma.

**THU:** Please pray for the World Leprosy Day digital campaigns, that they will reach the right people with the right messages.

**FRI:** Leprosy is a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) and World NTD Day is on 30 January. Please pray for the success of this day and for a spotlight on leprosy within the NTD world.

**SAT:** Please pray for those who are making final preparations for World Leprosy Day 2023. May their work be made simple and without trouble. Give thanks for all these people and for the opportunity that World Leprosy Day provides.

**SUN:** Today is World Leprosy Day! Please pray for a triumphant day, where the dignity and pride of persons affected by leprosy is central to everything that is said. Pray that more people will join the fight to defeat leprosy.

*“Bring the whole tithe into the store house. Test me in this” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”*

Malachi 3:10



The Leprosy Mission Shop raises money for The Leprosy Mission. Every card, book or gift bought transforms the life of someone affected by leprosy and brings us a step nearer to ending the transmission of this stubborn disease forever.

Top: Amanda, CEO, with a leather handbag made by The Nepal Leprosy Trust.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** The pandemic prompted an e-commerce boom. The Leprosy Mission Shop benefitted from this. Rises in global commodity prices, and the prospect of recession in the UK, mean 2023 is likely to be a much more challenging year. Please pray for God’s abundant blessing, so we can continue to generate significant profit for the Mission.

**TUE:** The staff team of eight meets every Tuesday for the main business meeting. Please pray for effective decisions in a rapidly changing environment.

**WED:** Towards the end of 2022, we launched a new, even-easier-to-use website: [theleprosymissionshop.org](http://theleprosymissionshop.org). Please pray that customers will want to order online, as this is more cost-effective and additional money can go to people affected by leprosy.

**THU:** We have a strong record of attracting new donors to the Mission. Please pray for the prospect catalogues (sent to potential new supporters) and our social media outreach to be successful.

**FRI:** Please pray especially for strong sales of the artisan products, such as leather handbags from the Nepal Leprosy Trust. Good sales mean we can place extra orders and provide more disadvantaged artisans with a livelihood.

**SAT:** Please pray for wisdom for the Board, especially our new Chair, Stuart Green.

**SUN:** “The Leprosy Mission Shop” has had a design refresh and in 2023 will be trading under that name, rather than as “TLM Trading Ltd”. Please pray that this change will be effective in attracting new customers, and well received by existing ones.

## SENIOR STAFF

Amanda Norman – CEO  
 Jan Arden – Head of Operations  
 Felicity Garratt – Head of Product Marketing  
 Aaron Scott – Head of Digital and Data  
 Stuart Green – Chair of the Board

# Faith. Hope. Love

I grew up in a small town in North India. As a kid, reading was encouraged at home, and we were gifted with 'bedtime stories'. These stories, along with their illustrations, impacted me a lot. Whenever anyone couldn't find something in the house, I would kneel (as in the story's illustration), pray (inspired by the stories) and find the lost item. This just increased my faith along with the responsibility of finding all lost things in the house!

As I grew, I realised that this childlike faith, especially during difficult times, would allow me to find **peace in God's presence**. We have been given the gift of faith, not because we deserve it, but as a result of God's everlasting goodness. My grandfather was a strong supporter of The Leprosy Mission Hospital in Naini and I remember accompanying him there sometimes. Little did I know that many years later, this would be the place that would change my heart, renew my commitment, and humble me beyond measure.

It was with this great faith that I moved alone with my three children, one being a child with disability, to New Delhi. I had nothing. No contacts. No support system. However, by then I had developed implicit trust in God to provide me with all that I needed

Trials and tribulations have the power to either keep us from abundant life or produce in us the character that sustains abundant life. The choice is up to us. The trials came. However, for those who believe, they are blessed with strength that many will not comprehend. As it is in the book of Isaiah 40:31, "But those who **hope** in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like

eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

These trials were enormous; they consumed me. I not only survived but thrived. Not only did things fall into place, but God, relenting to my faith, provided me with the best! He also provided me with strength to face the challenges and resilience to overcome them. Things just fell into place because what I never lost, was **HOPE! Hope for a better future, Hope for a brighter tomorrow.**

Romans 8:28 is a promise that rang true for me. God works for our good "in all things". It means, no matter the circumstance, there are only two qualifiers for God to be working all things together for our good. First, He works for "the good of those who love Him." Second, He works for "those who are called according to His purpose." It means submitting to His purpose for us. We have been called by Him for a purpose that He holds for in our life.

In 2011, I took the leap of faith and joined The Leprosy Mission Trust India. Soon enough, I understood the purpose God had for me in life. My stint with the Mission has also reinforced my faith in the fact that love can heal everything. The Bible tells us God is love and working with people affected by leprosy is an opportunity to do what Christ would have done if He was on earth today. This love for people—especially the ones who are underserved—transcends religions and regions and embraces one and all under one universal language.

**Nikita Sarah**  
Head of Advocacy and Communications, TLM Trust India

*Three things will last forever: faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13



*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15



The Leprosy Mission has a long and well-respected history of world-class research. Much of what is practiced in leprosy control in 2023 is based on findings from TLM research projects spanning more than half a century.

Our three key research programmes are based in Bangladesh, India and Nepal and we have an emerging research programme in Nigeria. We are proud of our two research laboratories at Anandaban Hospital, Nepal and Delhi, India. Both of these labs collaborate with other laboratories and research institutions across the world.

Our research priorities are:

1. Understanding and preventing transmission
2. Developing early diagnostic tests
3. Improving care for leprosy reactions and neuritis
4. The detection, monitoring and treatment of secondary impairments
5. Inner wellbeing, mental health, and stigma

### SENIOR RESEARCH PEOPLE

#### TLM International Research Committee

Prof Warwick Britton (Chair) - Australia  
 Dr Paul Saunderson - Norway  
 Prof Diana Lockwood - UK  
 Prof Jan Hendrik Richardus - Netherlands  
 Prof Pushpendra Singh - India

#### Senior Research Staff

Dr Abu Sufian Chowdhury - Bangladesh  
 Dr Deanna Hagge - Nepal  
 Dr Joydeeba Darlong - India  
 Dr Paul Tsaku - Nigeria

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** There is still a lot we don't know about how leprosy is transmitted. TLM research centres are conducting research to improve our understanding of leprosy transmission. Pray for wisdom as they develop studies, collect data, analyse results and publish their findings and conclusions.

**TUE:** In 2023, we are investing more resources into developing tools to diagnose leprosy earlier. Pray for two large grant applications we have submitted in this important area.

**WED:** TLM Bangladesh was part of the consortium that discovered the efficacy of SDR-PEP (a single preventative antibiotic) in reducing leprosy transmission by up to 60 percent. Thank God for their PEP++ study. PEP++ is a clinical trial to see if to see if adding a second drug to PEP will improve its effectiveness.

**THU:** TLM teams in India, Nepal, and Nigeria are conducting various studies on innovative ways to treat leprosy ulcers. Please pray for success, that this work might bring relief to the many people who suffer from leprosy wounds.

**FRI:** A number of our researchers are coming up to retirement age. Pray that we can find excellent people to succeed them. Thank God for younger researchers that are joining our teams.

**SAT:** Our research laboratories are old and in need of upgrading. In 2023, we are building a new laboratory at Anandaban Hospital, Nepal. Pray for the team at Anandaban as they oversee the building and then move from the old building to the new.

**SUN:** Thank God for the universities and research organisations that partner with us across the world.

**Top:** A healthcare worker implements one of the new wound treatments that TLM has been researching in Nepal.  
 © Sabrina Dangel

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*

Hebrews 10:24



Switzerland has a long humanitarian tradition. Henry Dunant, a Swiss citizen, created the Red Cross in Geneva because he was moved by soldiers who lay dying on the battlefield of Solferino. In 1905, Hannah Meyer, a Swiss teacher moved by the suffering of people affected by leprosy, started The Leprosy Mission Switzerland in Zurich. It is not just the humanitarian but also the Christian tradition which moves people to reach out to those who suffer to this day. The cross in the Swiss flag reminds us of this.

Several thousand financial and prayer supporters of TLM Switzerland carry on this tradition after 118 years. Churches, trusts, foundations, and the Swiss Government contribute to TLM's work in Bangladesh, DR Congo, India, Nepal and Niger.

We continue with the tradition of showing Christ's love and mercy to people we touch through our work.

**Top:** TLM Switzerland staff during a team building event.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** We are grateful for a dedicated voluntary Board. Pray that they are inspired and can inspire people through their involvement.

**TUE:** Last year, Helen Woldu joined the senior leadership team. Pray that she will establish many good and fruitful relationships with our donors in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

**WED:** We are a team of six. Pray for a good team spirit, that we can encourage and motivate each other to perform at our best. Pray that we can develop a good feedback culture.

**THU:** In recent years, we have been blessed with legacies. This has helped us to support leprosy-affected people, especially in uncertain times when donation income fluctuates. Those who have included The Leprosy Mission in their Will bless us. Please pray for them.

**FRI:** We have invested in institutional fundraising. Good relationships with the funders are key for successful funding. Please pray for good and prosperous relationships.

**SAT:** Swiss donors support people affected by leprosy through the work of TLM in Bangladesh, DR Congo, India, Nepal and Niger. Pray for fruitful partnerships so that people in these countries will experience the cure for leprosy, love, and new perspectives for their lives.

**SUN:** Lord bless our faithful donors and grant that we may engage with new donors.

### THE SWISS TEAM

Markus Freudiger – Country Leader  
 Helen Woldu – Leader for French-speaking Switzerland  
 Esther Kuny – Finance  
 Nadja Klarer – Fundraising and Communication  
 Lotti Appenzeller – Programmes  
 Christine Schneeberger – Administration  
 Jan Kuny – Chairman

*“Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*

Isaiah 43:19 (NKJV)



TLM Nigeria (TLMN) works in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria to support the control of Neglected Tropical Diseases and leprosy, and the consequences of these diseases on affected populations in Nigeria.

TLMN ministers to over 33,850 persons living with leprosy and disabilities in various communities spread across 24 states in Nigeria. Every year, approximately 2,500 new leprosy cases are diagnosed in Nigeria. This makes Nigeria the third ranked country for leprosy cases in Africa.

Thanks to support from our partners, TLMN runs projects that allow us to find and treat cases of leprosy quickly. We also work to reduce stigma and establish sustainable livelihoods for people who have been affected by leprosy. We provide inner-wellbeing and spiritual support to people who have been affected by the disease, as well as raise funds for our important work and run research projects to help us learn more about leprosy.

### SENIOR STAFF

- Dr Sunday Udo – Country Leader
- Mr Pius Ogbu Sunday – Head of Programmes & Operations
- Mr Obinna Anagboso – Head of Finance
- Mr Terver Anyor – Head of Resource Mobilisation
- Mrs Pamela Hagher – Head of Human Resources & Administration

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** On World Leprosy Day 2022, TLMN paid visits to churches, donor agencies and communities of persons affected by leprosy. Please pray that this will lead to an increase in the understanding of this disease and the strength to tackle the stigma associated with it.

**TUE:** The TLMN Annual Staff Conference will be held in May 2022. Please pray that, as they seek the face of God during the conference, they shall also be filled with a renewed commitment towards their work.

**WED:** Pray for the TLMN fundraising department as they pursue new partnerships and funding opportunities. Also pray for donors, volunteers, supporters, and the rest of the staff as they coordinate and complete TLMN projects.

**THU:** Please pray for the TLMN Board meeting in May. Ask for strength and wisdom for the leaders, that they will guide the organisation towards the best ways to transform the lives of the people whom we have been called to serve.

**FRI:** Insecurity remains a serious problem in Nigeria. Please pray that God will continue to protect the citizens of the nation and give the leaders the strength and wisdom to make the right decisions.

**SAT:** Let us commit TLM Nigeria’s 2021–2025 country strategy into God’s hands. This strategy is geared towards the collaborative effort of reducing the burden of leprosy in Nigeria. Ask that God will see us through the successful implementation of the strategy. Pray the purpose for each project shall be fulfilled in Jesus’ name.

**SUN:** For over 5 years, Green Worship has supported an education project for children in leprosy-affected communities through TLMN. Please pray for God’s continuous blessings on the children and Green Worship.

**Top:** Maryam’s parents both had leprosy. TLM is supporting her with her livelihood and with her mental health. She’s become a peer counsellor with our Open Mind’s Project.

# Virgilio’s story

Virgilio lives with his father and his younger sister and brother in Timor-Leste. He was a good student when he was younger, always going to school, and after school he helped his parents planting vegetables.

He was diagnosed with leprosy when he was 12 years old. At the time he was scared and experienced trauma and self-stigma because he thought that this disease could kill him. When his friends heard that he had leprosy, many of them left him because they saw some changes had occurred to his hands and feet. Because of the stigma from his school friends, he decided did not go to school anymore.

Later on, Virgilio received treatment from TLM staff after they carried out a field visit and home screening. After treatment, Virgilio had no disability in his hands and feet; he felt like before he first had leprosy.

Having stopped going to school, he decided to get involved in the Self-Help Groups that are supported by TLM. He joined the group because he wanted to support his younger sister and brother to continue their studies, and to provide for the family’s daily needs through his business activity. To help him get these business activities started, Virgilio received a loan from the Self-Help Group.



Now he feels happy and wants to do everything that he can to support his family. He has a dream that he wants to be a motor repair technician in the future.

His message to those who are newly diagnosed with leprosy is: don’t be afraid and feel bad, because leprosy can be treated and life can be normal again.

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

1 Peter 2:10



In Sri Lanka, TLM works through partnership with the Alliance Development Trust (ADT), Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM) and the Leprosy Association of Sri Lanka, which is an association of people affected by leprosy.

They work alongside the Government to support people affected by leprosy through early case detection, reducing stigma, advocating for rights and entitlements, setting up groups for peer support, counselling, and medical follow-up. They work on raising awareness, improving nutrition and other practical support such as livelihoods, low cost homes and wells. They also mobilise religious leaders and community ambassadors to promote inclusion and to raise awareness of leprosy in society.

### SENIOR STAFF

#### ADT

Godfrey Yogarajah - CEO  
Raghu Balachandran - Director, Relief & Development  
Williams John Anthony - Senior Programme Executive

#### KKM

Rev Santhanapillai – President  
Rev TS Joshua - Executive Director  
Mrs Deborah Suresh – Deputy Director

#### Leprosy Association of Sri Lanka

Mr. Amarasinga – President  
Shahana Inparasa – Director

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray that the cries of the people of Sri Lanka for justice and a wise and honest Government would be met and political stability would be restored for the long term.

**TUE:** Please pray for the protection and wellbeing of the people in the country during times of civil unrest, economic crisis and food shortages, especially the most vulnerable, including people affected by leprosy.

**WED:** Pray for those affected by leprosy and other diseases, as many essential medicines have become scarce and expensive, so acquiring them has become quite difficult.

**THU:** Please pray for KKM and ADT staff, members of the leprosy people's association, and volunteers. Pray that they will have the physical endurance and emotional stability to continue offering strength and hope to people affected by leprosy who are living in heart-breaking situations

**FRI:** Please pray for communities where people affected by leprosy hope to gain a greater awareness and understanding of this disease and the available treatment. Please also pray for a shift in mindset among communities and for increased compassion toward those diagnosed with leprosy.

**SAT:** Thank God for the 300 members of the Leprosy Peoples' Association and their work in advocacy for rights, new case detection, awareness and the promotion of community nutrition. Pray they would be able to expand their work into new districts and continue to grow in strength

**SUN:** Thank God for the increased unity and collaboration between KKM, ADT, the Leprosy Peoples' Association, Government institutions, as well as different faith communities in order to find hidden leprosy cases and support people affected by leprosy.

Top: Executive committee members (leaders) of the Leprosy People's Association.

*A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:25



TLM New Zealand is humbled by and thankful for the love and compassion of their loyal supporters. They uphold the Mission's work financially and prayerfully, they give their time so freely to volunteer at the office, and they speak at churches and community groups. More than 12,000 New Zealanders actively support the work of the Mission, and we aim to engage more New Zealanders to realise our global goal of Zero Leprosy Transmission by 2035.

Their commitment enables lives to be transformed, giving hope to countless leprosy-affected families in Bangladesh, PNG and Bougainville, DR Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Timor-Leste.

TLM New Zealand also partners with The New Zealand Aid Programme (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade), the Autonomous Bougainville Government, NLR and grassroots organisations in our implementing countries.

Together, we are curing, caring for and restoring people affected by leprosy to fullness of life.

### SENIOR STAFF

Gillian Whitley – TLM Country Leader  
Martin Malkaney – Finance Manager  
Leanne Ryburn – Fundraising and Marketing Manager  
Jasleen Kler – Programme Manager  
Blair Matheson – Chair of the Board

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** New Zealand's elections are scheduled to take place in September. Pray for all parties to have an enthusiasm for overseas development. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for their decision-making, that they might create solutions that empower those who are vulnerable and in need.

**TUE:** Give thanks for positive partnership with the NZ Government and for new open doors. TLMNZ has secured government funding for the implementation of a preventative health programme with TLM Timor-Leste. Pray for a smooth rollout of the project to improve the lives of people affected by leprosy.

**WED:** Praise God for the many churches around New Zealand who raise awareness of the Mission's work and support people affected by leprosy. Pray that we can engage new churches from all denominations and that they will be moved to support the Mission's work in defeating leprosy and transforming lives.

**THU:** TLMNZ carries out social media campaigns to raise awareness and funds for people affected by leprosy. Pray that these initiatives will be fruitful and that we will be able to reach new supporters through new avenues of communication.

**FRI:** Give thanks and praise for the ongoing success of the PEP++ research project in Bangladesh. This ensures that close contacts of a person diagnosed with leprosy are contacted and receive preventative antibiotics. Pray that this new research initiative will guide us closer to zero leprosy transmission.

**SAT/SUN:** We give thanks for our faithful supporters, who support the Mission's work prayerfully and financially. May God bless them richly as they continue to bring hope and lasting impact to people affected by leprosy.

Top: TLMNZ team with Brent Morgan, TLM International Director.

*Jesus said to the people "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 8:30-32



Ethiopia still faces a number of challenges related to leprosy. More people in Ethiopia are experiencing visible disability as a result of leprosy, which is an indication of late diagnosis and treatment. On top of this, more children are being diagnosed with leprosy.

In response to these challenges, the TLMIE Ethiopia (TLMIE) team strives to support the government's leprosy control programme. We work on contact tracing for the close contacts of newly diagnosed persons. We work to improve leprosy skills amongst the government's healthcare workers. Lastly, in collaboration with our implementing partners, we work hard to minimise the stigma and discrimination that surrounds leprosy in Ethiopia, and as we increase awareness of leprosy in communities where it is present.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Please pray that Ethiopian leaders will make wise decisions for the safety of the nation, find better solutions for the economy, and encourage inclusive development for persons with disability.

**TUE:** Please pray for TLMIE's close work with key leprosy actors, such as the Ministry of Health, ALERT Hospital, the German Leprosy Relief Association, the Armauer Hansen Research Institute, organisations of persons affected by leprosy, and others.

**WED:** Please pray for God's guidance and wisdom for TLMIE Ethiopia team while we carry out leprosy work in Ethiopia.

**THU:** Please pray that our new country strategy will effectively address the problems on the ground and that we will benefit from God's wisdom in making it real over the coming five years.

**FRI:** Please pray that God's kind hands will be upon us as we diversify our resources and tackle the burden of leprosy.

**SAT:** Please pray that our new implementing partners will be responsible and accountable. Pray that we can generate new evidence and innovations to guide and support our work.

**SUN:** Please pray that the voices of persons with disability and those affected by leprosy will be amplified and heard by key actors. Please pray for the development of Ethiopia's first Disability Act, which the government is producing in collaboration with disability rights activists. Pray that when the Act is passed it will deliver comprehensive civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities.

## THE ETHIOPIA TEAM

Beletshachew Tadesse, Country Leader  
Berihun Legesse, Senior Finance and Admin  
Solomon Getahun, Programme Coordinator  
Fiseha Endale, Programme Manager  
Abebech Lemma, Finance and Admin Assistant  
Natnael Mesfin, Projects Coordinator  
Hilina Azeze, Cleaner and Messenger  
Dr Ruth Likassa, Chair of Advisory Board

Top: The TLMIE Ethiopia team

*Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.*

Proverbs 16:3



The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh (TLMIB) leads the way in Bangladesh when it comes to detecting new cases of leprosy. TLMIB's teams cover 55 percent of Bangladesh through 27 projects across 36 districts with 284 staff members. These projects focus on finding and treating new cases of leprosy, community based rehabilitation, research, advocacy, and tertiary care services. We operate in collaboration with the members of the National Leprosy and TB Coordination Committee.

The Country Office, based in Dhaka, is responsible for providing support and oversight of projects, as well as networking and building relationships with relevant stakeholders.

The future of TLMIB will see us set up a locally based Board to govern our work. TLMIB also sees research into leprosy as a major pathway to achieving zero leprosy in Bangladesh and will continue to invest in our research teams.

## SENIOR STAFF

Mr. Salomon Sumon Halder - Country Director  
Mr. Jiptha Boiragee - Programme Support Coordinator  
Mr. James Taposh Adhikary - Administration and Finance Coordinator  
Mr. Surendra Nath Singh - Programme Leader, Community Programme & Rural Health Programme  
Mr. John Arpon Samaddar - Programme Leader, Chattogram & Dhaka Programme  
Mr. Augustine Amal D'Rozario - Programme Leader, DBLM Hospital Programme  
Mrs. Suma Reverio - Human Resources Manager & Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mr. Ashim Saha - Project Manager, L360 project  
Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario - Chairman TLMIB Advisory Board

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** The Government's National Leprosy Programme (NLP) is implementing their new strategy for 2022-2030, which aims to achieve zero leprosy in Bangladesh by 2030. Pray that TLMIB will play a successful role in helping Bangladesh achieve the objective of 'Zero Leprosy 2030'.

**TUE:** In 2022, TLMIB wrote their five-year country strategy (2022-2026) to achieve Leprosy Defeated, Lives Transformed. Please pray for TLMIB management, staff, partners and other stakeholders, for their active involvement and support in implementing the strategy.

**WED:** Currently, TLMIB is governed by TLM International's Board. TLMIB hopes to transition to become a national, locally governed organisation. Please pray for a smooth transition.

**THU:** A number of our senior and long-standing staff have reached retirement age; a number of others will reach that point soon. Pray for good, strategic Human Resources and succession planning to ensure we have the knowledge and skills we need for our work.

**FRI:** L360 (Learning 360) is an umbrella project that seeks to gather data and information from eight projects across Bangladesh using a new database that we hope to extend to all our projects in due course. Pray that we will analyse and learn from this data to improve what we do.

**SAT:** Pray for peace and political stability in Bangladesh as a National Election takes place toward the end of 2023.

**SUN:** TLMIB manages a grant for Tuberculosis control activities in North-West Bangladesh. The grant is overseen by the largest NGO in Bangladesh, BRAC, to support the Government's National Tuberculosis Programme. Pray for opportunities to leverage this grant to also assist people affected by leprosy.

Top: Salomon Sumon Halder, Country Director, with Dr. Jan Hendrik Richardus of Erasmus MC, Netherlands.

# Maria's story

Maria is from a village in Mozambique where people had hardly heard of leprosy. She is 50 years old and has one son and three grandchildren. When her son was only nine years old, her husband left her because she had contracted leprosy.

She sought support from a local healthcare volunteer, who diagnosed her with leprosy and provided her with multi-drug therapy (MDT), the cure for leprosy. When she was cured of leprosy, her husband came back to her, but she refused him because he had left her because of her diagnosis.

Maria is now the president of ALEMO in her village. ALEMO is the organisation of persons affected by leprosy in Mozambique. She mobilises members of the self-care group to do their activities, such as the savings group.

She goes to great lengths to find people who have undiagnosed leprosy and perseveres despite having a non-leprosy-related disability in her leg, which makes it more difficult for her to walk.

"I want to stop leprosy in our village, even in the nearby village. We want to stop it. We want to live without leprosy. We are very motivated, when we discover a new case there is already MDT to take."

Maria and the other TLM volunteers visit neighbouring villages to host events so they can teach people about leprosy. They tell them that life was different before multi-drug

*"I want to stop leprosy in our village, even in the nearby village. We want to stop it. We want to live without leprosy."*

therapy, but now there is a cure and you must come forward to receive treatment.

TLM's volunteers make our work possible. Some have lived experience of leprosy, like Maria, and use that experience to raise awareness. Others have had their hearts touched by the stories of people who have experienced leprosy and give up their valuable time to support our offices, speak at churches, and provide leadership through our governing Boards.

All our volunteers are playing an important role in creating a world without leprosy. If you would like to be a volunteer like Maria, contact your local TLM office (pp.84-85).



# SWEDEN

27 MAR-2 APR

*Heal the sick, cleanse the persons affected by leprosy, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

Matthew 10:8



The Leprosy Mission has been active in Sweden since the mid-1970s and, in 1985, TLM Sweden was established as a national organisation.

The Leprosy Mission Sweden works to raise awareness about leprosy and to give support to leprosy work. Through fundraising among individuals, organisations, and churches, TLM Sweden works to fulfil its vision. A monthly Ask/Thanks/Feedback Magazine, with challenges and reports from our projects, is sent all over the country. A number of presenters and preachers give information and raise money in churches across the country. Information on leprosy is given to Christian groups, churches and schools.

TLM Sweden supports work in India, Nigeria, DR Congo and Bangladesh and keeps contact with Myanmar and Nepal. Through membership of The Swedish Mission Council, money from the Swedish government is available to different projects across these countries.

TLM Sweden also has contact with their neighbouring Nordic countries for different areas of cooperation and mutual support.

Top: TLM Sweden's Country Leader, Johan Bäckrud.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Thank God for our TLM partners in Asia and Africa. For the fantastic work they are doing.

**TUE:** Give thanks for the faithful support of our donors. Pray for new donors and for the success of activities and campaigns that aim to reach new supporters.

**WED:** Thank God for good cooperation between TLM Sweden and the Swedish government through the Swedish Mission Council. Pray for continued and increased funding and support.

**THU:** Pray for well-developed and strong cooperation between the TLM organisations in the Nordic countries so that we can strengthen the work of one another.

**FRI:** Thank God for the Board of TLM Sweden and for the members' willingness to lead our work. Pray for wisdom in leadership and courage for new steps and initiatives.

**SAT:** Pray for the staff team of TLM Sweden, for God's guidance and wisdom in the work. Pray for the right priorities and openness to new initiatives. Pray for inspiration, teamwork and energy.

**SUN:** Pray for increased support from churches and organisations. Pray for new churches to work with TLM Sweden. Thank God for the work of the presenters and preachers all over the country. Pray for new inspiration and open doors.

## SENIOR STAFF

- Johan Bäckrud - Country Leader
- Thandekile Moyo - Programme Coordinator
- Shelley Lado - Finance
- Ulrica Stermow Wittler - Administration
- Allan Ekstedt - Nordic Hub Coordinator
- Bo Arvidsson - Chairman of the Board

# MOZAMBIQUE

3-9 APR

*"Therefore, whoever hears these words of mine and does them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."*

Matthew 7:24



The Leprosy Mission in Mozambique works in close cooperation with the Health Department in support of the Leprosy Control Project in the Province of Cabo Delgado. We are currently implementing Mission Zero, which is a large project that is raising awareness of leprosy and has meant that our work has also extended to Zambézia Province too.

We are also working on the design of a behaviour change communication strategy, so that our actions will have long-lasting results towards the elimination of leprosy in Mozambique.

## THE MOZAMBIQUE TEAM

- Dr. Arie de Krujiff- TLM Country Leader
- Sr. Belarmino Reich- ALEMO and Iphiro Yohoolo Project Manager
- Sr. Armindo Jorge- Prevention of Disabilities/ Leprosy Control Project Manager
- Sr. Culaire Luís- Human Resources Manager
- Sr. João Américo- IT
- Ms. Jacinta Marqueza- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Ms. Yaniza Abdula- Administration and Finance Officer
- Mrs. Graça Maria- Behavior Change Communication Officer
- Sr. Vasco Fernando- Driver
- Sr. Gibrardo Bacar- Driver

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Starting the new Mission Zero project in Cabo Delgado and Zambézia province, we pray for the involvement of persons affected by leprosy in the training and techniques taught in their communities.

**TUE:** Ask God that the Mission Zero project will include all those involved in the leadership of our self-help groups so that the project will most effectively raise awareness through our existing networks.

**WED:** Thank God for the protection of persons affected by leprosy and the infrastructure of the Osomihana Community Centres, including our server. The Centres will be spaces for communities to have access to audio-visual education content which addresses various issues including leprosy. The centres and resources aim to generate community debate. We pray that through this technology we will add value to the communities we are serving.

**THU:** We pray for protection amidst security issues in Northern Mozambique.

**FRI:** We ask for prayer that inflation does not negatively affect budgets, making it difficult for us to implement Mission Zero activities.

**SAT:** We pray that communities will be engaged in our programmes across the most endemic of Cabo Delgado and Zambézia provinces.

**SUN:** We are developing a communications strategy that aims to positively change the attitudes and behaviour of those groups and people who have a stake in defeating leprosy in Mozambique. We pray that the process of creating a communications strategy is well conducted and has satisfactory and long-term results.

Top: Training self-help groups on savings and revolving credit.

## INDIA – COUNTRYWIDE

10–16 APR

*For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.*

1 Corinthians 12:12-14



As the largest and the longest-running leprosy-focused NGO in India, The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI) attends to hundreds and thousands of patients every year, trains thousands of youths in different trades, conducts rigorous research on clinical, social, and other aspects of leprosy, and provides training on leprosy. Staying true to its motto — healing, inclusion and dignity of people affected by leprosy, other NTDs and disabilities — TLMTI is heavily invested in generating sustainable livelihoods and empowering underserved communities, especially the ones affected by leprosy.

With God's guidance, TLMTI has been able to hold the hands of people affected by leprosy during their ailing and uncertain times, not just with treatment, but also with different interventions that make them financially independent and socially acceptable. By God's grace, we continue to reach out to more and more people to reduce leprosy cases and incidences of discrimination.

Top: Premal Das, Executive Director.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for travel mercies for the various Audit & Risk Management teams as they endeavour to visit various units to conduct audits in the next six months. Pray for protection from Covid and safety from all dangers, and that they remain in good health.

**TUE:** Pray for candidates sponsored for Medical and Paramedical Courses at CMC Vellore and CMC Ludhiana. May God bless their studies.

**WED:** Pray for staff who are working in difficult areas with minimal access to resources.

**THU:** Pray that the Audit Reports continue to bring out meaningful insights so that TLMTI systems remain robust and risks are mitigated.

**FRI:** Pray that the Audit & Risk Management team continues to evolve with newer audit techniques that consider the changing external environment and challenges that TLMTI encounters along the way.

**SAT:** Pray for the good financial health of the organisation, given that we are starting new training courses with Martin Luther Christian University and with other affiliated and accreditation bodies.

**SUN:** Pray for the fundraising team as TLMTI is trying to work more closely with churches and begin fundraising activities in Mumbai. May this work be fruitful.

### SENIOR STAFF

Dr Premal Das - Executive Director

## GERMANY

17–23 APR



TLM Germany emerged many decades ago through a circle of friends from Esslingen. We are a registered, non-profit association, which is supported by the commitment of many Christians in Germany.

Personal contacts are an important part of our work and up to now, also the best method of getting younger generations interested in leprosy. After some difficult and uncertain years, we are very happy that we could intensify our project support in India, Niger, and Chad. We see that God is blessing this work and we are very grateful for that.

Top: The Board of TLM Germany.

### SENIOR PEOPLE

Dr. Johannes Schäfer – Chair of the Board  
Bettina Merz – Country Leader

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Good God, thank you for all the churches and communities that support people affected by leprosy through services, lectures, and self-sacrifice. Help us to strengthen relationships with these supporters and build new bridges to other communities.

**TUE:** Good God, thank you for all those who use their birthdays and other major celebrations as an opportunity to raise funds for those affected by leprosy. Thank you for everyone who has included a gift in their Will that can contribute to the work to defeat leprosy.

**WED:** Good God, thank you for all our partners who help us to do our work. Thank you for our colleagues in the International Office and in the other TLM countries. Thank you for all the helpers and volunteers, thank you for the printers, the press offices, the post office, the foundations and companies, the craftspeople, the nurses and doctors, the project managers, the drivers, the accountants, all those who work in our offices, and our families who support our work.

**THU:** Good God, thank you for our volunteer Board members, for all those who tell their family, friends and colleagues about our projects and raise awareness about leprosy. Pray that God will bless these supporters and that God will open the hearts of those they talk to about leprosy.

**FRI:** Good God, thank you for all those involved in outreach and fundraising who continue to find new ways to generate new support for people affected by leprosy.

**SAT:** Good God, thank you for all our faithful donors who regularly and generously help people affected by leprosy through our various projects in India, Chad, and Niger. Give thanks for every prayer that is prayed for our projects and the protection of our colleagues.

**SUN:** Good God, bless this work, with all its diversity and colourfulness, with all its challenges, with all its cultural richness, with all its beauty and difficulty. Thank you that all at TLM see ourselves as brothers and sisters in Christ and that we want to align ourselves with you.

## KEY PARTNERS

24–30 APR



### American Leprosy Missions

American Leprosy Missions is the oldest and largest Christian organisation in the United States dedicated to breaking down barriers to health and restoring hope for people suffering from the pain and stigma of neglected tropical diseases like leprosy. Since its founding in 1906, American Leprosy Missions has provided holistic healing to more than four million people around the world, including through medical treatment, health worker training, disease mapping, community development, health system strengthening and research.

### Effect Hope

Effect Hope is a Canadian Christian global health organisation that partners with others to bring hope and restoration to people affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) like leprosy and lymphatic filariasis. For 130 years, Effect Hope has worked together with affected communities and people to find innovative solutions to ensure that those living with NTDs thrive. We seek to create a world full of hope.

**Top:** When Shakti was 10 years old, she noticed the first symptoms of leprosy. She could no longer walk to school or do chores at home. Eventually, Shakti got multi-drug therapy to stop the disease, but she needed an amputation of her left foot at ALM's partner, Anandaban Hospital. Now she's recovering, starting physical therapy and learning to use an artificial limb. With this support, Shakti can imagine a new chapter for her life: she is eager to finish her education and find a good job. © Tom Bradley

### SENIOR STAFF

Bill Simmons – President & CEO (ALM)  
Kim Evans – CEO (Effect Hope)

## PRAYER POINTS

### Effect Hope

**MON:** Please continue to pray for the Effect Hope team and our partners as we launch new innovative programmes that include integrated, cross-cutting approaches to care for communities facing leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, and other NTDs.

**TUE:** We are thankful to God for our loyal and committed supporters, who join us in our mission to bring hope and restoration to people affected by leprosy and other NTDs. Pray that God would inspire even more Canadians to join us in this mission.

### ALM

**WED:** Please pray for strength for church leaders that have been trained by our partner hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Pray that they will recognise people suffering from diseases like leprosy in their communities. Pray for them as they provide physical and spiritual care.

**THU:** Pray for the Phase 1b/2a trial of the first leprosy-specific vaccine, LepVax; the clinical trial is underway in Brazil. For the next two years, our partner, Fiocruz, will implement the trial to determine the vaccine's effectiveness.

### Other TLM partners

**FRI:** TLM partners with a huge number of other organisations. We'd like you to pray with us today for the Leprosy Research Initiative, which is a partnership of leprosy NGOs who are committed to increasing funding for leprosy research. Please pray for wisdom for those who guide funding towards leprosy research through LRI.

**SAT:** Please pray for our partners in the neglected tropical disease sector. We'd like particular prayer for the Network of NTD NGOs (NNN) and Uniting to Combat NTDs. Please pray for leprosy's place within this much larger sector and for the success of our NTD partners.

**SUN:** Please pray for our partners in South Africa as they give thanks for the Lord's bountiful provision in 2022. Please pray that this will help to fund more efficient and effective case finding.

## OUR CHRIST-CENTRED MISSION

1–7 MAY

*Behold, I will bring my people health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.*

Jeremiah 33:6



We were made to be healthy and whole, and to flourish in the world God has made.

Health is a state of complete physical, spiritual, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease. The causes of illness in the world are social, economic and spiritual as well as bio-medical.

As TLM's former General Secretary Donald Miller explained, TLM was not founded as an organisation primarily concerned with the nature and treatment of the disease. Its concern was a total one, not only with the disease medically but also with its effects in social ostracism, physical want, and spiritual distress. It did not make a hard division between the sacred and the secular, or between temporal and eternal needs. The total person called for total help in their total need.

This is what being Christ-centred in our work is all about – bringing the Good News to people affected by leprosy in its entirety and fulfilling their visible and invisible needs.

### SPIRITUAL MINISTRY WORKING GROUP

Convenor: James Pender (England & Wales)  
Members: Raphaël Mulamba Mbuyamba (DR Congo)  
Lorna Murray (Scotland)  
Chiranjivi Sharma (Nepal)  
Praveen Gomes (Sri Lanka)  
Tim Collison (Australia)  
Brent Morgan (International Office)

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** We thank God for the opportunities to share the love of Christ with people affected by leprosy, verbally or non-verbally, and we pray that they may encounter Jesus' transforming power through our witness.

**TUE:** We thank God for the increasing number of partnerships with local churches, temples and mosques and pray that religious leaders would be able to play an important role in increasing inclusion of people affected by leprosy within their faith communities and the local community.

**WED:** We thank God for the church leaders who are active in the detection of new cases of leprosy and for the large numbers of new cases they have found in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Pray that through the voluntary efforts of churches many more hidden cases will be found.

**THU:** We thank God for the church-led Disability Resource Centres in Myanmar, who in the absence of Government services will effectively provide for the needs of people affected by leprosy and/or disability.

**FRI:** We thank God for the 'Leprosy Sunday' services held each year in churches across the globe. We pray they would be effective in mobilising prayer and finance as well as increasing understanding about leprosy.

**SAT:** We thank God that TLM is an organisation that cares about the wellbeing of its staff, supporters and volunteers. We pray that their lives would be enriched and their spirituality deepened through the various events and retreats that TLM hosts.

**SUN:** TLM is hosting its third annual Global Day of Prayer on Wed 10 May. We pray that our staff, supporters, volunteers, and Board Members will be able to put their regular work to the side for a day and seek God in prayer on this day. May God speak to us with His mighty wisdom. (If you would like to join us for this day, please contact your local TLM office, pp.84–85).

**Top:** Pastor Virendra and Kovinthan, a person affected by leprosy who attends his church.

# Infinite worth and dignity

A colleague once said to me that they find it extraordinary that anyone would want to do my job. This made me reflect on why it is I experience my role to be a privilege and joy, when it perhaps looks strange to others.

In my role I get to act as a compass, bringing us constantly back to true north, back to the individual project client, or the individual staff member: in our many different activities, is this person safe, treated with respect and dignity, flourishing, heard, able to grow and thrive?

Christians believe that Jesus is God, the creator of the universe, but we see in the Bible that Jesus also always had time for individuals. Those of us who follow Jesus can testify in our own lives that this remains true.

The Bible shows us God's heart for the most vulnerable and marginalised. Many times we read that Jesus was moved with compassion when he saw people's needs. Compassion is not the same as pity.

Before the pandemic, I visited the Mother House in Kolkota, India, where Mother Theresa lived and work. I came across one of her sayings, which stuck with me:

*The poor don't need our pity and sympathy. They need our understanding love and they need our respect.*

'Understanding love and respect': that is what I understand compassion to be.

When we look at how Jesus interacted with the poor, the sick, the marginalised and despised, we see he invariably treated them with respect,

restored their dignity and brought them back into community. We are called to do the same.

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*  
Matthew 25: 34 – 40

Our world is full of individuals striving to gain power for themselves, but we are called to remember that every human being is created in the image of God, of infinite worth and dignity, and that whatever we do for the 'least of these', we are doing it for God.

**Julia Kragulj**

Global Safeguarding Advisor, TLM International

## Safeguarding Prayer

Loving Father God,

We come to you in the knowledge that you hold all your children in unconditional love.

We lift to you those who are vulnerable and in need of protection. Give them your safety, comfort and peace.

We cry to you for those who are hurting and whose trust has been broken. Give them your healing, restoration and justice.

We bring to you those who seek to forgive others who have hurt them. Give them your strength, courage and hope.

For those who have caused your children to stumble, lead them to seek your forgiveness and enter into true repentance.

Amen

## NIGER

*You did not choose me, but I choose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*

John 15:16 NIV



TLM Niger works in six regions in Niger (Tilaberi, Niamey, Tahoua, Dosso, Zinder, Maradi). We do this in collaboration with the National and Regional Leprosy Control Programme, CSL Danja Hospital, IDEA, and with other partners.

Activities include:

- Leprosy services: raising awareness of leprosy, active case finding, training and supervision of health workers
- Community Development: providing grants and micro credit for income-generating activities such as agriculture and business, a housing project for homeless people affected by leprosy, provision of drinkable water, building of ventilated latrines and promoting hygiene to prevent water borne diseases.
- Support to CSL Danja Leprosy Referral Hospital: building the capacity of their multi-disciplinary team so they can prevent disability, provide ulcer care and restore hope, dignity and function.
- Support to IDEA, an association of people affected by leprosy: through training in advocacy, empowerment and creating community awareness.

### THE TLM NIGER TEAM

Bunmi Oluloto – TLM Country Leader  
Ichaya Garba – Head of Finance and Administration  
Abdul Yohanna – Head of Programmes and Research  
Saratou Barage – Programme Manager, Leprosy Control  
Sani Hassan – Project Officer  
Abigail Lawali – Office Assistant

Top: The TLM Niger Board.

8–14 MAY

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray that through TLM Niger activities, new cases of leprosy will be detected early and God will bring transformation, healing, and hope to people affected by leprosy and their communities in Niger.

**TUE:** Niger has been plagued with insecurity and attacks from terrorists and armed bandits. There are many communities that cannot be reached due to insecurity. Pray for lasting peace, safety, and security and for God's protection on staff and people affected by leprosy.

**WED:** Pray for God's provision of resources to implement the new multiyear projects. These projects aim to improve the detection of leprosy cases, the sustainability of the Danja Health and Leprosy Centre, as well as the inner well-being of people affected by leprosy in the Maradi region.

**THU:** Pray for continued good collaboration with the Leprosy Regional Coordinators, CSL Danja's technical team, and IDEA Niger. They play a significant role alongside TLM Niger in implementing Leprosy Control and inner-well-being activities for people affected by leprosy.

**FRI:** Pray for the TLM Niger team and their families. Pray that God will bless their efforts and passion for the strategic vision and objectives of the Mission. Pray for God's help and wisdom, and for the strength to manage the workload.

**SAT:** Niger has a very small population of Christians; most of our beneficiaries do not know Christ. Pray for TLM Niger staff as we share the love of God with people affected by leprosy through the services we and our partners provide.

**SUN:** Praise God for the commitment of TLM Niger's Board. Pray for the Chairman, Iro Sani, and all the other Board Members, that they may have God's blessing on them as they make efforts to support the growth of TLM Niger's work.

## FINLAND

15–21 MAY



TLM Finland is run by a volunteer Board and a small group of volunteers who support us with large mailings and at large events.

We work hard to raise funds to defeat leprosy in DR Congo. We publish a magazine in Finnish and Swedish, we run adverts in Christian and secular magazines, we visit churches, schools and other groups, and we translate the ASK Prayer Diary into Finnish.

These actions allow us to build stronger relationships with our existing supporters and to find new people to join us in the battle to defeat leprosy.

Top: Marja and Ritva at a Christmas bazaar in the crypt of Helsinki Cathedral.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the Board and other volunteers. They give freely of their time, experience, talents, and resources. Pray that new people will find this work interesting and challenging and will join our ranks.

**TUE:** Give thanks for all the individuals and churches who donate and pray for the work of TLM. Many of these supporters are older and we give thanks for their great commitment over many years. We pray for younger supporters to join us.

**WED:** In Finland, many people think that leprosy does not exist anymore. Please pray that TLM Finland will be able to share the facts about leprosy across the country and bring people's attention to this important issue.

**THU:** Please pray for all of the research being done across TLM. Pray that we will find answers to the questions we still have about leprosy. Pray for the researchers, that they might have open minds, courage, and patience.

**FRI:** Pray for TLM Congo and for Yvonne, the new Country Leader of TLM Congo. Give thanks for all the TLM staff in DR Congo and pray for their protection during trips to the field.

**SAT:** Pray for all TLM staff and volunteers across the world, whatever their duties and however they serve. Pray that they feel valued and work as if it were for Jesus himself.

**SUN:** Please pray for the places in our world that are afflicted by conflict, and particularly for those persons affected by leprosy who are caught up in these conflicts. Pray that God will work in the hearts and minds of the leaders behind these conflicts. Pray for peace.

### SENIOR TEAM

Ms Eija Kilpi – Chair  
Ms Marja Aho – Deputy Chair  
Ms Ritva Pohti – Country Leader



TLM has been in the Democratic Republic of Congo for over 75 years, working hand in hand with churches, affected communities, and the Congolese Government.

We warmly thank the Lord, our God, who continues to consolidate the work of TLM in DRC. "So far the Lord has rescued us" (1 Samuel 7:12).

With this recognition, we will never cease to praise Him. We are aware of where we come from: chronic insecurity, endemic corruption, and Covid. Through all of this God has protected us and we say: Thank you, Lord.

We are working on strengthening the infrastructure and health systems in the communities we support. We are also working to strengthen the capacity of OPALCO, which is an organisation of persons affected by leprosy in DR Congo. We want to continue partnering with churches and the government's leprosy control programme, to strengthen leadership, and find new innovations to control the spread of leprosy. We are together and 2023 is full of hope!

### SENIOR STAFF

Mrs Yvonne Kambale Kavuo - Country Leader  
 Mr Christian Bulambo Bisimwa - Head of Finance and IT  
 Mrs Doris Ndombe - Logistics, Administration & Safeguarding  
 Mr Raphael Mulamba - Head of Programmes and Spiritual Activities  
 Dr Jacob Kadima - Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (Medical Advisor)  
 Mr Didier Muhima - Project Manager, South Kivu and HR Advisor

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Let us thank the Lord Almighty for Sabuni, who has retired after giving 12 years of work to The Leprosy Mission in DR Congo. We pray for wisdom and good health for the new Country Leader, Yvonne. We pray that the Lord will help and assist her in her leadership.

**TUE:** Let us pray that the Lord will assist the Organisation of People Affected by Leprosy in Congo (OPALCO). Pray that they will become strong and a model in DRC for fighting stigma effectively. May their work improve the social, physical and spiritual living conditions of those affected by leprosy and NTDs.

**WED:** Let us pray for peace in Eastern DRC, which is afflicted by killings, abductions, rape and looting of natural resources by armed groups. Let's pray that countries and organisations that are directly involved in this turmoil will have their hearts touched by God.

**THU:** Let us pray that the Lord will provide funding for the three provinces that are no longer getting leprosy support: Kongo Central, Kasai Central and Maniema Provinces. May the Lord inspire us with His wisdom by developing projects and finding funds for these endemic provinces in leprosy and Buruli Ulcer.

**FRI:** Since 2021, TLM Congo's Kasai project has been conducting a study on the mental health of people affected by NTDs, including leprosy. We pray to God that the proposed mental health intervention will meet the expectations of those affected by leprosy and other NTDs and bring a glimmer of hope to the affected communities.

**SAT/SUN:** Please let us pray for church leaders in Congo, as they continue to raise awareness of leprosy and support communities that are affected. Working with churches is both exciting and challenging in the Congolese context.

**Top:** Members of the DR Congo team travel to visit one of their projects that is implementing PEP (distributing an antibiotic to prevent leprosy).



TLM Italy is a small group of volunteers who are working to raise awareness of, and funds for leprosy and the work of TLM.

Despite the difficulties of recent years, we have established new connections with people who were not aware of the existence of leprosy in the world. We send these people and other supporters our national newsletter as a means of updating and informing them of our work.

On top of this, we are working on other initiatives such as publishing brochures and books that we sell, in order to raise funds and offer more information to those who want to know more of what we do.

We work to promote our work online and, thanks to fewer pandemic-related restrictions, we are also planning some face-to-face events so that we can have more direct contact with friends who support our work, as well with the people who are new to the work carried out by Missione Lebbra.

**Top:** TLM Italy's supporters raise funds to transform lives like Niranjan's in India.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Praise God for all the supporters who have been contributing to the work of TLM in Italy for some time.

**TUE:** Please pray that we will be able to make connections with more people who are interested in supporting the work to defeat leprosy.

**WED:** Please pray that God will bless our work to create more fundraising campaigns that will capture the attention of people in Italy.

**THU:** Please pray for all our publications, that they will be delivered successfully and be well received by our supporters.

**FRI:** Give thanks to the Lord, for how He has sustained us through the pandemic period and allowed us to continue our operations.

**SAT/SUN:** Please pray that the funds that are given by people across Italy will be put to good use and will transform the lives of persons affected by leprosy.

### SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

Pietro Martino - Board Secretary  
 Franco Ciuchi - Treasurer  
 Elia Landi - Vice President

# Sunil's story

Sunil developed leprosy as a child, but his parents took him to a shaman before they took him to a hospital and so the disease had enough time to cause long term damage before Sunil was cured at TLM's Anandaban Hospital.

As an adult, Sunil found work as a labourer, but it was too physically taxing and caused him a lot of wounds. He then found work as a door-to-door clothes salesman,

"Once there was a customer who liked the clothes I was selling and called me. I stopped and handed him the products, but he saw my hands and leg. He refused to buy it from me. That incident still hurts me and it's something I will never be able to forget."

The Covid lockdowns meant that Sunil's clothing business closed and now he sells cleaning supplies from his bicycle.

Sunil has had a long history with Anandaban Hospital. He has received many treatments there, he met his wife there, and he is now benefitting from TLM's revolutionary LPRF treatment, which cures leprosy wounds faster than any previous method.

"I feel thankful for Anandaban Hospital for providing such revolutionary treatment and services for me and other patients like me who have low incomes."

*"I feel thankful for Anandaban Hospital for providing such revolutionary treatment and services for me."*

Sunil feels depressed remembering the past, when his hands and feet were normal and knowing that it will never be the same again. But when he comes to Anandaban and meets other people and talks to them, he doesn't feel so alone. He says, "I have learned to accept my reality. I just want to see my son grow up and become a good person."



Photo © Sabrina Dangol

## DENMARK

*The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all.*

Luke 20:17



TLM Denmark works across the whole country, running fundraising activities and receiving donations from both individuals and churches. We keep contact with our committed donors through a monthly magazine that details the great work of TLM. The Board and a group of dedicated volunteers raise awareness throughout Denmark about people affected by leprosy.

TLM Denmark supports leprosy work in Bangladesh. Their work is focused on finding funding to support the rehabilitation of persons affected by leprosy and on preventing the transmission of leprosy in Bangladesh.

TLM Denmark is primarily a volunteer-run organisation, but in 2022 they hired a part-time fundraiser to support their work.

**Top:** Thanks to support from TLM Denmark, Manikul is making a living through goat farming.

5-11 JUN

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray that we succeed in strengthening the partnership between TLM countries in Scandinavia through TLM's Nordic Hub.

**TUE:** Pray that our recently employed fundraiser will find success and more funds will be found to support the eradication of leprosy.

**WED:** Pray that leprosy workers in a changing world will be able to maintain their spirit for serving people affected by leprosy.

**THU:** Pray for TLM Bangladesh as they seek to find a new generation of staff who have the right skillset and a passion for leprosy.

**FRI:** Pray that our work will encourage more people in Denmark to commit to the cause of leprosy.

**SAT:** Pray that people affected by leprosy across the world will find new hope and a life of dignity.

**SUN:** Pray that the TLM Denmark Board will be inspired and able to develop exciting ways to support people who have experienced leprosy.

### SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

Chair - Jørgen Andersen  
Vice chair - Lena Hagelskjær Kristensen

## GLOBAL VOICE

12-18 JUN



Leprosy is a neglected disease and the people affected by the disease are often neglected, as well. The Leprosy Mission believes in the power of lifting up the voices of people who have experienced leprosy so that their families, their communities, their local representatives and businesses, and national and international policymakers can hear from them directly.

To achieve this, The Leprosy Mission provides self-advocacy training so that persons affected by leprosy are aware of their rights and know how to access them. We work to build confidence and skills so that they feel capable of speaking on their own behalf.

This happens on a local level, such as in Bangladesh where the local government used to come to TLM to learn about the needs of persons affected by leprosy. Now, however, they go directly to persons affected by leprosy themselves. It also happens on an international level, where TLM creates space at the United Nations and within the global disability movement for persons affected by leprosy to have their voices heard at events, meetings, and conferences.

**Top:** Rachna and Zoica join TLM's Global Advocacy Lead, Mathias, at the UK Parliament. All three have experienced leprosy and were able to share their stories with UK policymakers in June 2022.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Please give thanks for the persons affected by leprosy who have so boldly spoken truth to power. Their courage and insight makes this world a better place.

**TUE:** The United Nations has a Special Rapporteur on leprosy. Alice Cruz has filled this role since its inception in 2016 and has been a powerful advocate for the rights of persons affected by leprosy, but in 2023 will reach the limit of the term she can serve. Give thanks for all that Alice has contributed so passionately and so selflessly.

**WED:** TLM works to create space for persons affected by leprosy within the wider disability movement. Please pray that God will guide our efforts in this regard and that persons affected by leprosy will find a fruitful place within that network.

**THU:** Give thanks for the policymakers across the world that have made the issue of leprosy an important part of their work. May God bless this work and inspire more policymakers to do likewise.

**FRI:** We have the tools we need to create a world where no one is diagnosed with leprosy again, what we need is political will and resources. Pray that God will bless the work of our advocacy teams as they make the case for increased political commitment.

**SAT:** May God raise up more persons affected by leprosy who feel able to speak up for their rights. May God bless our work to make that possible.

**SUN:** Organisations of Persons Affected by Leprosy are a crucial mechanism through which persons affected by leprosy can achieve their rights. Pray that God will bless our partnerships with these organisations and that they may go from strength to strength.

...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31



Indonesia ranks third in the world for the number of leprosy cases. TLM teams in New Zealand, Belgium, the Netherlands and Australia have partnered with NLR Indonesia to work in one of the poorest districts in West Java, Indramayu. The project supports the work of the local health facilities by intensifying case finding, improving leprosy control, providing a preventive antibiotic known as PEP (to household and social contacts of someone newly diagnosed with leprosy) and strengthening community involvement and empowerment.

Two new projects with NLR Indonesia, supported by The Leprosy Mission Australia, started in July 2022. They focus on mechanisms to make it easier for people who have - or suspect they have - leprosy to reach out to the health system. One of these projects is called The Leprosy Friendly Village with an initial focus on northern Sulawesi. The other project is the Urban Leprosy Project, with an initial focus near Jakarta.

Top: Health workers giving out hand fans to educate people about leprosy in the community.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks and pray for the teams in Indramayu as they continue to take up intensive case finding. This is a key component of the project and one that has been delayed because of the pandemic. It is a crucial activity, as without active case finding, many leprosy-affected persons will go undetected.

**TUE:** Pray for the five local community people that were selected from women's and social welfare groups. They were recruited from each of the 25 villages to help communities engage with PEP activities. These key figures can build relationships and spread awareness of leprosy in the community.

**WED:** Pray for the information gathering that is being undertaken in our PEP community participation project, so that it can be analysed and compared to more traditional ways of implementing PEP. Pray that this will lead us to more effective ways of defeating leprosy.

**THU:** Give thanks for the collaboration within TLM's Global Fellowship and the wider community of organisations who are working in the field of leprosy and implementing PEP. We pray that implementing this preventative antibiotic and actively searching for new cases will be a key step in the path towards zero leprosy transmission by 2035.

**FRI:** Give praise and pray for the NLR Indonesian staff team, Asken, Astri, Solia and Sutejo. The team supports the Indonesian Government's leprosy programme and plays an important role in training health staff on the subject of leprosy. Pray for wisdom, grace, and foresight for this life changing work.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for God's protection and guidance as the team travels. Pray too, that people affected by leprosy receive vital support to cure their leprosy.

### SENIOR STAFF

Gillian Whitley – TLM NZ Country Leader  
Andrew Harding – Programmes Advisor

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him.

Nahum 1:7



## Papua New Guinea

The Leprosy Mission team in Papua New Guinea (TLM PNG) supports the Government's leprosy programme to ensure people affected by leprosy are detected and treated with accessible leprosy treatment.

TLM PNG currently has two major projects: the PNG Negotiated Partnership's Preventative Health and Community Empowerment (PHACE) programme in the National Capital District, Central, Gulf and Western provinces, and the Farming for the Future – Mud Crab Farming project in Kairuku-Hiri District. Other projects are regularly being developed and we pray that these will be supported, so that a variety of work can continue.

## Bougainville

TLM New Zealand works in partnership with the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the NZ Aid Programme to implement the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP).

Covering 95 percent of Bougainville's population, this exemplary preventative health model improves health, hygiene, and governance practices in a community-based and owned programme. The Leprosy Coordinator ensures a continued focus on detecting, diagnosing, and treating leprosy, despite challenging terrain and limited health infrastructure.

Top: The Papua New Guinea team.

## PRAYER POINTS

### Bougainville

**MON:** The team in Bougainville develop preventative health and governance curriculums and deliver training to village health volunteers and community leaders. Pray for God's wisdom for those who develop the curriculum and for the trainers, so the training can be tailored to the needs of the communities.

**TUE:** The pandemic has posed challenges for our work. Pray for God's protection and guidance for the team in Bougainville and that communities will be equipped to manage any future waves of Covid.

**WED:** BHCP works closely with the government. In 2022, there was high staff turnover in key government positions. Please pray that the newly appointed government staff develop effective working relationships with BHCP.

### PNG

**THU:** Please pray for our senior leadership team, that God will continue to lead them as they provide ongoing support, mentorship and strategic direction to the team.

**FRI:** Please thank God for the PHACE programme. The programme is taking place in the National Capital District, Central, Gulf and Western provinces. Pray for the Community Development Facilitators and Community Health Volunteers who work tirelessly in these provinces to advocate for health at all governance levels.

**SAT/SUN:** Please pray for the Mud Crab Farming Project. This project is working in three communities in the Kairuku-Hiri District. Pray for the women farmers, as they develop skills and confidence in their farms and businesses

### SENIOR STAFF

#### PNG

Natalie Smith - Country Leader  
Dorothy Owen - Human Resources, Admin & Logistics

#### Bougainville

Janice Badui – Senior Trainer  
Neil Toura – HR and Administration Manager  
John Koi – Monitoring and Training Manager  
Jasleen Kler – TLMNZ Programme Manager

*Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

Romans 12:2



As an enabler of TLM India's work, the Advocacy & Communications team works in tandem with the organisational goals, especially achieving zero disease, zero disability and zero discrimination.

The team partners with other units and projects within The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI) as well as external stakeholders, to develop and implement Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns. These campaigns build awareness of leprosy in endemic areas and among underserved communities.

The team works with national and local governments to push for the repealing of laws that discriminate on the grounds of leprosy. We raise awareness among duty bearers and the general community about how stigma and discrimination create barriers in achieving a leprosy-free India.

The team represents TLMTI in domestic and international events and contributes thought leadership to conversations and literature on leprosy and other disabilities. It also hosts training programmes on social aspects of leprosy for individuals and organisations, so that we can create an enabling environment for persons affected by leprosy.

**Top:** The team collaborates with partner organisations to inform communities about the social and legal aspects of leprosy.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for God's guidance as the team embarks upon new partnerships that will mainstream conversations around leprosy.

**TUE:** Pray for His wisdom and strength as the team continues to involve the general community and persons affected by leprosy in countering negative attitudes towards the disease.

**WED:** Pray that we effectively develop IEC campaigns to support leprosy-endemic communities in early reporting and diagnosis.

**THU:** Pray for the Lord's blessings to strengthen advocacy efforts as we work to bring about inclusive policies.

**FRI:** Pray that TLMTI can work closely with the government and other partners as we seek to repeal discriminatory laws that deprive people affected by leprosy of their rights.

**SAT:** Pray that TLMTI can provide necessary support to TLM International and TLM's Global Fellowship as we further the work towards zero leprosy.

**SUN:** Pray that the team can provide people affected by leprosy with opportunities and platforms at the state, national and global levels for highlighting and taking up issues affecting their inclusion in society.

## SENIOR STAFF

Nikita Sarah, Head – Advocacy & Communications



TLM Hungary has been supporting people affected by leprosy since 1974, and is the only country in the Eastern region of Europe which does so. This work is made possible by the generosity of individuals and churches.

Because prayer for people affected by leprosy is so important, the ASK Prayer Diary has been translated by a group of mainly young volunteers into Hungary's national language for the 15th time. TLM's Bridge Devotional is also sent out monthly to each local church to help engage English-speaking pastors and churchgoers in the vision and values of an overseas Christian mission.

Our fundraising focus comprises of regular newsletters to individual and church supporters, appeals in printed and online Christian and secular media, banner campaigns, social media activities, adverts, campaigns, leaflet inserts, and presentations.

Volunteers play an important role countrywide as church contacts, translators and advisors; providing online marketing, database, and administrative support; and helping with manual tasks, such as mailing our newsletters. Young students are an ongoing support in these tasks.

**Top:** Pocket money donations given by school children in Hungary after they heard a presentation on leprosy.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Join us in giving thanks for God's faithfulness and care for TLM Hungary, which has been demonstrated across 49 years! We give thanks for our beginnings in hard historical times, and that, amidst all the changes we have seen, the Lord's call and love has not faded.

**TUE:** Give thanks with us for those Hungarian supporters, volunteers, pastors, and churches who see the needs around leprosy and have remained consistent in their engagement, despite the instability of recent times.

**WED:** Give thanks with us for the fraternal and regular contact with our partners in Bangladesh, DR Congo, India and Myanmar. Praise God for what we have learnt from each other and for complementing each other in serving people affected by leprosy.

**THU:** Pray with us for the well-proven ongoing fundraising activities and for new doors to be opened towards new areas, ideas, partners and donors.

**FRI:** Pray for the operational team: the contractors and volunteers and their continuing love and sensitivity towards people affected by leprosy in all they are doing.

**SAT:** Pray for the Chair and the members of the Board. Pray for wisdom, love and patience in all their operations.

**SUN:** Pray for the Country Leader and her team as they seek to serve the cause of people affected by leprosy.

## SENIOR TEAM

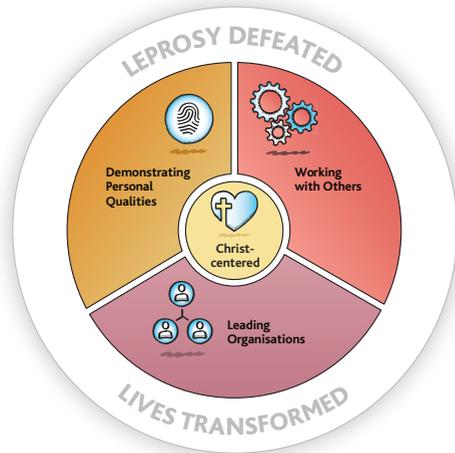
Marta Risko – Country Leader  
László Bódis – Board Chair

# TLM'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

17-23 JUL

*"Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant."*

Matthew 20:26



TLM's Leadership Development Programme (LDP) is a one-year programme that aims to see a strong, Christ-centred, coherent and interdependent Global Fellowship (see P.9). Through the LDP, our leaders are equipped to achieve the TLM vision through thriving leadership.

The LDP has run since 2017 and although the new intake of participants was partially delayed due to Covid, the programme has maintained its impact through "LDP Communities Together" remote sessions.

Each year, the LDP welcomes new leaders to go through the programme, which consists of opening and concluding workshops and a number of periodic assignments over the course of the year that support or explore key topics along with coaching and mentoring.

The LDP wants to influence the creation of a culture that makes the most of our people assets, where all can contribute their best. The LDP challenges its participants to learn, change where necessary, grow, and be the best leaders God intended them to be.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for the intake of LDP4 participants (the fourth intake) that are undergoing the LDP programme in 2022-2023.

**TUE:** Pray for Servant Leadership to be the way all leaders at TLM exercise their influence.

**WED:** Pray for the alumni, who have already been through the LDP, that they all continue their development and thrive in their roles, serving people affected by leprosy.

**THU:** Pray for all Christian leaders to remain strong and steadfast as they bring God's love and voice to those who need it, especially when they are faced with trials.

**FRI:** Pray for the facilitators and leaders of the LDP programme, those leading this year and those who left a legacy in the past. Give thanks for everything they have done and pray for wisdom in 2023.

**SAT:** Pray for continued funding to invest in leadership at all levels and for the Leadership Development Programme for All (LDPA), that will make the LDP curriculum accessible to all levels of staff in TLM.

**SUN:** Praise God for how much has been accomplished through the LDP programme to transform and develop leaders at TLM and for the benefits that we have already seen in action since 2017.

# BANGLADESH – LEPROSY CONTROL AND RESEARCH

24-30 JUL



## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for good health, motivation, and safety for field staff who work in community and government health centres.

**TUE:** Pray for the government health department, who are leading on the new Leprosy Strategy and Zero Leprosy 2030 initiative. Please pray the government will take more ownership of new case finding, complication management, and tertiary care.

**WED:** PROYASH (which translates as 'ambition') is a project focused on strengthening government health systems in 12 districts and is now into its fourth phase. Pray for transformation of the health services and staff attitudes towards leprosy.

**THU:** As in many other countries, leprosy expertise is declining in Bangladesh. Pray for TLMIB to manage its own gaps, as well as work with the government to ensure that the right expertise is available in health clinics and hospitals across the country.

**FRI:** PEP++ is a new research project that aims to prevent the development of leprosy. Please pray for our new PEP++ research manager and the whole team, as they adopt the research methodology and overcome challenges.

**SAT:** Pray for 'SCORE Bangladesh', which is a project designed to conduct local research and strengthen research capacity within TLMIB. Pray that TLMIB will continue to deliver excellent leprosy research through all our projects across Bangladesh.

**SUN:** DBLM Hospital continues to deliver excellent clinical care to patients with leprosy complications like reactions and ulcers. In addition, it is involved in research, such as the ENLIST Methotrexate and Prednisolone study, which is seeking a new treatment for leprosy reaction with fewer side effects.

The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh's (TLMIB) leprosy control projects contribute to achieving zero leprosy by raising awareness in communities, actively searching for leprosy cases, preventing disabilities, and helping patients to manage leprosy complications.

TLMIB detects around 55 percent of all new leprosy cases in Bangladesh each year. We also work hard to strengthen the government health systems and improve referrals and leprosy knowledge among non-leprosy NGO partners.

Our DBLM Hospital in Nilphamari is a 110-bed referral hospital that provides holistic services for leprosy complications. We also engage in supporting and advocating for leprosy complication management in state-run hospitals, medical colleges, and NGO hospitals.

TLMIB strives to be a research organisation that facilitates leprosy research across all our projects. The PEP++ project is one of our new research initiatives. We already know that if contacts of newly diagnosed cases of leprosy take an antibiotic called rifampicin, it reduces the risk of them developing leprosy by 57 percent. PEP++ is adding a second antibiotic, Clarithromycin, to reduce the risk by 80-90 percent.

## SENIOR STAFF

### Senior Research staff

Dr Abu Sufian Chowdhury - Research Coordinator, TLM Bangladesh  
 Dr Rishad Choudhury Robin - Senior Research Technical Lead, SCORE  
 Dr Abhijit Saha - Research Manager, PEP++  
 Dr Shamsun Nahaer Moni - Principal Investigator, ENLIST MaPs  
 Md. Khorshed Alam - Project Manager, INDIGO project

### Senior LCP staff

Mr. George Biswas - Project Manager, Proyash and MEPD  
 Mr. Parach Chakma - Project Manager, Chattogram Hill Tracts Leprosy Control and Rehabilitation Project (CHTP)  
 Mr. Sultan Md. Elias - Project Manager, Chattogram Leprosy Management Project (CLMP)

Top: Diagnosing a leprosy case at one of our clinics.

# Change makers

When I was asked to write a devotion, the following story from Luke 5:17-20 spontaneously came to my mind: A few men want to bring a paralysed man to Jesus. But there is no way through, no one makes room. Without further ado, they climb onto the roof with the paralysed man, break it open and lower the man with the bed directly in front of Jesus. When Jesus sees their faith, he promises him forgiveness and - after the Pharisees grumble - he heals the man. The man gets up and goes home, his heart full of gratitude and praise.

I notice that nothing else is said about the men. Nor does it say whether they were friends. And depending on the focus of the evangelist, they are barely mentioned, these men.

I love this story. I love this devotion and the visible faith of these men who want to bring the paralysed man to Jesus because they are convinced in their deepest hearts that he will give him healing. They demand and ask nothing for themselves. But their faith and their deed saves his soul, heals his body.

I am convinced that their hearts were at least as full of thanksgiving and joy as that heart of the paralysed man - and because they believed, Jesus already had his place in their hearts.

I would like to dedicate this story to all the women and men of the worldwide TLM Family. Those staff, volunteers, donors, and other supporters who work in the background. They sometimes do not appear in a big way, are not in the focus, do not produce any "wows", never come into the limelight, and do not achieve any monetary successes. They make their contribution in their place: those who do the "small" work, but who with all their heart also carry and help - sometimes under the most difficult conditions - with the goal of getting a step closer to a world without leprosy.

Jesus knew that without the men, the paralysed man would have no chance. But their faith, commitment and creativity changed the whole world of the paralysed man.

Let us try to look around us with attentive eyes and hearts, at the workplace, in our churches, or in the field; I am convinced we will see and perceive many, many people anew - they too are changemakers like these unknown men in Capernaum.

**Esther Kuny**  
*Finance Officer, The Leprosy Mission Switzerland*



## NETHERLANDS

31 JUL–6 AUG

*He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
He determines the number of the stars  
and calls them each by name.  
Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.*

Psalms 147:3-5



The Leprosy Mission Netherlands (Leprazending Nederland) was founded in the 1980s to support The Leprosy Mission International with funds, prayer and human resources. The office is in Apeldoorn and there are twelve members of staff, six Board members, twelve volunteers, and a number of ambassadors. TLM Netherlands also supports a Dutch cross-cultural worker: Geeske Zijp in Chad.

TLM Netherlands' vision is to see leprosy and rehabilitation services strengthened and to enable transformation in the lives of people affected by leprosy in India, Bangladesh, DR Congo, Myanmar, Nepal and Chad. In order to make that possible, TLM Netherlands seeks support from individual donors, churches and trust funds, and organises events to get people involved with the vision and mission of TLM.

Top: TLM Netherlands Country Leader, Henno Couprie.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** We thank God for our wonderful volunteers. They are vital to our mission and we give thanks to God for their commitment.

**TUE:** We thank God for our loyal supporters, that they are motivated to join the mission to eradicate leprosy and serve people who have experienced leprosy. We pray for God's blessing over them, as well as those we support.

**WED:** Please pray for the wellbeing and safety of Geeske Zijp and her team in Chad, as they continue their work with people affected by leprosy.

**THU:** Please pray for continual inspiration and guidance for our staff as they go about their work to raise money for, and awareness of, leprosy in the world today. Pray that we may find and explore new ways to engage churches and businesses in our work.

**FRI:** We thank God for our Board, and we thank God that we have found new, willing and capable Board Members. Please pray for wisdom as they fulfil their role.

**SAT:** We are thankful for the work we do, and feel blessed that God has given us this task. Please praise God with us for His unending faithfulness.

**SUN:** Please pray with us that we will continue to find joy and balance in the tasks set before us. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work through us.

### SENIOR STAFF

Mr. Henno Couprie - TLM Country Leader  
Mr. Cor van Leeuwen - Team Leader, Administration & Back Office  
Mrs. Heidi Hoogvliet - Team Leader, Partners, Programmes & Project Funding  
Mr. Mark van den Berg - Team Leader, Fundraising & Communication  
Mr. Arnoud de Jong - Chair of Trustees

## MYANMAR

7–13 AUG

*We act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.*

Micah 6:8



TLM Myanmar works to achieve zero leprosy transmission and ensure people with disabilities and/or leprosy can participate in and influence Myanmar's society. Work takes place in Yangon, Taungoo, Mandalay, Sittwe, and Pakokku. Our leprosy activities are possible through strong partnerships with people across Myanmar.

We aim to improve leprosy knowledge and capacity and increase early case detection. We provide inclusion training, empower people to advocate for themselves, and reduce barriers in society. We provide assistive devices that are difficult to find within the local healthcare system, coordinate with different donors and stakeholders, and improve referral mechanisms to specialist hospitals.

TLM Myanmar partners with the Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital to deliver quality medical care and rehabilitation services. We also partner with the Christian Leprosy Mission Eastern Shan and churches so that we can reach remote regions and the people affected by leprosy who live there.

### SENIOR STAFF

Dr Zaw Moe Aung – TLM Country Leader  
Ms Naw Tin Tin Mar – Head of Programmes  
Ms Kalayar Tun – Finance Manager  
Ms Naw Say Say Phaw – Human Resource Manager  
Dr Hla Hla Aye – TLM Myanmar Board Chair

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for the political situation in Myanmar. Pray for the release of political prisoners and an end to the conflict. Pray that Internally Displaced persons can return to their homes to live peacefully. Pray for a better nation, for order, justice, and peace.

**TUE:** Pray for TLM Myanmar Staff as they commit to serving the community. Please pray for the safety of the team while they provide services in hard-to-reach areas. Pray that they will be protected from violence and harm, amidst the political instability.

**WED:** Pray for our partners at Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital and the Christian Leprosy Mission Eastern Shan. Praise God for those teams and ask God to bless them and their work.

**THU:** During the last quarter of 2023, TLM Myanmar is expecting to open the new dormitory for service users in Taungoo. Pray for the successful completion of the building and the opening ceremony. Pray that we will have enough staff and volunteers to run the centre and to serve more people.

**FRI:** TLM Myanmar has been working with 60 churches, supporting volunteers and congregation members to reach out to local communities so that they can provide support and services to persons affected by leprosy and persons with disability. Please pray for the strength and wisdom needed for these churches, so that they can serve their communities well in the midst of political turmoil.

**SAT:** Pray for our Board Members and our Senior Leadership Team as they govern and serve TLM Myanmar. Pray for wisdom from God.

**SUN:** Please pray for MAPAL, the Myanmar Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy. Pray for the association to become stronger. Pray that they will be a blessing to their communities.

Top: The TLM Myanmar team.

*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19



The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI) conducts institution-based and community-based vocational education programmes to equip individuals affected by leprosy with work skills. Six vocational training centres (VTCs) enrol students from households affected by leprosy and other disabilities and marginalised communities. Along with job-oriented technical skills, TLMTI's VTCs provide holistic development of students through life skills, leprosy-disability prevention, and management programmes.

Besides providing residential training facilities to help students learn and grow in an enabling environment, each VTC supports its students in getting job placements. All TLMTI's VTCs have strong alumni associations. Through this, the VTCs maintain regular contact with their graduates even after they are employed and support them to grow professionally. The VTCs also advocate for inclusive employment in fair labour conditions.

**Top:** Besides training, the VTCs facilitate student-alumni interactions as a way of building relevant networks in the job market.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for more industries to come forward to collaborate with TLMTI VTCs in in-plant practical training, job placement of graduates, and capacity building of instructors.

**TUE:** Pray that students develop their personality and career with TLM so they can live dignified lives and make a difference in their own communities.

**WED:** Pray for the good health and prosperity of existing partners of the VTCs as they support us in providing placements, admission, training, and staff capacity building. Pray that more such partners join hands.

**THU:** Pray for growth of the alumni associations of the VTCs and that the alumni may support each other.

**FRI:** Pray that the VTCs can raise awareness about the right to employment and potential of people affected by leprosy among potential employers.

**SAT:** Pray that the VTCs can develop robust business plans that facilitate programmatic and financial sustainability. Pray also that these business plans are realised.

**SUN:** Pray for God's protection, guidance and wisdom for the staff that are working in the VTCs. May they work with love and compassion, supporting the training and placement of students admitted at the VTCs.

### SENIOR STAFF

Tina Mendis – Head of Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Empowerment

# Tin San's story



Tin is a carpentry businessman from Myanmar who is married with seven children. He is well known in his community. While working in the forest, he injured his leg, which later developed into an ulcer. Tin is the main provider in the family, so he avoided getting treatment because he did not want to leave his family.

But his ulcer gradually got worse and worse. He even attempted to cut off the ulcer with his knife. He went to the general hospital but they could not help him. Eventually, he was diagnosed with leprosy.

Luckily, a friend of Tin's wife recommended Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Mission Hospital. After Tin received medical care from MCLM, he felt so much better physically and he was not desperate and afraid of leprosy anymore.

*TLM helped Tin and other patients form a supportive group where they can share experiences and help the wider community understand leprosy, rather than fear it.*

Due to his long stay in the hospital, Tin's business was not running as well as he expected and some of his staff left because they had negative misconceptions about leprosy. But Tin was positive and hopeful for his life. He was grateful for the help and care from TLM, and he was proud of himself for being able to overcome all these challenges. With support from TLM, Tin also met other people suffering from leprosy in his community. TLM helped Tin and other patients form a supportive group where they can share experiences and help the wider community understand leprosy, rather than fear it.

## SUDAN

21–27 AUG

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

Romans 8:35



TLM Sudan has two main clinics in Khartoum state where we treat people affected by leprosy who are referred from other dermatologists and hospitals. As TLM Sudan is a leprosy specialist clinic, we also welcome many people with different skin diseases, who are referred to our clinics for diagnosis.

We see patients who are being diagnosed with leprosy for the first time and need to receive treatment, as well as patients who require follow-up for reactions, wounds, and other leprosy complications. Sadly, there are a lot of patients who struggle to access healthcare elsewhere because of the stigma surrounding leprosy, and they are referred to our clinics instead.

Many doctors in Sudan are not aware of leprosy and other Neglected Tropical Diseases, so we also offer training to doctors who can come and see leprosy care first-hand. We also host a dermatology clinic every Thursday.

**Top:** John and Seela from the TLM Sudan team.  
© Ala Kheir

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for our regular meetings with the TLM International Office in London, that God will make reliable internet connections available for these important meetings.

**TUE:** Pray for an accountant who can help us with our financial reporting, which is an important area of work that we are struggling with at the moment.

**WED:** Pray for the small team of TLM Sudan, that God can give us wisdom when we deal with partners like the Ministry of Health, and the Humanitarian Affairs Commission.

**THU:** Pray that God can stop the bloodshed in Sudan.

**FRI:** Pray for the patients who are not able to access our clinics because of road blocks and financial issues.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for the safety of our teams and their families and that we can continue to attend church safely.

### SENIOR STAFF

Seela Kaju Shaluka - Aburoff Clinic Manager  
John Kuku - Supervisor and TLM Logistics Officer

## FRANCE

28 AUG–3 SEP

*Love never ceases to be patient, never ceases to believe, never ceases to hope, and perseveres against all odds.*

1 Corinthians 13:7



The TLM France team works to raise awareness of and funds for the cause of people affected by leprosy. We inform and mobilise the French public so that together we can contribute effectively to the eradication of leprosy.

Our team is made up of two permanent part-timers and a few volunteers who mainly take care of optimising our communication channels, in particular our website ([missionlepre.org](http://missionlepre.org)) and social networks.

Gradually, we are starting to return to churches and exhibitions to showcase TLM's work, raise awareness, and thus raise more funds.

The Christian public is particularly important because, more than any other, churches and Christians have a sensitivity that naturally leads them to walk alongside people affected by leprosy.

**Top:** Germaine and Pascal from TLM France attending a national Christian exhibition in Paris.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** France needs calm and wisdom after the presidential elections in 2022 left a much-divided National Assembly. Please pray for that with us.

**TUE:** We are grateful to the loyal donors who support TLM in France. Many of our existing supporters are older and we give thanks for their long commitment and pray for a revival amongst young French people.

**WED:** Pray that younger generations will take an interest in the work of TLM and help us spread the message on behalf of people affected by leprosy.

**THU:** We are grateful for the good collaboration between TLM teams in France, Belgium and Sweden. Please pray that this partnership will strengthen each of us.

**FRI:** Pray that staff, Board members and volunteers of TLM France may visit churches to present the work of TLM. Pray that these visits will be successful and attract new supporters.

**SAT/SUN:** Please pray for us as we return to events across France to present the work of TLM. This work was paused during the pandemic and we pray for safety and success as we resume.

### SENIOR TEAM

President - Théo Reiss  
Director - Pascal Machefer  
Secretary - Carine Fotso

*“Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.”*

Jeremiah 17:14



The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI) — through 15 hospitals in nine states — provides specialised leprosy care and allied services, including dermatology, ophthalmology, general medicine, obstetrics, and gynaecology. Last year, most of these hospitals underwent different levels of upgrades, both in terms of facilities and services offered. The hospitals also provide advanced disability management services through a range of orthotic, prosthetic, and surgical interventions.

Predominantly located in leprosy-endemic regions, these tertiary care hospitals connect with people in hard-to-reach areas through outreach camps, focussing primarily on early screening and disability assessment. The healthcare team of TLMTI continues to bridge the demand-supply gap in quality healthcare in remote parts of India. With the Lord’s wisdom and guidance, TLMTI will continue to reach out to people in need of leprosy and non-leprosy care.

**Top:** Patients undergo pre-operative and post-operative physiotherapy to ensure successful restoration of clawed hands.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** We praise the Lord for the sacrificial work that our team does in our hospitals. Pray that we will continue to keep our focus on people affected by leprosy through our faith, dedication, and commitment.

**TUE:** With medical costs rising in India, pray that God will continue to provide the resources needed to continue all our programmes, especially for the communities we serve that cannot pay for services.

**WED:** Our 15 hospitals need leprosy expertise, surgeons, dermatologists, and physicians. Let us pray that God will provide the needed professionals.

**THU:** Pray for safety and good health of our staff in all the hospitals. The pandemic has been a huge challenge for hospital staff who have been exposed to Covid while they served on the front lines.

**FRI:** Unit leaders have a great responsibility in implementing programmes, handling administrative roles, and addressing various needs of the organisation. They also have many challenges to meet, including various old and new statutory compliance issues. Pray for wisdom and God’s guidance in all these.

**SAT:** Pray that we can enhance the skills of our staff so that the patient care journey in our hospitals gets even better.

**SUN:** May the Lord’s wisdom be upon the heads of the units as they embark upon increasing the visibility of the units and expanding their services.

## SENIOR STAFF

Dr Famkima Darlong - Head of Healthcare



The Leprosy Mission has been supported by churches across the world since its inception in 1874. Without the support of these churches, a world without leprosy would be much further away.

This support takes a variety of forms. Some churches show their support by raising funds for the work to defeat leprosy. Other churches create an inclusive space for persons affected by leprosy in communities where there is a lot of stigma. Some churches offer services for persons affected by leprosy, such as sign posting or even basic physiotherapy support.

Wherever the church is, whatever support they offer, they are part of a global network of God’s people whose commitment is invaluable and so gratefully received.

**Top:** Pastor Fofolo has been working with TLM in DR Congo since 2011 to help identify new cases of leprosy and support persons affected by the disease.  
© Tom Bradley

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the churches that are a part of the work to defeat leprosy. What a testimony they are of the love and passion that God has for all His children.

**TUE:** Please pray for the TLM teams that maintain our relationships with churches. May God guide their work as they seek to bless the churches that bless persons affected by leprosy.

**WED:** Pray with us for more churches to join the work to end leprosy. May TLM’s church resources inspire more and more churches to commit to a world without leprosy.

**THU:** In some communities across the world, leprosy is still surrounded by a great deal of stigma. Give thanks for the churches that stand by persons affected by leprosy, even when this can come at a cost. They are following Christ’s example.

**FRI:** Give thanks that the Bible tells stories of compassion, dignity, and healing for persons affected by leprosy and that Christians all over the world hear these stories. Without these stories and the action they have inspired throughout history, a world without leprosy would likely be a very distant reality.

**SAT:** Please pray for church leaders, many of whom receive requests for support from a great number of charities every year. May God guide their decision making in ways that will bless their congregations and the charities that benefit from their support.

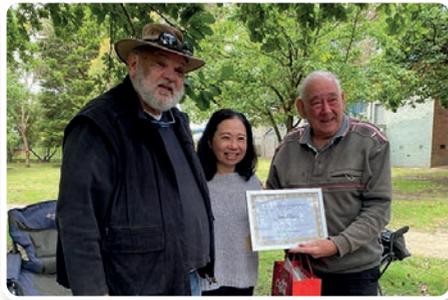
**SUN:** Please give thanks that every Sunday there will be churches across the world who talk about leprosy and pray for those affected. What power there is in that!

# AUSTRALIA

18–24 SEP

*Don't let love and truth ever leave you. Tie them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will find favour and a good name in the eyes of God and people. Trust in The Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey Him. Then He will make your paths smooth and straight.*

Proverbs 3:3-6



The Leprosy Mission Australia is now 110 years old. Over that time so much has been achieved by and for those affected by leprosy. Supporting all this work have been our compassionate supporters, donors, volunteers, churches, and staff. Their faithfulness in seeking to live out Jesus' prayer that God's "will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven" is inspiring!

Today The Leprosy Mission Australia supports projects as far away from Australia's shores as Nigeria and as close as Timor-Leste, partnering with organisations and community groups to bring about lasting change. Our catchcry of leprosy defeated, lives transformed continues to drive the prayers and efforts of all who are involved in fundraising, advocacy and prayer around the country.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** God's faithfulness inspired more Australian supporters to give last year than ever before, even with the effects of Covid. Praise God that our supporters continue to be inspired to show their kindness to those impacted by leprosy and disability.

**TUE:** Each year, supporters hold a 'Cuppa for a Cure' event to help free people affected by leprosy from the devastation of disability, isolation, poverty and rejection. Pray that these events will raise awareness, funds, and encourage new supporters.

**WED:** Each Wednesday, while many of the staff are in the office, each team in turn leads us in a time of devotion and prayer. Pray that these times will be a blessing to all present and impact the way in which we go about our roles and responsibilities.

**THU:** We are thankful for partnerships with other leprosy organisations: Yayasan NLR Indonesia and Nepal Leprosy Fellowship. Pray that these partnerships will flourish and continue to bring about positive outcomes for the communities in which our projects work.

**FRI:** Our Board continues to bring a broad range of expertise and compassion to their roles. Pray for this group as they help guide TLMA in this season.

**SAT/SUN:** Please pray that, as more churches seek to build and re-build community following the impact of Covid, their hearts and actions will also reach out to include people affected by leprosy.

## SENIOR STAFF

Sheldon Rankin – Chief Executive Officer  
Geraldine Toh – Chief Financial Officer  
Andrew Newmarch – International Programmes Manager  
Paul Andrews – Fundraising and Communications Manager  
Supa Thejan – Social Enterprise Manager  
Tina Mitchell – Customer Service Manager  
Nerida Collard – Operations & HR Manager

**Top:** Volunteer John Baker receiving a certificate of appreciation from Sheldon and Geraldine.

# CHAD

25 SEP–1 OCT



TLM Chad serves persons affected by leprosy within the Guéra and Salamat provinces of Chad, which are in the centre and southeast of the country.

We have recently strengthened our partnership with our ILEP partner, FRF, which has opened new opportunities for technical support in the country. This support has been particularly directed towards the east of the country, where leprosy is a major problem.

Because of this increased partnership between TLM, FRF, the WHO and the Chad Government's National Leprosy Control Programme, many new leprosy patients were identified and put on MDT treatment in 2022.

TLM Chad is committed to integrating persons affected by leprosy within the wider disability sector in Chad, and so we also support people who have been affected by other disabilities such as visual, hearing, and mental health.

Mobility aids are provided for persons with problems walking, mobile eye clinics for cataract surgery are being organised in remote places, inclusive blind and sign education is being initiated, and we are providing support to families of persons with mental health problems.

## TLM CHAD TEAM

Bunmi Oluloto – Country Leader  
Geeske Zijp – Programme Manager  
Marc Djibrine Victor – Administrator and Accountant  
Djibrine Arabi – Human Resources  
Abdeljelil Hassane – Driver  
Hissein Dagache – Chair of TLM Chad's Prayer Support Group

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Chad is going through a transition period after the president was killed in battle in 2021. Please pray for a smooth peace process, which will lead towards stability in the country.

**TUE:** TLM Chad has developed a fruitful relationship with our ILEP partner, FRF. Pray that our work together may become a blessing for the Government's National Leprosy Control Programme and all those we work to serve.

**WED:** The National Leprosy Control Programme needs good, enthusiastic, and professional staff in order to properly tackle leprosy control and disability prevention in Chad. Please pray for the right staff in the right posts in order to develop effective and stable work.

**THU:** More leprosy cases are being detected in the Salamat province, where TLM started working in 2020. Pray for the leprosy supervisors and health clinic staff, that they may be enthusiastic about detecting and treating new cases so that we can prevent leprosy-related disabilities.

**FRI:** Disability is often surrounded by stigma. Please pray for our community-based rehabilitation work in the Guéra and Salamat provinces, that this work may contribute to a society that includes children with disability within local communities and gives them the chance to participate like their peers.

**SAT:** TLM Chad is providing special education for children with visual and hearing disabilities in Mongo and Am Timan. Pray for a blessing to be upon these children and that they will have barriers removed from their paths.

**SUN:** Mental health problems are a serious issue that are causing isolation, rejection and poverty. TLM Chad has started a small project to support families with a member that is suffering from mental health challenges in Mongo. Please pray for the success of this project and for Botol, who leads the project and is visually impaired himself.

**Top:** TLM Chad arranged for Oumar to have an operation on his legs that allowed him to walk again.

*In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:6



Misaun Lepra Timor-Leste's goal is to see an improvement in the quality of life of people affected by leprosy and disability and their families. Timor-Leste eliminated leprosy as a public health problem (less than 1 case per 10,000 in the population) in 2011, however, in recent years the new cases have been increasing.

We continue to advocate to the Ministry of Health, telling them that elimination does not mean there is no leprosy in Timor-Leste. We work to find new cases so we can treat people early, we also work to improve the socioeconomic development of people affected by leprosy and promote the inclusion of people with disability in Timor-Leste.

Our projects include the Improved Leprosy Services project, the Preventative Health and Community Empowerment project, and the Empowered Communities of Women and Girls Affected by Leprosy project.

**Top:** The TLM team take a photo with former National Leader, Jose Alexandre Kayrala Xanana Gusmao, at an event inaugurating the new TLM office in TL in 2022.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for our Board Members as they continue their commitment to serve and govern TLM in Timor-Leste.

**TUE:** Pray for God's protection for our Country Leader, Board and team. Pray for their health, safety and their commitment to support persons with disability, persons affected by leprosy, and the general community.

**WED:** Thank God for all our staff and volunteers, who always show commitment towards this work and bring innovative new ideas to the table.

**THU:** Pray for the implementation processes of our three key projects, as they continue their activities. May they bring sustainable solutions for the communities they serve.

**FRI:** Pray for our partnership with the Government, with churches, with disabled peoples' organisations, and all our other major partners. May we work together powerfully to achieve our goals of leprosy defeated and lives transformed.

**SAT:** Give thanks to God for the new association of persons affected by leprosy in Timor-Leste. Pray for their vision and mission to support people affected by leprosy to access early treatment and live without self-stigma.

**SUN:** Pray for the election of the Parliament in Timor-Leste, may God put the right people in the right places in government. May God guide these leaders as they serve their communities.

## SENIOR STAFF

- Board Chair - Dulce da Cunha
- Country Leader - Afliana Lisnahan
- ILS Project Manager - Francisco da Costa
- PHACE Project Manager - Nelson da Silva
- Finance Manager - Joaozina da Conceicao
- HR Manager - Thalia Araujo
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Reflection Coordinator - David Muganga

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.*

2 Corinthians 9:12



## Tanzania

Our partners in Tanzania have three main aims:

1. To reduce the incidence of leprosy in the Dodoma Region and other areas. This is achieved by providing education and increasing awareness about leprosy within the community. The Mobile Clinic and Leprosy screening are also part of this activity.
2. Reduce stigma towards people affected by leprosy. The Community Health and Education Programme team (CHEP) often benefit from the support of a lawyer who conducts Human Rights training for the community.
3. Improve livelihood opportunities for people affected by leprosy, as well as increasing access to water, sanitation facilities, and housing.

## South Korea

The number of new cases of leprosy in Korea has been in sharp decline for a number of years. The average age of a person affected by leprosy is now over 70. TLM Korea is dedicated to caring for, protecting, and providing treatment for older persons who are affected by leprosy, particularly those with leprosy-related disabilities.

## SENIOR STAFF

### Tanzania

- Debora John Michael - CHEP Director
- Estomihni Mwemi - Clinical Officer
- Bethina Chitema - Accountant
- Jemima Kaka - Nurse
- Emmanuel Chibada - Driver

### South Korea

- Ki Hyo Bae - Chairman of TLM Korea

## PRAYER POINTS

### South Korea

**MON:** TLM Korea Jesus Hospital provides care for older people affected by leprosy and disability. More than 400 people receive out-clinic support in leprosy villages around Daegu district. Pray that good relationships will continue.

**TUE:** Pray for the older population of people affected by leprosy in Korea, that they will live in a life of peace and growing faith.

**WED:** Pray for TLM Korea Board members and all TLM Korea staff. Pray that we may deepen and grow our leprosy work through Jesus Hospital and our nursing home.

### Tanzania

**THU:** Let us pray for all CHEP staff and volunteers, that they will continue to have a spirit to serve and help leprosy patients get treatment and reach them at home to provide more health services. Pray that this will prevent new infections and help us to eradicate leprosy completely in Tanzania by 2030.

**FRI:** Let us ask God to maintain solidarity and cooperation between CHEP and the Government through the TB and Leprosy Coordinators so that together we can eradicate leprosy.

**SAT:** Let us pray for our sponsor, TLM, that God will bless them financially so they can continue to give us material and financial support to help leprosy patients and the Tanzanian Dodoma community through the CHEP project.

**SUN:** We are praying for the CHEP programme and its plans in terms of establishing a health science college. This college will be unique in that there will be a lecture course taught in the college on the subject of leprosy and third year students will do rural research on leprosy, which we pray will be very helpful for the work of CHEP.

**Top:** Missionary, Grace Bennett's newly renovated burial place. TLM Korea's employees, including Mr. Allun Cho and new Representative Ki-hyo Bae, visit the cemetery every spring and fall to remember and appreciate the missionary's dedication.

# Venki's story

Venki, a nineteen-year-old second year nursing student, comes from a leprosy colony in Andhra Pradesh, India. Her father had leprosy and HIV/AIDS and died when Venki was six years old. Venki is an only child and her mother is a homemaker and cultivates vegetables for a living.

Victor is the Director of TLM's partner, the Brighter Future Development Trust. He visited Venki's colony where he met Venki's mother and offered a place for Venki to stay and study. She moved into Rainbow Home when she was eight and lived there full-time until she was 16.

The Home offered her a lot of training in computers, office work, public speaking and English language skills. When she became older, she helped the little children in the Home, which made her realise that she is good at taking care of others, and instilled in her a passion for nursing. When Rainbow Home came to know about her interest in nursing, they worked hard to secure her a place in the leading medical college in the State. Venki says very proudly that she got a government seat in the college (merit-based admission).

When TLM's volunteers visited her, she had a beautiful smile and exuded confidence walking with us around her campus. TLM asked her what she thinks of Rainbow Children's Home and how much the Home means to her:

*"My life and my future would have been fully damaged but for Rainbow Home. I*



wouldn't have been able to study. Now I am in a good college, doing a great course. I want to continue helping Rainbow Children's Home. Nursing has a lot of opportunities in India and abroad; so I want to explore those opportunities and earn well. My mother is very happy seeing me achieving these things, but she is lonely at home. So once I have a house, I will take her with me and will help and support her in her old age".

This is what Rainbow does; it gives an opportunity to countless children from families affected by leprosy to be housed in a secure home, get educated, get employment, and lead a dignified life, not marked by stigma and discrimination, but untainted. The Home makes them confident in who they are and their abilities to succeed in life.

*"My life and my future would have been fully damaged but for Rainbow Home. I wouldn't have been able to study. Now I am in a good college, doing a great course."*



*Therefore, brethren, seek from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint to this business, but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.*

Acts 6: 3-4



Belgium is one of the smaller countries in the European Union, with 11.7 million inhabitants, three official languages, and a very small minority (less than 2 % of the population) of Protestants.

Since 2010, TLM Belgium has been run by volunteers alone. TLM Belgium endeavours to make TLM and the issues of leprosy well-known and reach as many Belgians as possible. We ask these individuals to support the activities of TLM by prayer and financial support, especially within this Protestant community, by means of regular publications and presentations in churches and booths at national meetings of Protestant churches.

For publications and fundraising, TLM Belgium relies to a large extent on support from, and partnerships with, TLM's International Office and several other TLM Global Fellowship countries.

In October 2022, TLM Belgium had a thanksgiving service in a church in Brussels to celebrate 50 years TLM in Belgium.

### TLM BELGIUM'S BOARD

- Chair - Francis Van De Walle
- Vice-Chair - Marijke Sajet
- Country Leader - Paulin Songolea Bakalanía
- Treasurer - Renée Simons - Hugaerts
- Secretary - Norbert Ngila Bampunga
- Trustee - Irène Masika Katseselewa
- Trustee - Rev. Tünde Boelens-Csákány

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Let us give thanks and praise God for the many faithful, long-term supporters of TLM Belgium. Let us pray that we may reach new individual supporters and new sacrificial volunteers by making TLM better known through church visits and having booths at national church gatherings.

**TUE:** Let us pray that TLM Belgium may be successful in reaching new individual supporters by using social media platforms, facilitated by the dedication of a new generation of sacrificial volunteers with the appropriate technical skills.

**WED:** Let us give thanks for the faithful support - by regular prayer and amazing generosity - of our many individual supporters and church congregations. By doing so, they contribute to defeating leprosy and transforming the lives of many persons affected by leprosy.

**THU:** Let us praise the Lord and thank Him for the wonderful support that the staff of the TLM International Office provides to TLM Belgium, as well as many other TLM fundraising countries with limited local capacity.

**FRI:** Give thanks for the increase in fundraising partnership between TLM's European countries. May the Lord guide us towards the right initiatives so that we can raise more money for TLM's projects.

**SAT:** Please pray for the persons affected by leprosy who are reached by TLM's many projects, that they may experience God's love for them.

**SUN:** Let us pray and ask for good health for the individual supporters, volunteers and Board members of TLM Belgium, who may be weakened due to health issues or due to old age.

Top: Paulin Songolea Bakalanía, TLM Belgium Country Leader, in dialogue with two leprosy patients in DR Congo.



### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Please pray for TLM International's Board of Trustees and International Director, Brent Morgan, as they work hard to provide leadership to TLM across the world. May God guide their work.

**TUE:** Please pray that the work of the International Office will be guided by God and by the love and compassion that typify God's character.

**WED:** Each year, TLM's International Office runs workshops and conferences to strengthen the work of TLM's teams across the world. These include finance, HR, and programmes workshops, as well as a Fundraising Conference. Please pray for the teams as they plan and deliver this work and pray that it will bless our colleagues in other countries.

**THU:** In 2024, we will be celebrating 150 years of The Leprosy Mission. We want these celebrations to acknowledge the great work that was done by the saints who went before us and to be a launchpad towards our goal of zero leprosy transmission by 2035. The International Office is coordinating the preparations for this and we pray that God will guide our efforts.

**FRI:** TLM's International team is leading on the development of the next global strategy for TLM. This is a big piece of work and will guide everything we do in the years to come. May God grant us wisdom, patience, and understanding.

**SAT:** Please pray for the safety of our teams as they travel to visit TLM offices around the world. May we recognise the blessing that this travel offers and also understand the importance of limiting the harm it does to our planet.

**SUN:** Please pray that the needs of persons affected by leprosy will remain always at the forefront of our minds, even when we are often working far from leprosy endemic countries.

The Leprosy Mission's International Office is based in Brentford, London. With a team of around 20 people, we seek to bless TLM's offices across the world by leading, inspiring, facilitating, and enabling them to defeat leprosy and transform lives.

The International Office provides strategic support in the areas of HR, finance, programmes, monitoring and evaluation, safeguarding, IT, communications, research, fundraising and advocacy.

Although our office is based in Brentford, we have team members across the world, from Singapore to Sweden and Paraguay to Nepal. Despite this distance, the International team meets for half an hour every day to pray together and listen to the Lord.

The International team is governed by TLM's International Board of Trustees, who provide leadership and direction for TLM globally.

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Brent Morgan – International Director
- Clara Volpi – Head of Operations Support
- Jannine Benso – Head of Quality Assurance
- Jo-Anne Thomson – Head of Fundraising Development
- Damaris Villanueva – Head of People
- Gladstone Worthington – Head of Finance

Top: The TLM International Office team celebrate Christmas together in 2021.

*But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31



Stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy can create a disabling environment for them, affecting their socio-economic conditions and their self-esteem. The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI) identifies, counsels, and supports such individuals in becoming skilled and accessing livelihood opportunities. TLMTI, through its 10 community-based rehabilitation projects, focuses on different age groups, genders, and geographies, and customises their interventions, according to local needs.

Besides working towards financial independence, these projects empower communities to become change agents so that they can raise awareness amongst local leaders on leprosy, gender equality, human rights, and inclusion. They build the capacity of Self-Help Groups (SHG), Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, and disaster risk reduction groups.

**Top:** Under a CBR intervention, a community member has been trained to make plates out of areca nut leaves, which provides them with a sustainable livelihood.

PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for an increase in the number of mainstream schools facilitating the education of children affected by leprosy and other disabilities, so that they may learn and grow along with their peers.

**TUE:** Pray for groups of people affected by leprosy, other disabilities, and marginalised populations, that they may continue to address discrimination faced by those affected by leprosy.

**WED:** Pray that individuals affected by leprosy get quick access to government schemes for education, health, social security, and livelihoods. Pray that these schemes will improve their quality of living.

**THU:** Pray that Organisations of People with Disabilities will be enabled to advocate for the rights of individuals affected by leprosy and other disabilities, promoting their active participation in local, regional, and national initiatives and policies for the development and betterment of their members.

**FRI:** Praise God for the 842 champions affected by leprosy who are actively involved in advocating for the rights of people affected by leprosy. Pray that many more individuals affected by leprosy will receive training in this area and champion the cause of leprosy.

**SAT:** Pray that TLM community programmes can address the needs of individuals affected by leprosy and other disabilities in difficult-to-reach places.

**SUN:** Pray for God’s protection, guidance and wisdom for the staff that are working rigorously in the field to implement community empowerment programmes. Please also pray for the communities with whom they are working.

SENIOR STAFF

Tina Mendis - Head of Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Empowerment

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11



The Leprosy Mission England and Wales family is spread far and wide across the country, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Our focus is fundraising and providing technical expertise to ensure effective implementation of high-quality programmes overseas. Our faithful supporters help provide leprosy and disability services across ten countries in Africa and Asia.

Christ is at the centre of everything we do. Each morning we join together in devotions and prayer, asking our gracious God to help guide us in our work and conversations. We also bring to Him prayer requests from the wider family of supporters, volunteers and overseas colleagues.

SENIOR TEAM

Peter Waddup - CEO  
 Sian Arulanantham - Head of Programmes and Research  
 Arminda O’Reilly - Head of Human Resources  
 Louise Timmins - Head of Fundraising and Communications  
 Andy Lancaster - Chair of Trustees

PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the Programme Officers, who build partnerships with colleagues worldwide to develop and run projects. Pray for humility and patience when liaising with colleagues during challenging circumstances. We pray these conversations build strong relationships founded on trust and empathy.

**TUE:** Technology plays a vital role in keeping us connected with our supporters and managing funds raised. Pray for wisdom and inspiration for the data team as they increase technical knowledge and system capacity to better support our colleagues and supporters.

**WED:** Pray for the fundraising team as they continually find new ways to connect supporters to people affected by leprosy. Pray God will bless them with creativity and inspiration, helping them bring to life the stories of courage and resilience of the people we serve.

**THU:** Grants and Match Funding play a vital role in creating and running projects to tackle the many challenges affecting people affected by leprosy. Pray for the ongoing relationships with the UK Government and other institutions. Pray they will join us in projects that aim to see an end to leprosy and transform lives.

**FRI:** Community Partnerships Managers engage with supporters across the country. Give thanks for the opportunities God creates for them to speak to church congregations and small groups, spreading awareness of leprosy. Pray our Lord will keep them safe as they travel to build these vital connections.

**SAT/SUN:** The compassion and love of our supporters is breath taking. This incredible group of people has shown amazing commitment and resilience, maintaining their promise to support people affected by leprosy. Give thanks for their faithfulness and pray they will feel the love of our Lord.

**Top:** Rebuilding a new research centre at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal is one of the projects supporters in England and Wales help to fund. Photo Credit: Sabrina Dangol.



## International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP)

ILEP is a consortium of international organisations, including The Leprosy Mission, with a shared desire to see a world free from leprosy, and an acknowledgment that none of us can achieve this on our own. Through the programmes of its member associations, ILEP spans more than 60 countries and 1,000 project locations worldwide. Most of the global expertise in leprosy resides in ILEP’s members and their in-country partners.

## GPZL

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL) is a coalition committed to ending leprosy. Our members include individuals and organisations (such as TLM) who share our triple-zero vision of no disease, no disability, and no discrimination or stigma.

### SENIOR STAFF

#### ILEP

President: Brent Morgan  
 CEO: Geoff Warne  
 Administrator: Monty Mukhier

#### GPZL

Leadership Team Chair: Bill Simmons  
 Vice Chair: Takahiro Nanri  
 Secretariat Director: Bill Gallo

## PRAYER POINTS

### GPZL

**MON:** Today we express our gratitude for the leprosy researchers that are asking difficult questions and seeking answers that will help us reach zero leprosy.

**TUE:** We are grateful for our national partners that work within and alongside national leprosy programmes. National staff work diligently and often with limited recognition, but show incredible commitment to ending leprosy in their country for good.

**WED:** We are thankful for people who are advocates for zero leprosy, especially our colleagues that have experienced leprosy, who raise their voices and point the way to a world without leprosy.

### ILEP

**THU:** ILEP members recognise that through collaboration we have a far greater collective impact as we work towards zero leprosy. Collaboration takes time and energy, which may be in scarce supply, so please pray for the practical outworking of collaborative approaches in leprosy-endemic countries.

**FRI:** The ILEP Technical Commission and the ILEP Advisory Panel are groups of people that bring a depth of insight through their technical know-how or through personal experience of leprosy. Pray that the work of both groups will have a powerful effect, extending beyond ILEP into the leprosy world as a whole.

**SAT/SUN:** ILEP’s 14 member associations mark World Leprosy Day (the last Sunday of January), usually around a shared theme. Pray that the messaging for 2024 will resonate with the public in all countries, and bring good publicity for leprosy and for organisations striving towards a world free from leprosy.

**Top:** Fátima is undergoing treatment for leprosy. During GPZL’s country review of Mozambique, Fátima was able to share her experience of seeking and receiving treatment for leprosy with the National Leprosy Programme. GPZL helps to bring together in-country partners to effectively accelerate action toward zero leprosy. People with lived experience help the programme improve leprosy knowledge, skills, and health coverage, propelling the country toward a future without leprosy.

*If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 4:11b



**T**LM Northern Ireland has a small and passionate team of six, who are supported by over 200 volunteers. As we continue to strive to meet the targets of our ambitious 5-year strategy, ‘It’s time to make leprosy a thing of the past’, we seek to amplify the voices of persons affected by leprosy across NI and raise funds to support projects in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Our aims include increasing awareness and funds so that we can play our part in ending leprosy. To do this we seek to develop new relationships with churches, individuals and grant making bodies, ensuring our message is heard in strategic places of influence. We also want to continue to nurture existing relationships with current faithful supporters. Our main area of engagement is through speaking engagements in churches and through fundraising appeals and updates to supporters. We also want to continue to grow and develop our online presence, which peaked significantly during the pandemic.

**Top:** The TLMNI team.

## PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Praise God for the amazing kindness of our supporters. Despite the challenges of recent years, they have continued to be faithful and have not forgotten those affected by leprosy.

**TUE:** Give thanks for the prayers and financial support of local churches. Praise God that speaking engagements are starting to increase and pray these opportunities will be significant; that many will be moved to support those affected by leprosy.

**WED:** Give thanks for the wisdom and Godly leadership of our Board of Trustees through challenging years. Pray for the recruitment of new people to join the Board, that they will be people with a passion to serve those affected by leprosy and who have different skill sets to help govern and support staff, particularly in the area of fundraising.

**THU:** Praise and thank God for the opportunity to receive grant funding from an Irish-based funder over the course of three years. Pray for the work this will enable at Anandaban Hospital, Nepal and pray it will be a blessing to staff and those in need.

**FRI:** Pray for our staff team. As we continue to align ourselves with our new strategy, pray for guidance and wisdom as we now seek new and creative ways to acquire new donors, supporters and streams of income.

**SAT/SUN:** Pray for continued growth in the area of online engagement. Pray for discernment and patience as we put foundations in place for larger online campaigns. Pray this will be an opportunity to reach new audiences who have a passion to see justice for those affected by leprosy and see transformation in their lives.

### THE TLM NORTHERN IRELAND TEAM

Joanne Briggs – TLMNI Country Leader  
 Joy Jamieson – Office & Finance Manager  
 Hazel Coulter – Database Administrator  
 Rebecca Parnell – Church Partnerships Officer  
 Pam Gaston – Programme Funding Officer  
 Stephen McCartney – Communications Officer (Digital)  
 Fiona Davidson – Board Chairperson

## BANGLADESH – COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) AND ADVOCACY

27 NOV–3 DEC



The aim of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Bangladesh is to empower people affected by leprosy, disability and other neglected communities. Our CBR projects work with SHG members so that the groups can run sustainably, so they can advocate on their own behalf, to ensure members access their social and legal rights, and to grow income generation activities.

TLMIB supports 1,491 SHGs in Bangladesh. The SHGs have established smaller, community-based peoples' organisations at sub-district level, which have lots of great experience in claiming their rights through self-advocacy at the local government level. TLMIB provides support to these local groups to help them strengthen their leadership, capacity for financial management, and self-advocacy skills.

We are also working with and supporting ALO, Bangladesh's national organisation of persons affected by leprosy. On top of this, partnership with the media has been a key step towards mainstreaming leprosy within wider society and attracting the attention of policymakers.

**Top:** Mr Abu Bakkar is happy to have received this tricycle thanks to TLMIB support.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray that community group leaders will understand and internalise their role in doing advocacy, leadership and creating sustainability within their groups.

**TUE:** SHGs in two CBR projects in the North Bengal area are now strong enough to run on their own, without TLM support. Please pray that the SHGs continue to grow and contribute to positive change in their communities

**WED:** Thank God with us for the faithful supporters who continued their commitment during the challenges of the pandemic.

**THU:** Due to the effects of the pandemic, SHGs are struggling to recover loans from members, or raise enough income to cover their administrative expenses. Please pray they will not be left behind in the post-Covid recovery.

**FRI:** The Activating and Engaging the Government and People in Partnership (AEP) project aims to activate and engage partner NGOs, leprosy peoples' organisations, and government partners in order to mainstream leprosy. Pray for the partners (such as NGOs and tea gardens), staff and other actors, that they will maintain active involvement in implementing the new phase of this project.

**SAT/SUN:** The 'ACTS Leprosy' project focuses on engaging pastors and church volunteers and members for leprosy service. Fifteen Churches in the tea garden are involved in household visits of persons affected by leprosy, providing mental health support, referring potential cases of leprosy, and supporting advocacy. Please pray for God's guidance as they perform their roles.

### SENIOR STAFF

Mr Surendra Nath Singh - Programme Leader, Community Programme  
 Mr Noel Manna Day - Finance Manager, Community Programme  
 Mr Ambor Chism - Project Manager, NUPIP  
 Mrs Kalpona Kispotta - Project Manager, TLM Nilphamari Training Centre & Hagar  
 Mrs Lovely Probbhati Mrong - Project Manager, Dhaka CBR Project  
 Mrs Masuma Parvin - Project Manager, AEP Project

## THE LEPROSY MISSION AUSTRALIA – SHOP

4-10 DEC

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7



Supporters can express their loving kindness through buying gifts and everyday essentials at TLM Australia's shop. Every season is a reason to be a joyful giver because their compassion changes the lives of people affected by leprosy, disability and poverty.

Products are sourced from around the world, creating a wide but carefully curated range. Fair trade agreements provide artisans affected by leprosy, disability or disadvantage, a dignified income. This enables them to support themselves and their families, and empower whole communities. Committed to the Modern Slavery Act, The Shop protects against any signs of slavery or child labour in the supply chain.

When buying a Gift of Love donation, supporters are improving the living standard of someone with leprosy or disability through our overseas projects. Gifts like protective shoes, scholarships, vocational training, and toilets! A Gift of Love card is a precious keepsake for the supporter or for the friend they've donated the gift on behalf of.

Love truly is the greatest gift! Enjoy Joyful Giving!

**Top:** Social Enterprise Manager, Supa Thejan, meets with project participants Pushpalal and Kabita, in Nepal.

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** The Leprosy Mission Shop sources many products from artisans affected by leprosy and disability. Praise God that these artisans can support themselves and their families through this income. Pray for the health and safety of all artisans. May their families be blessed.

**TUE:** To find new Australian supporters, the Gift Catalogue is inserted into popular magazines and publications. Give thanks for the success of last year's campaign. Please pray all first-time buyers will become regular supporters.

**WED:** Supporter groups and volunteers sell products to their friends and community groups at events and stalls. Give thanks for the contribution they are making to help people affected by leprosy in this way. Please pray they would continue to be successful in their efforts.

**THU:** The Leprosy Mission Shop has positive partnerships with many Australian producers. Give thanks that these partnerships provide support for people affected by leprosy. Please pray these partnerships will continue to be fruitful.

**FRI:** The Leprosy Mission Australia runs a tight shop. Four dedicated and passionate staff run the whole merchandise operation, with a little help from their colleagues and friends. External partners include a warehouse, call centre and mail house. Pray that the work of all these hands will be blessed and be a blessing to people affected by leprosy.

**SAT/SUN:** The Christmas Gift Catalogue is the biggest campaign of the year. Please pray this season would see many new customers engage with the store and be open to learning more! Pray that this catalogue will re-inspire and invigorate past supporters to get involved again. Our Gifts of Love can change the world!

### SENIOR STAFF

Supa Thejan – Social Enterprise Manager  
 Jocelyn Lee – Inventory and Logistics Coordinator  
 Louise Egan – Buyer/Product Developer

## SCOTLAND

11–17 DEC

*Rejoice always and delight in your faith; be unceasing and persistent in prayer; in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



The Leprosy Mission Scotland is a fundraising team that engages with people and churches across Scotland, giving them the opportunity to eradicate leprosy, one person at a time. Through their love and compassion, our supporters will make leprosy a thing of the past.

Every year we are humbled and blessed by the number of people who give financially and who pray to finish what Jesus started.

We raise funds through direct mail appeals, digital campaigns, speaking in churches, home- and church-based events, concerts and sponsored events.

As well as raising funds, we believe in raising prayer support from across the country. We will distribute more than 3,000 copies of ASK this year and send out regular prayer emails to interested supporters.

### SENIOR STAFF

Linda Todd - Chief Executive  
Stuart McAra - Head of Engagement  
Mhairi Dawson - Head of Supporter Care and Volunteer Development  
Oluwasegun Abegunrin - Head of Data Analysis  
Anne Muirden - Chair of Trustees

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Give thanks for the many supporters who give and pray to help people affected by leprosy. Pray that God will bless them for their generosity and care for others around the world.

**TUE:** Give thanks for our volunteer Board members, speakers, church representatives and community fundraisers in Scotland. Pray that God will bless them for all that they do. Pray for new volunteers to step forward in key areas.

**WED:** Give thanks for everyone who has included a gift in their Will to help people affected by leprosy. Pray that God will bless them for their generosity and foresight. Pray that more people would choose to give a gift to help make leprosy a thing of the past after they have gone.

**THU:** Give thanks for everyone who took part in a fundraising event last year, like Kiltwalks or "Cook Up A Curry". Pray that more people would take part in events this year, finding new and different ways to raise support for people affected by leprosy.

**FRI:** Give thanks for those churches that support people affected by leprosy, and TLM, with their gifts and prayers. Pray that we will be able to strengthen our relationship with these churches. Pray for opportunities to engage with more churches and that these churches will choose to take part in finishing what Jesus started.

**SAT:** Give thanks for new staff members who joined our team last year, for the skills and enthusiasm that they bring. Pray that they will help us strengthen our ability to play our part in making leprosy a thing of the past.

**SUN:** Pray that more people from across Scotland will join you in praying regularly for people affected by leprosy, and the work of The Leprosy Mission, using the ASK diary, TLM Scotland's monthly prayer emails and prayer app, PrayerMate.

**Top:** Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, at an exhibition held at the Scottish Parliament.

## NEPAL – ANANDABAN HOSPITAL, LAB, AND TRAINING CENTRE

18–24 DEC

*Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know*

Jeremiah 33:3



Anandaban Hospital, located in southern Lalitpur (on the outskirts of Kathmandu), receives a large number of leprosy referrals from all over Nepal and from over the border in India. Its outpatient department is renowned for quality orthopaedic and dermatology services, which serve the general community of southern Lalitpur and beyond.

The Mycobacterial Research Laboratory is situated in the grounds of the hospital and provides clinical laboratory services, as well as conducting important leprosy research.

TLM Nepal's Training and Technical Support Centre is equipped with a residential training facility. The Centre provides extensive leprosy training and training on other Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD). The Centre builds the capacity of the Nepal Government's health staff, national and international medical students, doctors, and community level volunteers. TLMN also supports the Nepal Government's national leprosy elimination programme through case validation, joint supervision, and monitoring of its programmes.

### SENIOR STAFF

Dr Mahesh Shah, Medical Director  
Dr Pradip Sapkota, Medical Superintendent  
Mr Sher Gurung, Hospital Administrator  
Sr Mahima Bantawa, Nursing Superintendent  
Dr Deanna Hagge, Director, Mycobacterial Research Laboratory  
Mr Rajkumar Paudel, Training Manager, Training and Technical Support

### PRAYER POINTS

**MON:** Pray for the recruitment of qualified staff who can support our new Trauma Centre, so that the people from surrounding areas can easily access these quality services.

**TUE:** Pray for adequate resources for the expansion of our general health services. Pray for our teams as they build the capacity of our staff through training, helping them to gain extra skills to work safely outside their normal specialties.

**WED:** The Mycobacterial Research Laboratories need a new lab building that is safe and fit for purpose; so that patients can be served and research advances can be made that will have a global impact and the potential to change lives. Please pray for God's miraculous provision, for inspired leadership and planning, skilled labourers, and minimal obstacles to make the new facilities a reality at Anandaban.

**THU:** TLM Nepal's training and technical support centre continues to provide support to the Nepal Government by training health workers to diagnose and treat leprosy. Pray for strong coordination with the Government of Nepal and for the sustainability of our training programmes.

**FRI:** Anandaban Hospital provides services to many leprosy patients, some of whom stay at the hospital for a long period of time because of leprosy complications such as wounds and reaction. Please pray for their physical and spiritual healing.

**SAT/SUN:** At Anandaban Hospital, we have around 40 staff who have served at Anandaban for more than 25 years. This year, we will be saying goodbye to some of them. Please give thanks for their long service. Pray that they will be able to enjoy their retirement life.

**Top:** Siru is happy after receiving reconstructive surgery at Anandaban Hospital.

## NORWAY AND SPAIN

25–31 DEC

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

Luke 4:18-19



### Norway

TLM Norway consists of five volunteers, who mainly raise funds for TLM India and TLM Nigeria. TLM Norway is the newest Member of TLM's Global Fellowship, having joined in 2021. TLM Norway was restarted after a 12 year break, and we are glad to be maintaining Norway's legacy of leprosy care, following in the steps of the Norwegian physician, Gerhard Armauer Hansen, who first identified *Mycobacterium leprae*.

Over the last two years, we have had our first, large advertisement, gained our first regular donors, and been able to send out four issues of our new magazine, with help from TLM Sweden, the Nordic Hub Network and TLM International.

### Spain

TLM Spain works to raise money for people affected by leprosy in Nigeria. For years they have engaged with donors and churches, encouraging them to share in their compassion for persons affected by leprosy.

They have no full time staff and work solely through volunteers. Unfortunately, their efforts have been limited during the Covid period, as several of their key volunteers are doctors and have been working hard to support Spain through the crisis. Despite this, their wonderful supporters have continued to donate and show love towards people affected by leprosy.

### PRAYER POINTS

#### Norway

**MON:** Praise God for the start-up of TLM Norway. Pray that He will finish what He has started in helping us to defeat leprosy.

**TUE:** Please pray for more members on the Board, and for active, contributing volunteers who can support the organisation.

**WED:** Please pray that we can fulfil all the criteria needed to apply for funding from the Norwegian government.

#### Spain

**THU:** Please pray for Vivian and Samuel, two of the key Spanish volunteers. Pray for them as they raise their two daughters, support Samuel's father, who has cancer, and make time to volunteer for TLM.

**FRI:** Please pray for Miguel and José, two more key Spanish volunteers. Pray for Miguel as he balances family and ecclesiastical life with his volunteering for TLM. Pray for José as he seeks the word of God for the work of TLM in Spain.

**SAT/SUN:** Give thanks for the companies that continue to collaborate with TLM Spain, making their work possible. Give thanks for the donors who have continued to give throughout the pandemic.

Top: Glenn Larsen, Chair of TLM Norway.

### SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

#### Norway

Glenn Larsen – Chair  
Ester Akinyele – Secretary  
Wenche Larsen – Treasurer

#### Spain

Vivian Calderon

# Lami's story



*With TLM's treatment and support, Lami can finally visit her grandchildren without worry.*

Lami Markus is a widow from Chanchaga village, Nigeria. She has lived without her four children since her first marriage. She did not want her four children to face a life of stigma as a result of her leprosy.

Lami suffered from nerve pain in both feet and repeated ulcers during her first marriage. She sought help from a local, traditional herbalist, but it did not provide relief from her pain.

Because her treatment was so delayed and she did not receive support with ulcer infections, she eventually lost her left leg, and her husband left her while she was looking for treatment.

Finally, she received treatment from TLM's Chanchaga Orthopaedic Workshop, where she met her second husband, too.

Lami suffered from arthritis and high blood pressure in addition to being a single amputee. She had believed leprosy was a curse from God. Sadly, her second husband died and she still misses him every day.

But, with the support of self-help groups and local churches, plus the TLM Community at Chanchaga, she was cleared from her pains. Lami is grateful for the support from her community and TLM; with TLM's treatment and support, she can finally visit her grandchildren without worry.

# Mama Esanga

I remember when I started working with TLM Congo several years ago. I work in the country office in Kinshasa and I would often receive visits from staff who work out in the provinces.

Sometimes I would receive people and pastors from two villages called Baringa and Yoseki, both of which are located in the Equateur Province. When people travelled to the Kinshasa office from these villages they would often bring leprosy reports and correspondence as they could not send them by email from such remote places.

These visitors would talk to me about a lady called 'Mama Esanga'. Esanga in their local language refers to 'an island', which is important for a people who spend much of their time fishing on the river. It means 'the place where people gather, where they are safe, where they find joy and friendship'.

For me, it seemed natural to hear people recognise and have such admiration for a Baringa lady. This woman, Mama Esanga, had earned the admiration of her community by helping people in need.

One day I met with the medical coordinator in charge of the leprosy programme in Baringa and Yoseki and I learnt, much to my surprise, that Mama Esanga's real name is Miss Ida Baarsen, who is a Dutch missionary.

Miss Baarsen was renamed Mama Esanga by the local community. She worked for many

years with leprosy communities in Equateur Province and later in South Kivu.

Her love, her care for people affected by leprosy with a heart of God, her generosity, and her attitude towards the community of Baringa were appreciated and unmatched. That is why the community renamed her in the local language, 'Mama Esanga'. This name has remained to this day and is still known in these parts, even though she has since left DR Congo.

Every person has a purpose when they work in their life. Whatever our goal is, our work must take into account God's satisfaction. Commendable actions - actions that are beautiful in the eyes of God - these cannot be destroyed but will remain no matter how long it takes. "You are a letter from Christ, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of God, for people to read" (2 Corinthians 3:3).

Work by putting the talents you have received to the service of God, help others even in your smallest actions, have the spirit of self-denial and the spirit of sacrifice, put yourself in the place of another, have compassion for your neighbour who has a need, be faithful and humble in doing good to others. Give, care, and provide so that you can show that it *is the Lord Christ whom you serve*.

**Doris Ndombe**

Head of Administration and Logistics for TLM DR Congo

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as if you were working for the Lord and not for a man, for you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*

Colossians 3:23-24

# Sugnathini's story

Sugnathini is from a small, isolated village in Sri Lanka and has two young children. She takes care of her two children while her husband works away as a day labourer. Life can be hard because her husband often only gets ten to fifteen days' work a month. This work does not bring in enough money and he is away from home when he works, leaving her to look after the children on her own.

She never expected she would have leprosy, although some of her relatives had it. But, her body showed signs with patches on her hands and arms that had lost feeling.

TLM's local partner, KKM, and the local government's screening programme detected she had leprosy as soon as she started to show symptoms. At first, she did not know what those patches meant, and her husband got upset with her because he also didn't understand.

Sugnathini told us, "When the doctor says you are a person with leprosy, immediately I thought about my baby. I was so worried about my baby."

Thankfully, TLM's partners told her that she wouldn't pass leprosy to her baby, as long as she continued to take her medicine carefully. Our teams also provided nutrient support to the family, so the children would grow up with a strong immune system.

*"When the doctor says you are a person with leprosy, immediately I thought about my baby. I was so worried about my baby."*

Sugnathini no longer fears leprosy, and her husband is now supportive and provides her with strength.

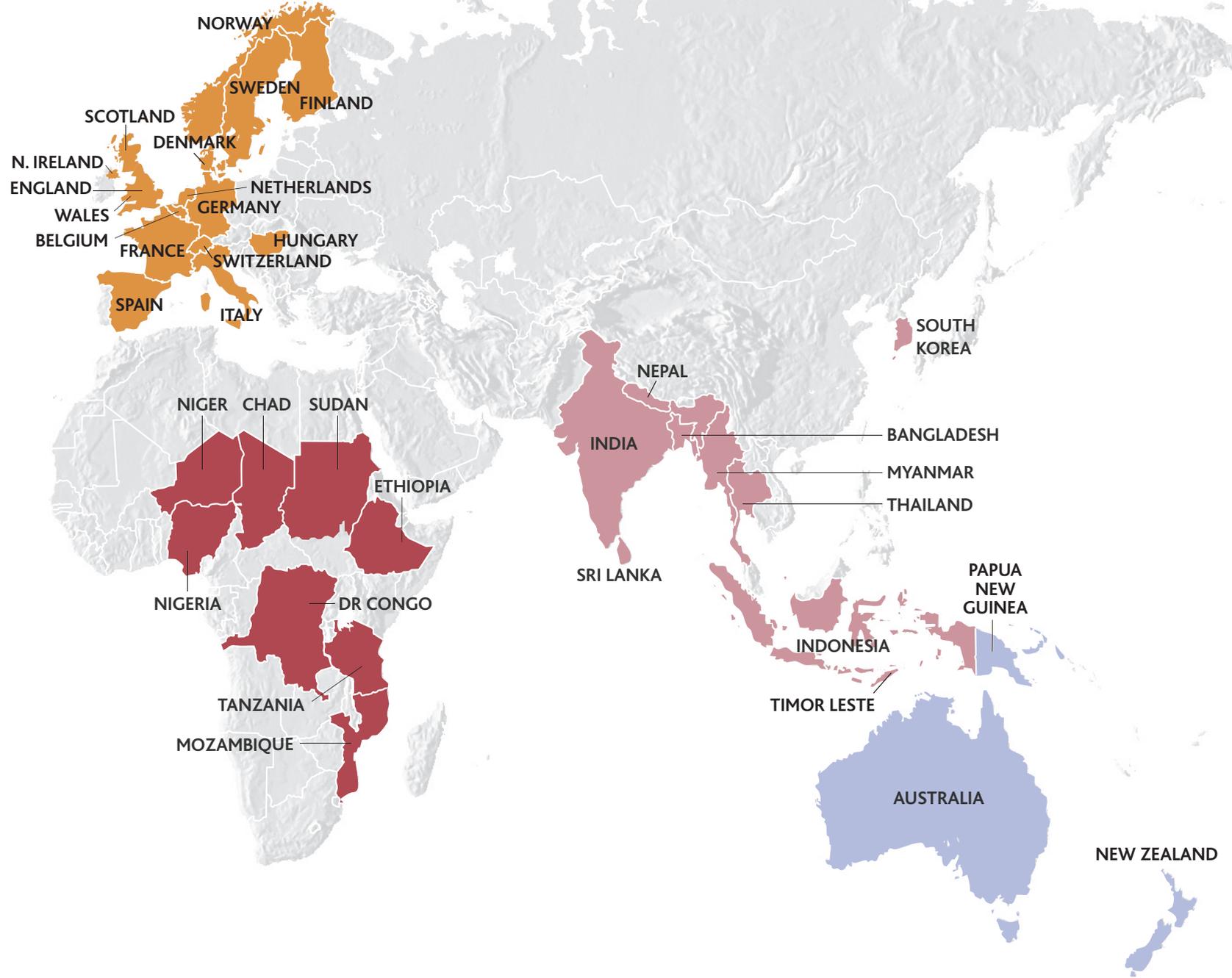
As TLM's partners have increased awareness of leprosy throughout Sugnathini's village, she has not faced discrimination from her community. Our partners have also supported the village with childhood education, food, and clean water.

To the supporters she says "We will never forget this help, we are so grateful!"



## WHERE WE WORK

The Leprosy Mission believes that strength comes from unity, working together towards a common goal. We work hand-in-hand with governments and with local communities, with partner NGOs, local churches, WHO, Christian partners and many others to bring about the defeat of leprosy and transformation in the lives of people affected. Together we provide treatment and care for anyone living with the effects of leprosy in 18 countries across Asia, Africa and the Pacific. This would not be possible without the support of hundreds of thousands of people around the world that have responded to this call.



# I am a person who has been diagnosed with an ancient disease: leprosy. Ask me anything!

For World Leprosy Day 2022, Mathias Duck (TLM's Global Advocacy Lead) hosted a live, online 'Ask Me Anything' session on one of Reddit's largest forums. The AMA session lasted for 10 hours and gave Reddit users from across the world the opportunity to ask Mathias about his experience of leprosy as someone who was diagnosed more than 10 years ago.

By the end of the session there were 759 comments, the post had received 9.6k upvotes and been seen by many thousands more. Overleaf are some of those questions and Mathias' responses.



**U/EDWEEN:**

*So when you say you're cured, does that mean you're permanently cured or do you continue to need treatments?*

**U/MATHIASDUCK:**

I am permanently cured. However, for many people there continue to be complications even after being cured. This has mainly to do with not being treated early enough. They are no longer infectious, yet they need what we call "care after cure".

**U/TRAVELING63:**

*How did you get diagnosed?*

**U/MATHIASDUCK:**

I was diagnosed some 11 years ago. At the time I was working in a leprosy reference hospital here in Paraguay. I was diagnosed early, because I was at the right place, at the right time with great and caring health professionals. Sadly, many health professionals don't know how to diagnose and/or treat leprosy.

**U/AMBALA\_1874:**

*Hey Mathias! How did you feel when you were told you had leprosy?*

**U/MATHIASDUCK:**

For me it was probably a bit different than for most people. I had already been working in a leprosy reference hospital for about 10 months. I knew a lot about leprosy from my colleagues. However, I also knew about persons affected by leprosy being marginalised in their communities, abandoned by their spouses and other family members, fired from their jobs and so on. It was a mixed feeling. On the one hand, I felt that I was going to be ok. On the other hand, I was not sure how people would react to it. It took me about 3 years to be able to talk freely about it. In retrospect, I felt quite a bit of anxiety about it.

**U/LARAYAH:**

*Hi, thanks for doing this! Why do you think there's still such a stigma around leprosy even though it can be cured?*

**U/MATHIASDUCK:**

Great question! Misunderstanding,

missing information or wrong information can be factors. Over centuries there has been misinformation about leprosy. The misunderstanding leads to fear. We often fear things that we don't understand. It is then only a small step towards stigma. In some communities and cultures there are ancient myths about leprosy being a curse, divine punishment and extremely contagious. The cure has only been around for about 40 years. The disease is about 4000 years old. Many people still don't know that there is a cure.

**U/SNACKBOT4000:**

*You look fine in your photo and were treated early. Did you suffer any long-term effects?*

**U/MATHIASDUCK:**

Thank you! I did not suffer any long term effects. I did have some anxiety about people finding out. However most people are not that lucky. They suffer long term effects in their physical and mental health.

**U/FEASTINGONPIZZA:**

*Hi there! How much has your life changed after getting your diagnosis? Obviously, you wouldn't be where you are right now without it, but how would've your life looked if you never received treatment?*

**U/MATHIASDUCK:**

Great question! I would have a partially clawed hand with reduced strength and mobility if I never received treatment. My mental health probably would have been affected significantly. Perhaps I would have withdrawn from social life. Over the years, my experience and learning about the experience of others have led me to dedicate more and more time and efforts to advocacy for the rights of persons affected by leprosy.

*This is just a small sample of the conversations that took place on Reddit. If you'd like to see more, you can find the post by entering the following URL:*  
[www.bit.ly/3owL9Py](http://www.bit.ly/3owL9Py)

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## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### PRAYER

One of the most powerful gifts you can give us is prayer. By using this diary, you've done that, so thank you.

### GIVING

Our work receives substantial funding from individual donors – just like you – with 36 percent of our funding coming from people giving out of their own pockets, through regular giving and one-off donations.

The money you give today can help to end leprosy and transform lives across the world.

### VOLUNTEERING

Our army of volunteers across the world is having a huge impact and there are lots of volunteering opportunities in many of the countries that we work in.

### LEAVING A LEGACY

Around 15 percent of our income comes through people who leave a legacy in their Will.

We believe that we are just 15 years away from ending leprosy transmission. If you would like that to be your legacy, include The Leprosy Mission in your Will today.

### SHOP

Visit [theleprosymissionshop.org](http://theleprosymissionshop.org) or [leprosymission.org.au/shop](http://leprosymission.org.au/shop) to find gifts, books, crafts, homeware, and tasty treats. The proceeds from the sales on these websites are funnelled back into our work to defeat leprosy and transform lives.

Find out how to give, volunteer, or leave a legacy today by finding the website and contact details of The Leprosy Mission in your country. Find their details on pages 84-85.



# THE LEPROSY MISSION'S GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER

WED 10 MAY 2023

The Leprosy Mission is hosting a worldwide day of prayer.

Prayer has always been essential to what we do and so we are bringing our staff, supporters, volunteers, and partners together to unite in prayer for a world without leprosy.

Find out how you can get involved by contacting The Leprosy Mission in your country (see p.84).



Photo © Tom Bradley

## GLOSSARY TERMS

ACTS Leprosy	Activating Churches to Serve People Affected by Leprosy – a TLM Project in Bangladesh	KKM	Kaveri Kala Manram
ADT	Alliance Development Trust	L360	Learning 360 – a TLM project in Bangladesh
ALEMO	The Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy in Mozambique	LCP	Leprosy Control Programme
ALERT Hospital	All Africa Leprosy Rehabilitation and Training Centre – TLM's partner in Ethiopia	LDP	Leadership Development Programme
ALM	American Leprosy Missions	LPRF	Leukocyte Platelet Rich Fibrin – a new treatment for leprosy ulcers
ALO	The Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy in Bangladesh	MDT	Multi Drug Therapy – a combination of antibiotics that cures leprosy
AMA	Ask Me Anything	MEPD	Supported and Empowerment of People Living with Disabilities – a TLM project in Bangladesh
BHCP	Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme	NLR	until No Leprosy Remains (previously Netherlands Leprosy Relief) – a Dutch leprosy NGO
BRAC	A development NGO working in Bangladesh	NNN	NTD NGO Network
CBR	Community-Based Rehabilitation	NTD	Neglected Tropical Disease (leprosy is an NTD)
CHEP – Tanzania	Community Health and Education Programme – run by TLM's partners in Tanzania	NUPIP	North West Bangladesh Ultra Poverty Initiative Project – a TLM project in Bangladesh
CMC	Christian Medical College	OPALCO	Organisation of People Affected by Leprosy in Congo
CSL Danja Healthcentre	Centre de Santé Léproserie – a TLM partner in Niger	PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis – a preventative treatment that reduces the risk of developing leprosy after exposure to the disease
DBLM Hospital	Danish-Bangladesh Leprosy Mission Hospital	PEP++	Chemoprophylaxis that is rifampicin plus one or more other drugs
ENLIST	Erythema Nodosum Leprosum International Study	RIGHT project	Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation – a funding call by the UK's National Institute of Health and Care Research
FOUND project	Fuelling Opportunities to end Unemployment for Nepalis with Disabilities - a TLM Project in Nepal	PHACE	PNG Negotiated Partnership's preventative Health and Community Empowerment programme – a TLM programme
FRF	Fondation Raoul Follereau – a French leprosy NGO	SCORE	Strengthening Capacity for Operational Research – a TLM research capacity building project in Bangladesh
GPZL	Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy	SDR-PEP	Single Dose Rifampicin - Post Exposure Prophylaxis – a form of PEP where only one dose of rifampicin is administered
IDEA	International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement – an International Organisation of Persons Affected by Leprosy	SHG	Self-Help Group
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication	TLM	The Leprosy Mission
ILEP	International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations	VTC	Vocational Training Centre
IMPACT project	Integrated mobilisation of people for active community transformation – a TLM project in Nepal		
INDIGO	Novel Interventions and Diagnostic Tests for Leprosy – a TLM research project in Bangladesh		

# Our Vision: Leprosy Defeated, Lives Transformed

## The Leprosy Mission Prayer

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life.

Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease. Give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients. Reunite the separated with their family and friends.

And inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission, that it may never lack the staff or the means to carry on its healing work, in accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name.

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen



[@LeprosyMissInt](https://twitter.com/LeprosyMissInt)



[facebook.com/TheLeprosyMissionInternational](https://facebook.com/TheLeprosyMissionInternational)



[youtube.com/TheLeprosyMissionInternational](https://youtube.com/TheLeprosyMissionInternational)

[leprosymission.org](https://leprosymission.org)

A publication of The Leprosy Mission International