



Prayer & Praise

Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer

December 2022

***For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given; and
the government shall be on
his shoulder.***

Isaiah 9: 6

Worldwide

Thursday 1 December

When people fall ill in some communities in Nigeria it can be seen as a curse. A diagnosis of leprosy or a disability can bring a lot of pain or stigma because of this perception. This has an impact on the mental health of sufferers. Give thanks that staff of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria are working with other key organisations in the country to address a growing mental health crisis largely resulting from conflicts, Covid lockdowns and wrong perceptions of disease.

Friday 2 December

The gap between law in books and law in practice is a major challenge for Angola, which severely impacts the fundamental rights of persons affected

by Hansen's disease (leprosy) and their families. Please pray that the barriers to the effective implementation of the domestic laws will be clearly identified and the will to change will grow.

Saturday 3 December/ Sunday 4 December

People affected by leprosy have been represented by other people for a long time. Please give thanks for the organisations of people affected by leprosy who are working at local and international levels, contributing as experts in many fields. Please pray for autonomy and self-determination for people affected by leprosy and their family members.

Timor Leste

Monday 5 December

Please pray for the induction for the Preventative Health and Community Empowerment Programme (PHACE) in Timor Leste. Pray that the results of the induction process will mean the team of TLM Timor Leste are equipped and enthusiastic for the implementation of the programme.

Tuesday 6 December

Due to extreme weather in Timor Leste the field facilitators were not able to reach some of the more remote communities targeted for the PHACE programme. Please pray that these remote communities can be reached soon and pray for the safety of all staff members working in the field.

Wednesday 7 December

In collaboration with the East Timor Ministry of Health, the team of TLM Timor Leste is developing a training manual for primary healthcare for communicable and non-communicable diseases. This is part of the PHACE programme. Please pray for God's guidance and wisdom for this work and that a strong working relationship will continue to develop between the groups.

Thursday 8 December

The Timor Leste Ministry of Health has been conducting an active case-finding study for leprosy in three areas – Bobonaro, Decusse and Viqueque. Please pray that new cases that have been detected will be able to be treated. Also pray that contact tracing and screening in

households and schools will be successful. Pray that the stigma of leprosy does not prevent people from being screened

Friday 9 December

Please pray that the case-finding study will result in good access to the regions for The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste. Pray that people recently diagnosed with leprosy will receive hope and encouragement as the team begin working with them in their communities. Pray that the medication will be available so that treatment can start as soon as possible.

Saturday 10 December/ Sunday 11 December

Please pray that the newly appointed community facilitators will begin to develop good relationships with leaders and local people in the communities. Everything depends on relationship, and this is vital for the success of the PHACE programme.

Really Good Gifts

Monday 12 December

To enable the cards to be received by supporters in time for Christmas donations need to be received at the Leprosy Mission NZ office by 15 December. Please pray for a flurry of donations to be received so that many more people affected by leprosy can receive help to improve their lives. Pray a blessing on all those who give to the Really Good Gifts appeal.

Tuesday 13 December

Really Good Gifts give people the help they need, some providing assistance with the cure for leprosy, bandages for injured limbs or a day in hospital. Give thanks that simple gifts like these can make a great difference for people affected by leprosy. Give thanks that people can be made well through the generosity of NZ supporters.

Wednesday 14 December

Training for a Health Volunteer means that an enthusiastic advocate can visit communities they are comfortable being a part of. Pray that more Health Volunteers can be recruited for communities in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville. They can accompany people to health centres and can help families and neighbours understand that leprosy is not a curse.

Give thanks that Health Volunteers bring help and hope to many.

Thursday 15 December

A motorbike provides reliable transport for community teams to get to remote areas that are not easily accessible in other ways. Give thanks that motorbikes have been donated in some areas and that these vehicles are used by workers or volunteers who can diagnose leprosy, deliver the cure and give support to people affected by leprosy.

Friday 16 December

Animals such as piglets, goats and cows provide food for families as well as meat or milk to sell. Creating an income is vital in defeating leprosy for good, so give thanks that these gifts give people a hand up to improve their lives. Goat's milk and cow's milk can provide nourishment for children and make them healthier as they grow. Please pray that more children will be able to have this nourishment through these Really Good Gifts.

Saturday 17 December/ Sunday 18 December

Girls are under-represented in statistics of leprosy diagnosis, and it is thought that it could be because girls are not valued as highly as boys in some societies. Many girls cannot go to school for the same reason, so the gift of Education for a Girl will make a difference and empower a girl for the rest of her life. Give thanks that many girls will have that opportunity through the generosity of supporters who have donated to help a girl go to school.

Bougainville

Monday 19 December

Give thanks for the fruitful work done by Tony Wrightson, a Programme Advisor for The Leprosy Mission NZ and the team of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Project on annual reporting for 2022 and planning for 2023. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for the team in Bougainville as they finalise the budget and the plan of work for next year.

Tuesday 20 December

A positive meeting has been held between the BHCP team, Tony Wrightson and the Deputy High Commissioner for NZ in Bougainville. Please pray

for ongoing collaboration between the BHCP and other key organisations, including the Dept of Health of Bougainville and the office of the NZ High Commission.

Wednesday 21 December

Please pray for the successful completion of the mid-term review of the BHCP. This is held to determine the successes and challenges of the programme. Please pray that what is learnt can be shared and built on for the continuation of the programme.

Thursday 22 December

Please pray for Neil, a member of the team of the BHCP. His wife passed away a year ago and Neil is now undergoing treatment for his own health issues. Please pray for healing and restoration and for ongoing good health.

Friday 23 December

Please pray that people with disabilities in Bougainville will be able to get the care they need. Also pray that the Health Volunteers who work in communities can continue to refer people with leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases in a timely manner. This will mean treatment can start early so complications do not develop and people will recover sooner.

Saturday 24 December/ Sunday 25 December

Christmas Day – our celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Give thanks for God's grace for the world and for His plan for families and the church.

Nepal

Monday 26 December

Doctors at Anandaban Hospital, trialling a new treatment for skin wounds say the technique, which mimics the scabbing process, has "enormous potential". Using the patient's blood doctors make a kind of artificial scab which they use to dress the ulcer. Give thanks that a year-long randomised trial involving 130 adults has started to measure healing rates of leprosy ulcers. Pray that this new technique will prove effective in relieving the suffering of many.

Tuesday 27 December

While leprosy is curable with multi-drug therapy, Nepalese people may hide early symptoms due to

stigma based on cultural perceptions that leprosy is a punishment for former life transgressions. There are often delays in presentation of leprosy, which can lead to the development of complex ulcers requiring long hospital stays. Dr Indra Napit of Anandaban Hospital says he has seen faster healing times with the new technique. Give thanks for Dr Napit's work with people affected by leprosy and for his development of the technique.

Wednesday 28 December

The elimination of leprosy in Nepal requires a community level approach to detect new cases, end the chain of transmission and combat the stigma. Self-help Groups are valuable for alleviating poverty and promoting self-care. Give thanks for the Self-help Groups in Nepal. Pray that members will be able to improve their income while giving and receiving support within the groups.

Thursday 29 December

Give thanks for IDEA Nepal, a grassroots organisation formed by people affected by leprosy. Give thanks that The Leprosy Mission Nepal is a partner of IDEA. Thank God for the Empowerment Workshops for people affected by leprosy and disability, teaching them how to challenge discrimination and overcome prejudice to improve the quality of life for themselves and others in the same position.

Friday 30 December

Please pray that people affected by leprosy in Nepal will be able to advocate for themselves and raise public awareness about leprosy. If the general public are more informed about the true nature of leprosy misunderstanding and fear about the disease will be greatly reduced. Pray for hope and confidence to grow so barriers can be broken down and people affected by leprosy can take their place in their communities.

Saturday 31 December/ Sunday 1 January 2023

Please pray that in 2023 millions will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Pray that the process towards Zero Transmission, Zero Disability and Zero Discrimination will forge ahead with greater impact for all people affected by leprosy.