



## ***Prayer & Praise***

### ***Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer***

**February 2023**

***‘For the Lord gives wisdom;  
out of his mouth come  
knowledge and reason.’***

***Psalm 2:6***

#### **Worldwide**

##### **Wednesday 1 February**

Dr David Friend, his wife Enless and their three-year-old son, Daniel are at Mukinge Mission Hospital in Zambia. At Kikonkomene Leprosy and Disability Village, only twelve of twenty houses are now occupied. Give thanks that leprosy is slowly disappearing from the area and they have seen only a couple of new cases in the last year. Please pray for all the work done by Dr Friend and his wife, a midwife, and pray that God will provide a surgeon and an anaesthetist to the hospital.

##### **Thursday 2 February**

“I want to stop leprosy in our village, even in the nearby village. We want to stop it. We want to live without leprosy.” Maria and other Leprosy Mission volunteers in Mozambique visit neighbouring villages to host events so they can teach people about leprosy. Give thanks for the motivation of these volunteers to see the end of leprosy and that multi-drug therapy (MDT) has changed the lives of people like Maria.

##### **Friday 3 February**

In Tanzania, the Community Health and Education Programme team (CHEP) work to reduce the stigma of leprosy in the Dodoma Region. Please pray that all staff and volunteers will continue to have the heart to serve, and to help people affected by leprosy to access treatment. Pray that they will be able to reach people at home to provide more health services. Please pray that the work of CHEP will prevent new infections and help to eradicate leprosy in Tanzania by 2030.

##### **Saturday 4 February/ Sunday 5 February**

Give thanks that the number of new cases of leprosy in South Korea has been declining sharply for a number of years. The average age of persons affected by leprosy is now over seventy. Thank the Lord that The Leprosy Mission Korea’s Jesus Hospital cares 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 between the hospital staff and patients will continue.

#### **Timor Leste**

##### **Monday 6 February**

Please pray for the Country Leader, Nona Reis, the staff and the Board Members of The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste. Please pray for good health and give thanks for their commitment to improving the lives of people affected by leprosy. Pray for God’s blessing on all the team.

##### **Tuesday 7 February**

Pray that God will facilitate the building of relationships between staff of TLM Timor Leste, volunteers in the communities and all other stakeholders in the work in Timor Leste. Please pray that the eradication of leprosy

and the transformation of many lives will continue to be the motivation for all those involved.

##### **Wednesday 8 February**

Virgilio was diagnosed with leprosy when he was twelve. Because of the stigma and rejection he experienced, Virgilio left school. Give thanks that Virgilio was able to get treatment after TLM staff did a field visit and home screening. Praise God that, after treatment, Virgilio has no disability in his hands or feet.

##### **Thursday 9 February**

Give thanks that Virgilio decided to get involved in the Self-help Groups supported by TLM. He was able to receive a loan to start business activities. His immediate aim is to support his younger brother and sister to continue studying and to provide for the family’s daily needs. Please pray that the Self-help Groups in Timor Leste will continue to develop so that more people like Virgilio can receive support to begin a better life after leprosy.

##### **Friday 10 February**

Virgilio dreams of being a motor mechanic in the future. Give thanks for this young man’s kind heart and for the dream God has given him. Thank God that Virgilio is overcoming the difficulties he faced because of leprosy. His message to those newly diagnosed is not to be afraid and feel bad because leprosy can be treated, and life can be normal again.

##### **Saturday 11 February/ Sunday 12 February**

Pray for God’s protection over the Leprosy Mission Timor Leste team as they continue their activities in the country office and in the districts. Pray that this new year will bring abundant blessing for the country and for the government. Please pray for greater commitment by the government to support local communities and especially those affected by leprosy and disability.

#### **Indonesia**

##### **Monday 13 February**

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, intensive case-finding activities of the teams in Indramayu province have been delayed. Please pray that this crucial activity can pick up speed, as without it many cases of

leprosy will go undetected, leading to disability and poor health outcomes for many more people.

#### **Tuesday 14 February**

The project of which TLM NZ is a partner supports the work of the local health facilities by intensive case-finding and improving leprosy control. Give thanks that a preventative antibiotic (PEP) is provided to household and social contacts of someone newly diagnosed with leprosy. Pray that community involvement and empowerment can be strengthened in Indramayu.

#### **Wednesday 15 February**

Part of the PEP community participation project is the gathering of information that can be analysed and compared to more traditional ways of implementing PEP. Please pray that the information gathered will lead to more effective ways of defeating leprosy.

#### **Thursday 16 February**

Give thanks and praise for the Indonesian staff team, who support the government Ministry of Health with their leprosy control programme. They play an important role in training health staff about leprosy. Without this training many health professionals do not recognise leprosy. Thank God for the commitment of the team and pray for wisdom, grace and foresight for this life-changing work.

#### **Friday 17 February**

Please pray for the awareness raising activities at village level. Pray that strong relationships can be built with a diverse range of community leaders to encourage community support for the health interventions that are so important in tackling leprosy. Pray that trust will grow between community leaders and members of the Indonesian staff team.

#### **Saturday 18 February/ Sunday 19 February**

Please pray that the triple approach of community awareness, contact tracing of leprosy affected patients and administering one dose of Rifampicin as a preventative antibiotic will result in a marked decrease in the transmission of leprosy in Indonesia. Pray that the stigma of leprosy will disappear and

that many more people will come forward to be tested.

### **Bougainville**

#### **Monday 20 February**

Give thanks that through the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme families are being educated about the signs and symptoms of leprosy. Knowledge of where to go to get treatment and support is also provided. Thank the Lord for the nineteen District Facilitators who travel to remote villages to train and monitor village health volunteers. The village health volunteers are then responsible for providing health education in their communities.

#### **Tuesday 21 February**

Thank the Lord for the village health volunteers, who raise awareness about diseases such as leprosy and malaria and identify villagers who are ill. They also refer people to district health clinics for diagnosis and treatment. Praise God that since the BHCP programme began more than 2500 village health volunteers and 2100 village leaders have been receiving training on community health development, leadership and governance.

#### **Wednesday 22 February**

The goal of this project is healthier Bougainville communities through villages and government sharing responsibility for health awareness and community development. Give thanks that project training gives people knowledge on how to take responsibility to live in a healthy environment and change their own lives. It is the dynamic transformation of how people think and view themselves that is sustainable.

#### **Thursday 23 February**

Give thanks that the design of the BHCP is based on local needs, conditions and capabilities. The programme is focussed on the immediate needs of the people and, within each village, is owned and run by them. Also give thanks that the programme works collaboratively with local government institutions. Please pray for continuing good relationships with the staff of the Department of Health and other local stakeholders.

#### **Friday 24 February**

As well as meeting people's physical needs, give thanks that the BHCP recognises the need to lift people's self-esteem, ability to organise themselves and their spiritual well-being. Also give thanks that the programme is reliable and has built long term, co-operative and mutually respectful relationships.

#### **Saturday 25 February/ Sunday 26 February**

The leprosy contracted by Marianne caused the loss of her home and her family. The stigma of leprosy in her community meant that she was abandoned by her husband, who took her children. Her neighbours also shunned her. Please pray that Marianne will be totally cured of leprosy, be reunited with her husband and children and find a better future.

### **Nepal**

#### **Monday 27 February**

Give thanks that men and women affected by leprosy in Nepal are being trained to run local self-care groups, which encourage people to seek treatment. They also provide support to others affected by the disease. Give thanks that the self-care groups often evolve into self-help groups, offering literacy classes and providing services to their communities. Please pray for the people in the thirty-six self-help groups formed under the IMPACT Project of TLM Nepal. Pray that group members will be socially and economically empowered.

#### **Tuesday 28 February**

The FOUND Project (Fuelling Opportunity to end Unemployment for Nepalis with Disability) is ending at the end of this year. Give thanks for the success of this project that has helped many people with disabilities to gain employment. Please pray that people with disabilities and employers who have been part of the project will be able to take independent leadership on inclusive employment as they move forward.