



Prayer & Praise

Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer

March 2022

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

Psalm 2:6

Leprosy Mission and Churches

Tuesday 1 March

Congregation members of fifteen churches in Myanmar have become involved with local communities to provide support and services to persons affected by leprosy and disability. Thank the Lord for this innovative approach and for the willingness of church members to be involved. Pray that more churches will be able to include leprosy and disability in their worship programmes.

Wednesday 2 March

Give thanks to God for every church around the world that is a part of the Leprosy Mission network. Thank God that His spirit is working through His

people to care for people affected by leprosy. Pray for God's protection for every church in countries where persecution can be directed against Christians.

Thursday 3 March

Please pray for every churchgoer following the example of Jesus in showing love and compassion to people affected by leprosy. Pray that those who receive healing and hope will see the love of God shed abroad in the hearts of His people. Pray also that God will work in the lives of His people to increase their capacity to give and receive love.

Friday 4 March

In many countries where Leprosy Mission works other faiths are prominent. Give thanks for the partnerships that Leprosy Mission has with other faith communities, working together to support people affected by leprosy. Pray that consideration and co-operation will continue so that people affected by leprosy will receive the cure, care and restoration they need.

Saturday 5 March/ Sunday 6 March

Giving by church members is a vital part of the funding received by Leprosy Mission. Please give thanks for all the churches that have given so that leprosy can be defeated, and people set free from its bondage. Give thanks that churches providing practical support to those affected by leprosy and those carrying out fundraising activities are all engaged in the unified vision to see leprosy defeated and lives transformed.

Monday 7 March

The Indonesian public's knowledge and understanding of leprosy is still low and medical professionals sometimes don't recognise leprosy symptoms. Please pray that more awareness can be raised, and training given to doctors and nurses so that people affected by leprosy can be diagnosed and receive treatment, confident that they can be cured.

Tuesday 8 March

Indonesia has the third highest number of new leprosy cases diagnosed worldwide each year, and leprosy is one of the major causes of preventable disability in that nation. Please pray for effective co-operation between the Leprosy Mission and other partners in Indonesia, so

that people affected by leprosy can receive the treatment and care they need.

Wednesday 9 March

The stigma of leprosy is still very strong in Indonesia, so that many do not want to be diagnosed. The stigma affects patients' ability to travel, interpersonal relationships, marriage, employment, leisure activities and attendance at social and religious functions. Please pray that education programmes will be successful in Indonesia so that the stigma is eradicated as people learn that leprosy is curable.

Thursday 10 March

If people can learn a skill to help them earn a living, they can lift themselves from poverty and be seen as productive members of their communities. Please give thanks and pray for all the self-help groups that are providing training and opportunities for people affected by leprosy to take up income-generating activities.

Friday 11 March

Early case detection is vitally important in the fight against leprosy. This is the major aim of the project in Indonesia. Please pray that cases will be able to be diagnosed early so that disability does not occur and that those affected by the disease can go on to live productive, healthy lives.

Saturday 12 March/ Sunday 13 March

Discrimination and stigma complicate the process of total elimination of leprosy, because patients and their families can be reluctant to seek treatment. Please pray that education will bring transformation in the way people see leprosy and so encourage those with the condition to seek treatment.

Nepal

Monday 14 March

There is a Self-care Unit at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal, where those with leprosy-related sensory loss and muscle weakness learn to prevent injury and care for their wounds. Please pray that patients at this unit will be encouraged and receive hope as they learn to take control of this aspect of their lives.

Tuesday 15 March

Anandaban Hospital is the main leprosy referral hospital in Nepal and a global research and training centre for leprosy. The hospital suffered a lot of damage in the earthquake in 2015. Please pray for provision and success for the plans of Leprosy Mission Nepal to redevelop the hospital to be a model of good practice for 21st century leprosy care and disability inclusion.

Wednesday 16 March

TLM Nepal's Training and Technical Support Centre provides training about leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases for local and international health staff, including doctors and medical students. Give thanks that knowledge and skill in early detection of leprosy cases and management of leprosy complications is passed on so that more people can receive early diagnosis and treatment for leprosy.

Thursday 17 March

In Nepal, people affected by leprosy or other disabilities, or from other marginalised groups, meet regularly, discuss their issues and support each other through self-help groups. Give thanks for the support members provide for each other and that training is provided on group management, income generation, leadership and rights.

Friday 18 March

Give thanks that as well as starting micro-enterprises, self-help groups are encouraged to undertake small projects with local communities, aiming to change attitudes and develop a normal level of participation in society. Pray that the stigma of leprosy will be broken down as people affected by leprosy participate in community projects.

Saturday 19 March/ Sunday 20 March

Ranjana is twenty-one and lives in Nepal. Because she wasn't treated for leprosy early enough, she developed clawed hands and then an ulcer when she burnt part of her skin that did not have any feeling. Give thanks for the kindness of Leprosy Mission supporters who have provided for Ranjana and many like her to have reconstructive surgery to fix clawed hands.

Papua New Guinea

Monday 21 March

The team of the Leprosy Mission Papua New Guinea would like to praise God for all His protection and for the encouragement of families and friends during 2021. Please also pray for His continued provision and protection for 2022 as they visit communities to work with people affected by leprosy and to continue to raise awareness about protection from Covid-19.

Tuesday 22 March

Praise God for the responsibility and privilege of serving people affected by leprosy. Please pray for strength and guidance for team members. Pray for increasing peace, understanding and stewardship in the work of Leprosy Mission PNG. Pray that team unity will continue to grow and there will be peace in all the communities in which they work.

Wednesday 23 March

Please pray for the design and development of training programmes for 2022. Pray for a spirit of co-operation and unity as the work is started. Pray also that there will be agreement on how to implement the plans in the communities and the needs of people affected by leprosy will remain the focus.

Thursday 24 March

Pray that people affected by leprosy will be able to access the services they need despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Please pray that those who have taken out loans from self-help groups will be able to make the income they need and to repay the loans.

Friday 25 March

Praise the Lord for all the partners and volunteers that TLM PNG worked with during 2021. Pray that the existing partnerships continue, and that God will continue to open doors for further productive partnerships this year.

Saturday 26 March/ Sunday 27 March

Praise God for the work of TLM PNG in 2021 and for the lives that were touched and changed. Please pray for more productivity in their work, more people receiving treatment, the reduction of the stigma of leprosy and greater participation by people in the communities.

Cure, Care, Restore

Monday 28 March

Mario is from Mozambique. He is a volunteer leprosy advocate, visiting villages to tell people about leprosy so they will not be afraid but will know it can be cured. At 22, he found patches and wounds on his body so was taken to a traditional healer. By the time he received treatment for leprosy, he had lost a finger because of it. He suffered from discrimination but was determined to get better. Please pray for people like Mario, who use their own experiences to combat the stigma of leprosy.

Tuesday 29 March

A medical screening programme in her village recently diagnosed Fasmina with leprosy. Give thanks that Fasmina's leprosy has been diagnosed and treated early. This means she will not go on to develop disabilities and deformities. Give thanks for donors who support the case finding efforts of Leprosy Mission so that young people like Fasmina can live a life free from the ongoing difficulties of a late leprosy diagnosis.

Wednesday 30 March

When Sudeepta was at school she was rejected by other children because her mother's leprosy. Please pray that education and early diagnosis programmes in India will break down the stigma of leprosy. Sudeepta couldn't finish school because her family couldn't afford it. However, she received training in tailoring at one of the Leprosy Mission Vocational Training Centres and now makes a good income working at a clothing factory in Kolkata. Give thanks for the training given at the VTCs, which helps lift many people affected by leprosy out of poverty.

Thursday 31 March

Zaw Win Thain had a persistent problem with his foot. A wound wasn't healing properly. Eventually he went to hospital and was diagnosed with leprosy. His wife took his son and divorced him. Zaw's fingers had begun to claw, but he was able to have surgery to correct this. Sadly, his foot had to be amputated, after years of wounds and injuries. Give thanks that Zaw was able to receive the cure and care he needed. Give thanks for the hospitals in many countries that provide the cure and care for leprosy.