



## ***Prayer & Praise***

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

**March 2023**

***‘The Lord is good, a refuge in  
times of trouble. He cares for  
those who trust in Him.’***

***Nahum 1:7***

#### **Nepal**

##### **Wednesday 1 March**

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.

##### **Thursday 2 March**

Anandaban Hospital is The Leprosy Mission's specialist leprosy hospital in Nepal. It exists to help people affected by leprosy. Give thanks that the hospital can now also serve the surrounding community through the new Trauma and Emergency Centre. The centre houses an A&E Department, a Maternity Department, a Paediatric Department and a Critical Care Unit.

##### **Friday 3 March**

Please pray that the new facility will provide many thousands of people in Nepal with the medical care they deserve, while also strengthening leprosy services, making them more sustainable. Pray for the recruitment of qualified staff who can support the new Trauma Centre so that people from surrounding areas can access the quality services provided.

##### **Saturday 4 March/ Sunday 5 March**

The Outpatient Department at Anandaban Hospital is well-known for the quality of its orthopaedic and dermatology services. Please pray for the provision of resources to expand the general health services. Please pray for the teams who train staff, helping them to gain extra skills to work safely outside their normal specialties.

#### **Papua New Guinea**

##### **Monday 6 March**

Please pray for the senior leadership team of TLM PNG. Pray that God will lead them as they give support, mentorship and strategic direction to the team. Pray a blessing on all staff and volunteers and pray for safety as they go about their work.

##### **Tuesday 7 March**

Please pray for the Preventative Health and Community Empowerment programme taking place in several districts and provinces of Papua New Guinea. Pray that respect will grow between staff of TLM PNG, the PNG Dept of Health and other stakeholders for this programme. Pray that everything put into place will benefit those affected by leprosy, who will be seen as partners in the positive change happening in local communities.

##### **Wednesday 8 March**

Getting antibiotics to remote river valleys or up to the highlands can be immensely challenging. Please pray for safe travel for those who take the medication to remote places. Also pray that people affected by leprosy can get the medication in a timely manner so that they can be completely cured as soon as possible before disability takes hold.

##### **Thursday 9 March**

Give thanks that in Papua New Guinea, TLM helps get people diagnosed and treated for leprosy and gives

vocational training to people affected by the disease. The training give skills in livelihood development, business planning, financial literacy, micro-credit loan and savings. Please pray that people can increase their income so that their lives can improve.

##### **Friday 10 March**

Give thanks that, for people whose leprosy is diagnosed late, The Leprosy Mission gives supportive devices and arranges reconstructive surgery for damaged limbs. Sunglasses can be supplied for those who have lost the ability to close their eyes as a result of leprosy.

##### **Saturday 11 March/ Sunday 12 March**

The PHACE programme aims to help people improve their lives with changes to their environment and with training about sanitation and hygiene. Pray for success for the PHACE programme so that local people can be empowered to make changes that will result in improvement for themselves and their families.

#### **India**

##### **Monday 13 March**

The Leprosy Mission Trust India is invested in generating sustainable livelihoods and empowering those affected by leprosy. Give thanks that they support people with treatment during ailing and uncertain times. Also give thanks that TLM TI supports people with various interventions that make them financially independent and socially acceptable.

##### **Tuesday 14 March**

Please pray for the good financial health of TLM TI and for the fundraising team as they are trying to work more closely with churches and begin fundraising activities in Mumbai. Pray that the Audit & Risk Management team continues to improve, with newer audit techniques that take account of the challenges that TLM TI encounters.

##### **Wednesday 15 March**

Give thanks for the Advocacy & Communications team of TLM TI, working towards the goals of zero disease, zero disability and zero discrimination. The team develops and implements information, education and communication campaigns to raise awareness of leprosy in areas where the disease is widespread. Pray

for success in their campaigns so that more people know leprosy can be cured and is not to be feared.

#### **Thursday 16 March**

In recent times, the team in India have recognised that the trades of the future will be eco-friendly and so now is the time to start preparing the communities we support. Give thanks that the Inclusive Empowerment Project has been supporting persons affected by leprosy in the development and sale of plates and bowls made from Areca Nut Palms. Part of the leaves can be used for making disposable plates and bowls and can be produced easily using a heat press machine.

#### **Friday 17 March**

The plates and bowls made from Areca Nut sheaths are used instead of plastic plates. Give thanks that there is a huge demand for these items in the local market. There is also a large unsatisfied demand for bio-degradable disposables in the food service industry. Give thanks for this perfect business opportunity for those affected by leprosy.

#### **Saturday 18 March/ Sunday 19 March**

TLMTI's Vocational Training Centres are leaders in supporting young people to find employment. Please pray that funding becomes available so courses to become Solar Technicians and in working with electric vehicles can be started. Give thanks that TLM TI is trying to make the Vocational Training Centre campuses eco-conscious. They have installed solar panels for power generation and a rainwater harvesting system. They have solar water heaters for the hostel and a biogas plant to supply gas.

### **Bangladesh**

#### **Monday 20 March**

The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh is a prime member of the National Leprosy Elimination Program (NLEP) of the ministry of health and family welfare of the government of Bangladesh. Give thanks for the relationships between the Country Office and the government Ministry. Please pray for the positive relationships to continue.

#### **Tuesday 21 March**

The aim of the National Leprosy Elimination Programme set by the government is zero leprosy in Bangladesh by 2030. Please pray that TLM IB will play a successful role in helping Bangladesh achieve this goal. Pray for the TLM IB Country Leader, Salomon Sumon Halder, the management team, staff, partners and other interested parties. Please pray for their active involvement and support in reaching their aims.

#### **Wednesday 22 March**

Give thanks for TLM IB's leprosy control projects, which contribute to achieving zero leprosy by raising awareness in communities. They actively search for leprosy cases, prevent disability, and help patients to manage leprosy complications. Give thanks that TLM IB detects around 55% of all new cases of leprosy in Bangladesh each year.

#### **Thursday 23 March**

A number of senior and long-standing staff have reached retirement age, and others will do so soon. Leprosy expertise is declining, as in many countries. Please pray for TLM IB to be able to replace their staff with able people. Also pray that TLM IB can work with the government to make sure the right expertise is available in health clinics and hospitals throughout Bangladesh.

#### **Friday 24 March**

Give thanks for DBLM Hospital in Nilphamari. It is a 110-bed hospital that provides holistic services for leprosy complications. Pray for TLM IB Country Leader and management, who also support and advocate for leprosy complication management in state-run hospitals, medical colleges and hospitals run by other non-governmental organisations.

#### **Saturday 25 March/ Sunday 26 March**

Give thanks that The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh works with and supports Bangladesh's national organisation of persons affected by leprosy. Give thanks that partnership with the media has been of key importance towards mainstreaming leprosy within the country and attracting the attention of policy makers.

### **Research of Contact Tracing**

#### **Monday 27 March**

If close contacts of people newly diagnosed with leprosy take an antibiotic called Rifampicin, the risk of them developing leprosy reduces by 57%. A new research project, PEP++ is trialling the addition of a second antibiotic, Clarithromycin, aiming to reduce the risk by 80 to 90%. Please pray that the results of the research will be clear and that there will be another defence against the development of leprosy.

#### **Tuesday 28 March**

The Leprosy Mission is well respected for world-class research. Give thanks that a lot of the practice carried out for leprosy control in 2023 has come from the results of TLM research projects over the last fifty years. This year a lot of resources are being invested to develop tools for earlier diagnosis of leprosy. Please pray for the success of two large applications for funding that have been submitted.

#### **Wednesday 29 March**

One priority of research being carried out by TLM is understanding and preventing transmission, including earlier detection of leprosy. Give thanks that the Stanley Browne Laboratory in India is a global leader in studies focussing on environmental reservoirs. Leprosy bacteria are found in common soil amoeba. Please pray that the research will lead to greater knowledge about the transmission of the disease.

#### **Thursday 30 March**

Leprosy remains difficult to diagnose before symptoms start to appear. Teams of researchers in Asia and Africa are carrying out research into early diagnostic tests. Give thanks for the research into finger-prick tests for leprosy and pray that the research will have success so that leprosy can be diagnosed more easily and earlier in its progression.

#### **Friday 31 March**

Please pray that the combination of community awareness, contact tracing of active cases and the administration of one dose of Rifampicin to close contacts of those affected by leprosy will bring great difference to the number of new cases in Indonesia.