



Prayer & Praise

Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer

May 2022

***'In their hearts humans plan
their course, but the Lord
establishes their steps.'***

Proverbs 16:9

Bangladesh

Monday 2 May

Give thanks that the kind generosity of New Zealand supporters has assisted people affected by leprosy in Bangladesh. Self-Help groups that are fully-funded by New Zealand supporters are working towards being self-sustainable. The groups are open to people from leprosy-affected families, not just the person affected by leprosy, so the whole family benefits and has hope for the future.

Tuesday 3 May

Self-help group members receive important training and support, providing opportunities to improve their lives. Give thanks for the variety of income-generating activities that can be undertaken, including cow rearing, car mechanics, clothing

businesses, land cultivation, fish mongering and grocery shops.

Wednesday 4 May

There is still a lot of ignorance about leprosy in Bangladesh and a strong stigma attached. This means many people are not diagnosed early in the progression of the condition, so dropfoot and loss of feeling in extremities are common. Please pray that more education about leprosy can address the ignorance and stigma so people can be diagnosed early and so avoid disability.

Thursday 5 May

Some self-help groups have joined together as district-level associations. Members of these groups have lots of great experience in claiming their rights through self-advocacy at Local Government level. Give thanks that through this advocacy work groups have been able to access important local resources for their members.

Friday 6 May

It appears that Covid-19 cases are decreasing in Bangladesh. Give thanks for this trend and pray that the loan programme for self-help groups will be able to operate. Give thanks that new self-help groups have continued to be formed despite the pandemic and that some leaders of Self-Help Groups have received training in leadership and book-keeping. Please pray for the economic recovery of Bangladesh.

Saturday 7 May/ Sunday 8 May

Covid-19 presented extra challenges for staff of Leprosy Mission Bangladesh and regular service provision was disrupted. Please pray for the team as they continue to work through the challenges and pray for staff wellbeing as they carry out services in the field. Pray for their physical and mental health.

Global Fellowship

Monday 9 May

The Global Fellowship was formed ten years ago. Please thank God for all the blessings He has poured out on the Mission, our people and programmes. Thank Him for bringing us together behind this unified purpose, to see leprosy defeated and lives transformed.

Tuesday 10 May

Jesus is at the heart of the Global Fellowship, which will always be defined by diversity, unity, mutual support and prayer. Please pray for the next 13 years as we push towards the goal of ending the transmission of leprosy by 2035. Pray that we will succeed in our task, with God's strength.

Wednesday 11 May

Today is the Leprosy Mission Annual Day of Prayer. We would love you to join us as we join with international colleagues to give God praise and to pray for God's blessing for the people and programmes of Leprosy Mission around the world.

Thursday 12 May

Thank God for listening to His people and for His answers to prayer. Grace, wisdom and love come from God Himself to empower His people to carry out His plans. Pray that we will all be sensitive to His leading as we seek Him for answers and for the way forward for many situations.

Friday 13 May

The Leprosy Mission belongs to a range of networks across the world. This allows our voice and the voices of people affected by leprosy to reach further than our voice could on its own. Please pray that Leprosy Mission representatives will shine with God's light and hope within the wider networks.

Saturday 14 May/ Sunday 15 May

The Leprosy Mission has carried on serving people, families and communities affected by leprosy during the Covid-19 pandemic. Give thanks for the resilience and resourcefulness of many people and for relationships with Jesus that have brought hope to many situations.

Papua New Guinea

Monday 16 May

Give thanks for the awareness-raising and training that has been carried out in communities as part of the programmes undertaken by Leprosy Mission NZ and the PNG Department of Health. Pray that this training will enable communities to respond effectively to the surge of cases of Covid as well as having

confidence that they can receive treatment for leprosy before disability develops.

Tuesday 17 May

Please pray for success and good communication in the implementation of the Strongim Helt Long Komuniti, (Strengthening Health in the Communities), programme. The aim of this programme is to improve health outcomes, local leadership and governance for vulnerable and marginalised groups including people affected by leprosy and disability.

Wednesday 18 May

At present, the team in Papua New Guinea are collecting data for the SHLK Project. Please pray that the process will go smoothly and that the team can successfully get the data they need to take the project forward.

Thursday 19 May

Improving people's health and livelihoods are the two main areas by which leprosy can be defeated. Evaluation and internal review of the Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project is underway. Please pray for guidance and wisdom in celebrating success and reflecting on lessons learnt.

Friday 20 May

With a very low vaccination rate and high levels of vaccine hesitancy, Covid 19 is now a challenge to Papua New Guinea. Please continue to pray for health, strength and wellbeing for all the team members as they work through this challenging time. Also pray for safety as they visit communities and pray blessing on them and their families.

Saturday 21 May/ Sunday 22 May

Please pray for the Village Health Volunteers in PNG, who are trained to help people recognise the first signs of leprosy and to access medication. The Village Health Volunteers can tell people about leprosy and its cure, helping to break down stigma. They help people to get the treatment they need before hands and feet become clawed and damaged.

International

Monday 23 May

Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital in Myanmar is one of only three places in Myanmar where people can get leprosy treatment and the only place in the country where reconstructive surgery and pioneering ulcer treatment take place. Give thanks for this hospital and for the two government hospitals for people affected by leprosy in Myanmar. Please continue to pray for Myanmar and for the most vulnerable in that nation.

Tuesday 24 May

In Timor Leste there has been an increase in Grade 2 disabilities as a result of leprosy and an increase in the number of children detected among new cases. These two factors indicate late detection of leprosy. People with disabilities from leprosy living in communities also have a limited understanding of how to prevent disabilities. Please pray that programmes can be developed to tackle these issues. Pray that education can take place so that awareness of symptoms is raised and so that people are confident to come forward for treatment.

Wednesday 25 May

Ethiopia is still at war and many atrocities have been reported on both sides. Please pray for a peace process to be undertaken. A humanitarian disaster is imminent because of drought and looming famine in the area. Please pray for the leaders of both sides of the conflict to have a change of heart. Pray for God's help for the vulnerable and needy.

Thursday 26 May

The Leprosy Mission Mozambique works in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, a region with particularly high rates of poverty and leprosy. Leprosy Mission's work there includes healthcare, supporting livelihood and community development, and advocacy. Natural disasters, disease, high population growth and unequal distribution of wealth all contribute towards the high poverty rate. Please pray that the programmes of Leprosy Mission Mozambique will be able to address health issues of people affected by leprosy and contribute towards economic empowerment.

Friday 27 May

The work of Leprosy Mission Niger is to improve

healthcare, and to train staff in the management of leprosy and other diseases, and disability prevention. Leprosy Mission Niger has also supported people affected by leprosy to recognise the signs of the disease in others, look after their wounds and support each other in their journeys towards healing. With only 0.1 doctors per 1000 people, and being the least developed country in the world, please pray for the provision of more medical care for the people of this nation.

Saturday 28 May/ Sunday 29 May

The global pandemic has had a great effect on the work for people affected by leprosy internationally. Give thanks that although it has often meant the suspension and limitation of project activities it has also led to opportunities for unplanned activities. Our partners have expertise in infectious disease control and in educating the public on health issues. Praise God that in many countries they have been able to support Government efforts to combat the spread of Covid-19.

Research

Monday 30 May

New guidelines have been written aiming to encourage self-care among people with leprosy ulcers. Leprosy Mission Trust India are working with people affected by leprosy to learn how these guidelines will work best within their lives and communities. Please pray that as they work with patients to develop together a version of the guidelines specific to the communities they are working with, the research will be helpful for many communities in various situations.

Tuesday 31 May

Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is the medicine that is given after a person has been exposed to a disease but does not yet have symptoms. Indonesia is one country in which research is being done to find out how effective this is in stopping the transmission of leprosy. Nations need to trial PEP in their own contexts to find out if it is effective there. Give thanks that in Nigeria there is a research trial for PEP called the Ready4PEP programme. Please pray that the research will be effective in its goals so that the fight against leprosy can go ahead successfully.