

### **Wednesday 3 August**

There are benefits and government support available in India for people affected by leprosy. The continued stigma of leprosy stops people from accessing this support. Please pray that as awareness about leprosy and its treatment is raised in communities more people will be empowered to overcome the stigma and advocate for the rights to which they are entitled.

### **Thursday 4 August**

More than 800 leprosy champions have been identified and trained by TLM Trust India. Please pray for guidance and strength for them so that they will continue to advocate for people affected by leprosy and disability in their communities. Pray that collective groups will be effective in influencing decision makers.

### **Friday 5 August**

Please pray for God's wisdom for those in leadership of TLMTrust India at the national and unit levels. Pray for good stewardship of God's resources and talents. Pray that those entrusted with leadership are able to think laterally in order to share power and authority. Pray that they will be influential in encouraging innovation.

### **Saturday 6 August/Sunday 7 August**

God's power and grace are needed at all levels of TLMTrust India so that all staff members can continue to serve the most vulnerable and marginalised in all communities. Give thanks for the humility and compassion of staff. Pray for God to bless them and their families and to keep them safe.

### **Papua New Guinea**

#### **Monday 8 August**

The Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project is nearing the end. Please pray for the SLD end of activity review. Pray that what has been learnt shows in the review and will help the team in the implementation of other projects.

#### **Tuesday 9 August**

The team at The Leprosy Mission PNG are working on data collection and analysis in preparation for the transition from the Strongim Helt Long Komuniti Programme to the Negotiated Partnership

Programme. Please pray for wisdom and strength for all those involved.

### **Wednesday 10 August**

Please pray for the staff recruitment process for the Negotiated Partnership Programme. It is vitally important to recruit the right staff for all positions. Pray that capable people will apply and for clarity and wisdom for those making selection decisions.

### **Thursday 11 August**

Please pray for curriculum development for the first round of training in health awareness. This training is to be carried out in collaboration with the local Department of Health. Please pray for openness and good communication between all involved.

### **Friday 12 August**

Please pray for young people like Clare to be diagnosed early in the disease progression so they can be healed without disability. Clare wants to be a teacher. She wants to share her story to encourage others affected by leprosy that they can be cured and go on to live positive, hopeful lives.

### **Saturday 13 August/Sunday 14 August**

Clare's parents were encouraged to make sure she didn't miss her treatment. They also did the financial training offered through TLM. Please give thanks that Clare's parents and others like them can manage their finances and have been able to set up market stalls to improve their income.

### **Research**

#### **Monday 15 August**

Give thanks that Leprosy Mission scientists in India are extracting leprosy DNA from samples so they can be tested for genotypes. This allows them to see which type of leprosy someone has and where it has come from. The research that is being done has the potential to allow contact tracing to be so much more effective in the diagnosis of new cases.

#### **Tuesday 16 August**

Imagine a mother and daughter living together. The team have taken a swab from both the mother and the daughter. The genotyping reveals that the leprosy DNA in the two swabs is different – it has different genes, so

it must be a different strain. This means that the daughter did not contract leprosy through her mother; she must have contracted it elsewhere. Give thanks that this knowledge could direct field teams to find the real source of the transmission by testing close contacts.

### **Wednesday 17 August**

Give thanks that genotyping will allow teams to narrow down the source of transmission as contact tracing extends until the index case is found. Give thanks that teams will be in a better position to look for signs and symptoms of leprosy, to provide treatment and to provide one or more antibiotics as a post-exposure prophylaxis. Pray for the research to be fruitful so that more people affected by leprosy can be diagnosed in the early stages.

### **Thursday 18 August**

For some years, researchers at The Leprosy Mission India have been testing one gene marker of leprosy at a time to find out which of these genes are the most sensitive to PCR tests. They are now able to combine three of the most sensitive gene markers into one PCR test, which appears 90% successful in diagnosing leprosy. This test is almost ready to be trialled in the field under a pilot within India's leprosy programmes. Give thanks for the development that has taken place and pray that the test will make leprosy diagnosis faster and more effective than ever before.

### **Friday 19 August**

Leprosy researchers in India have been looking at the extent to which leprosy bacteria can be found in soil and water. So far they have found a link between leprosy DNA in soil and water and new cases of leprosy identified in twenty families in one remote village with only one water source. Pray for the success of the research so that a case can be made to local governments for new wells so that people have clean water without the risk of leprosy transmission.

### **Saturday 20 August/Sunday 21 August**

A great deal of research is being undertaken to eliminate leprosy around the world. Laboratories recognised as centres of excellence for research about leprosy are in Bangladesh and Nepal. Research trial programmes regarding PEP (Post-exposure Prophylaxis) are underway as part of leprosy diagnosis and treatment

programmes in Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Please pray that research will provide breakthrough so that leprosy can quickly become a thing of the past.

### Indonesia

#### Monday 22 August

Global and national authorities are doing their best to eradicate leprosy in Indonesia. Studies have been conducted, especially on aspects of diagnosis and therapy. Please pray for success in the efforts to break the chain of leprosy through treatments.

#### Tuesday 23 August

Other preventative efforts could be carried out through Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), which is still in the research stage. Please pray for improved coordination between academics, researchers, clinicians, and health agencies, including the distribution of research results, promotion and prevention.

#### Wednesday 24 August

Give thanks for the collaboration of The Leprosy Mission NZ, and TLM Netherlands, working with No Leprosy Remains Indonesia and the Indonesian Dept. of Health. They are part of the research into the PEP, seeking to end the transmission of leprosy.

#### Thursday 25 August

Please pray for the direct involvement of people affected by leprosy in the promotion, prevention and treatment of leprosy. Please pray for ongoing leprosy and prevention training and technical development for health workers so they can diagnose early cases of leprosy.

#### Friday 26 August

Pray that awareness of leprosy can be raised at village level. Pray for the development of relationships with a wide range of community leaders so that community support for health interventions can be encouraged. Also pray that people affected by leprosy receive the necessary support.

#### Saturday 27 August/Sunday 28 August

Please pray for great steps forward in the ability of communities to maintain their own health, and to improve their environment. This will help people to

maintain immunity and not fall ill. Please pray for the local governments to take note of the needs of their communities and to have simple, creative ideas that can be put into practice.

### Bangladesh

#### Monday 29 August

Please pray for all the people affected by flooding in Bangladesh, and the many thousands who have lost their homes. Pray that emergency provisions can reach people in time and that safe drinking water will be available.

#### Tuesday 30 August

The aim of the Self-Help Groups in Bangladesh is to empower the most stigmatised and marginalised people affected by leprosy in the country. Members receive mutual support and livelihood opportunities. Please pray for members who have been struggling with their livelihoods since the beginning of the pandemic. Pray that the relationships within the groups will be strengthened and that livelihoods can improve.

#### Wednesday 31 August

Give thanks for supporters who generously donate for Self-Help Groups so they can grow in numbers and improve their management and leadership. Give thanks for the further support provided by donors for access to self-credit and livelihoods for people affected by leprosy.



## Prayer & Praise

*Strengthening the Leprosy Mission  
Family through Prayer*

**August 2022**

***The Lord is my shepherd. I shall  
not be in want.***

***Psalm 23:1***

**India**

#### Monday 1 August

Thank the Lord that The Leprosy Mission Trust India supports Central and State governments in developing materials for information, communication and education about leprosy. Give thanks that they also plan and put into place awareness programmes under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme.

#### Tuesday 2 August

As TLMT India engages with people affected by leprosy to be champions and ambassadors to raise awareness about leprosy, please pray for God's wisdom and grace so that people can feel valued and included. Pray that those affected by leprosy will gain confidence when they see and experience others in similar situations engaging in awareness programmes. Pray that this will encourage others to come forward for treatment for leprosy and for disabilities caused by the condition.