

progresses. Please pray that education will break down the stigma as people realise leprosy is treatable and nowhere near as contagious as thought.

Bougainville

Monday 4 December

Changes in senior management positions of the Bougainville Department of Health could impact the working relationship and partnership with the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme. Please pray that the Lord will guide the new leadership team to understand the importance of partnership. Pray also for the wisdom to support the top priorities of the BHCP.

Tuesday 5 December

Praise God for the successful delivery of the Post Exposure Prophylaxis training workshop for local health facility staff held in October. Household contact tracing has been undertaken for people affected by leprosy in the northern region. Pray for the success of the PEP intervention in helping to interrupt the transmission of leprosy in the region.

Wednesday 6 December

The next phase of the BHCP is due to start in January. This will require combined staff effort in planning the annual work plan and designing systems and procedures. Further staff recruitment will also need to be done. Please pray that staff will continue to embrace the programme and remain committed to the core focus during this transition phase.

Thursday 7 December

Myths and lack of knowledge have meant that many children have not been vaccinated against measles and polio. Pray for God's wisdom for the Bougainville Department of Health to design an effective communication and awareness plan to reach rural communities on the importance of special health interventions like vaccination.

Friday 8 December

Village Health Volunteers are an important part of the BHCP. Healthcare professionals train them in basic hygiene and sanitation and how to spot the signs of leprosy, TB and other illnesses. The volunteers learn about the treatment options available and how to

access them. Give thanks for the vital role these volunteers play for their communities and pray for God's blessing as they carry out their activities.

Saturday 9 December/Sunday 10 December

Early detection of leprosy and access to the cure means that people do not develop disabilities and can go on with their lives once they are cured. Please pray that as people in communities see and hear from other people who have been cured from leprosy the stigma will be broken.

India

Monday 11 December

Praise the Lord for blessing the Leprosy Mission Trust India with a committed, passionate, and expert team of doctors, paramedical workers, and administrative staff who support the organisation's vision. Pray that the Lord gives each one the wisdom and strength to continue healing all those who come to the hospitals with severe complications.

Tuesday 12 December

Please pray that various Leprosy Mission units in India get the necessary support from the government and donors to start the proposed Institute of Health Sciences and Research to train the next generation of health care workers. Pray that TLM TI can build the capacity of hospital and field staff to enable them to conduct high-quality studies.

Wednesday 13 December

Pray that the community projects of TLM TI can forge new partnerships with the government and local organisations for Leprosy awareness, early identification, and referrals for diagnosis. Pray that TLM TI can motivate community members to address disability issues and work for inclusive development.

Thursday 14 December

Prevention and management of disabilities due to leprosy is a major function in all TLMTI hospitals. Patients are taught to inspect parts of their body which have lost sensation, and see if there are any hot spots on their hands or feet. They are taught to look for swelling and wounds, and to report to the hospital if they see the danger signs. Give thanks for the holistic approach to preventing and managing disabilities.

Friday 15 December

Give thanks for the physiotherapy, occupational therapy and other services provided by TLM TI hospitals to all leprosy patients with disabilities. These include special splints, aids and appliances which are given to all patients who need them.

Saturday 16 December/Sunday 17 December

Praise God for His blessing on all the medicines and procedures provided in the hospitals so that every person receives healing from leprosy. Please pray for God's guidance in hiring committed doctors and surgeons.

Myanmar

Monday 18 December

Please pray for the ongoing service needs of people affected by leprosy who need ulcer treatment, reaction treatment and surgery. Many cannot travel far and there are only two leprosy hospitals in the country, which cannot function fully. Please pray for the mobile clinics the Leprosy Mission Myanmar are arranging to try and meet more of the needs.

Tuesday 19 December

Please pray for the Annual Retreat and the Annual Country Learning planned for 20th to 22nd of this month. Pray for travelling mercies for everyone attending. Also pray that the gathering will be productive and refreshing, to energise those involved for the upcoming year, which may continue to be uncertain and difficult.

Wednesday 20 December

Please pray for the team of TLM Myanmar, that God will continue to lead and guide their journey through the year. Pray that project activities can be successfully implemented and completed so that the lives of people affected by leprosy can be restored with hope for the future.

Thursday 21 December

Pray for the health and safety of all staff and volunteers who are working in different field offices. Pray also for the continued safety and travelling mercies for staff, volunteers and partners as they travel to project areas amidst all the uncertainties and security concerns

Friday 22 December

Give thanks for the construction process of the Orthopaedic and Disability Rehabilitation Centre in Taungoo. Construction should be completed by the end of the year. Please pray that the import licence for an elevator from China will be approved quickly so the elevator can arrive before March 2024. The building is vital to provide prostheses, special shoes for deformed feet and orthotic devices.

Saturday 23 December/Sunday 24 December

Give thanks for all the church-based activities for people affected by leprosy. Pray that expectations can be clearly defined for all parties involved and that each party will understand their obligations within the partnership. Pray that the involvement of churches in the activities of TLM Myanmar will result in greater inclusiveness in community activities for people affected by leprosy and their families.

Indonesia

Monday 25 December

This Christmas Day please pray that the Spirit of the Living God will work in the lives of people affected by leprosy and their families to draw them to Him and set them free from everything that holds them in bondage. Pray God's blessing on every person and programme working to defeat leprosy throughout the world.

Tuesday 26 December

Give thanks that the planning of strategy to combat leprosy during 2024-2027 is going well. Pray that the strategy can be completed in December for approval by the Trust Board of Yayasan NLR Indonesia and the NLR International Alliance.

Wednesday 27 December

Give thanks for the appointment of a new Executive Director of Yayasan NLR Indonesia, who will start work on 1 December. The transition process has started this month. Please pray that the transition will go smoothly and pray God's blessing for Asken, the departing Director.

Thursday 28 December

Pray that people affected by leprosy will be able to have access to quality health services and basic services. Pray that organisations of people affected by

leprosy will be able to advocate for the rights of all people suffering from leprosy and the discrimination that follows so that people's lives can improve.

Friday 29 December

The PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis) project in Indramayu is in the final stage of the implementation of Phase 1. Discussion for the extension of the project is ongoing among stakeholders, who include Leprosy Mission teams in NZ, Australia, Belgium and the Netherlands. Please pray for the successful development of plans to take the project forward.

Saturday 30 December/Sunday 31 December

Begin now to pray for the activities planned by Yayasan NLR Indonesia for World Leprosy Day, which will be held at the end of January. Public awareness campaigns are planned, involving the Indonesia Ministry of Health and local organisations. Please pray for the effective division of roles among stakeholders and for the messages to reach the public effectively.



Prayer & Praise

Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer

December 2023

'Praise the Lord, for it is good to sing praises to our God...'

Psalm 147: 1

Worldwide

Friday 1 December

Brazil has a high leprosy burden and poor treatment outcomes, leading to high relapse rates. Please pray for effective evidence-based leprosy education; communication between healthcare providers, patients and carers; state-funded support; and healthcare resource distribution so that people affected by leprosy can get the best cure, care and restoration available.

Saturday 2 December/Sunday 3 December

In countries with a high prevalence of people affected by leprosy the stigma of leprosy remains as a main reason for people to avoid diagnosis. Early diagnosis is vital to prevent the development of disability as the disease