

Thursday 2 June

Due to the size of the Democratic Republic of Congo, limited resources and a precarious health system, cases of leprosy are still hidden in many regions and the disability rate is high. Please pray for the research project involving Leprosy Mission NZ and No Leprosy Remains. The aim is to find out if the transmission of leprosy can be prevented through early detection, contact screening and a single dose of Rifampicin given to close contacts of those affected by leprosy.

Friday 3 June

Leprosy Mission research teams are currently looking at the possibility of using adjusted smartphone cameras to examine skin lesions to determine whether they have been caused by leprosy. This research is in its early stages. Please pray for the possibilities to be seen and developed so that diagnosis can be faster.

Saturday 4 June/Sunday 5 June

In Nepal a project is being developed in Janakpur, where nearly half of all new cases of leprosy are detected, expecting to identify 50 new cases each year for three years of the programme's duration. Volunteers will carry out contact tracing and contacts will be given a single dose of Rifampicin. Please pray that this programme will show the effectiveness of administering the single dose of antibiotic to close contacts of leprosy sufferers.

India**Monday 6 June**

Following the departure of Dr Mary Verghese from TLM Trust India last year, Dr Premal Das was appointed as Interim Executive Director of TLMTI. The Board of TLMTI has now confirmed the permanent appointment of Dr Premal to the role. Please pray for Premal and his wife, Dr Loretta Das, as Premal takes on his new permanent responsibilities.

Tuesday 7 June

Since the pandemic TLM hospitals are starting to see a return of non-leprosy affected patients who pay a small fee for outpatient treatment, a necessary part of the revenue for these hospitals. Please pray that the hospitals will be able to increase their revenue so they can continue to offer their services to those in need.

Wednesday 8 June

The social stigma of leprosy creates barriers for boys and girls affected by the disease to realise their potential. Lack of opportunities for education and employment worsen social exclusion and push them deeper into poverty. Please pray that the technical training provided by the Vocational Training Centres in India will enable young people affected by leprosy to live with dignity, overcoming the challenges of disability and stigma.

Thursday 9 June

The government-recognised Vocational Training Centres teach a wide variety of technical skills including banking and insurance, bedside nursing assistant, nursery teacher training and printing. They also focus on core life skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making. Please pray that students from families affected by leprosy will grow in the skills they need and can find jobs and develop careers.

Friday 10 June

Please pray for the Community Based Vocational Training Programmes, which provide skills training to women, girls and boys in rural areas who are unable to attend institutional training because of family commitments. Please pray that the support of the CBVT programmes will enable trainees to set up their own enterprises or find employment.

Saturday 11 June/Sunday 12 June

The recent heatwave in India caused greater energy and water shortages across the country, with some places receiving very little energy. The yield from wheat crops has dropped by up to 50 percent in some of the areas worst hit by the extreme temperature. Please pray for those affected by leprosy and their families, as the heatwave has made life even harder.

Bougainville**Monday 13 June**

The Leprosy Control Programme is reporting an increasing number of cases being screened, diagnosed and put on treatment. This is a result of clear referral pathways and a strong network and collaboration between Health Facility staff and the Community Volunteers, a positive development for the Leprosy Control Programme. Please pray for continued strong

support and collaborative relationships so that people affected by leprosy can be cured early in the disease progression.

Tuesday 14 June

Integration into the Autonomous Bougainville Government Department of Health is a top agenda for the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme, to ensure that the programme can continue as needed. Please pray for God's wisdom to guide the process for the upcoming mid-term review. Pray for the Dept. of Health and the Dept. of Community Governance to make good recommendations for future integration of the programme into the Dept. of Health in 2023 and beyond.

Wednesday 15 June

The key partner of the BHCP, the Dept. of Community Governance, is experiencing high turnover of senior management staff, which affects its ability to implement policy that will effectively support the BHCP Programme. Please pray for the new Secretary and his management team to appoint qualified and experienced senior staff who will provide on-going support for the BHCP Programme.

Thursday 16 June

Community Health Volunteers can initiate lots of change in their communities and are an important link for referral of people affected by leprosy to local health centres. The volunteers have had training over the years so have knowledge available to their communities. Please pray that any cases of leprosy can be diagnosed so that the spread of the disease can be stopped.

Friday 17 June

The current round of training for the Village Health Volunteers is underway. The training will cover further aspects of preventative health. Please pray for the effectiveness of the training in inspiring and informing the Village Health Volunteers in the work they do. Pray a blessing on these volunteers, their families and communities.

Saturday 18 June/Sunday 19 June

Over the years of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme a lot of training has taken place and awareness has grown of the need for clean water and

good hygiene and sanitation practices. Please pray for changes in behaviour at community level so the best practice becomes normal, and the overall health of the people can improve.

Indonesia

Monday 20 June

For the contact tracing project in Indonesia, please pray that the workplans for June and July can be carried out as planned. After a lot of disruption over the past two years the project is beginning to get back on track. Please pray that more people affected by leprosy can be diagnosed and close contacts given a dose of Rifampicin.

Tuesday 21 June

There have been many challenges to the work of diagnosis of leprosy and of tracing close contacts because of Covid. Please pray that the spirit of co-operation and the teamwork among those undertaking the project work will continue to be stable. Pray God's blessing on all those involved in this project.

Wednesday 22 June

Pray for the relationships between those carrying out the project and the local government stakeholders. It is important that local government continues their commitment to implementing this project. Please pray that the work does not become bogged down in local bureaucracy.

Thursday 23 June

Knowledge of leprosy is low in Indonesia and many people believe that leprosy is in the family for seven generations. Please pray that the perceptions about leprosy in local communities can be understood so that appropriate education can take place.

Friday 24 June

No Leprosy Remains Indonesia, the partner of Leprosy Mission in Indonesia is supporting the Indonesian Ministry of Health to develop the country's national action plan towards zero leprosy. Please pray for development of a plan which adopts the World Health Organisation global leprosy roadmap.

Saturday 25 June/Sunday 26 June

Leprosy is believed to be inherited and associated with ideas of unclean blood, which is shameful and not accepted normally in Indonesian society. The stigma can lead to progressive leprosy, resulting in permanent damage to the skin, nerves, limbs and eyes. Please pray for the strategy in Indonesia to eliminate the increase of leprosy and to fight stigma.

International Office

Monday 27 June

Please pray for the welfare of the staff of the International Office in London, England. The global pandemic has brought challenges including new ways of working, both in the office and from home and extra pressure to support staff and communities in vulnerable countries worldwide. Please pray that mental and physical health can be strengthened and that people can focus on the positive outcomes of the challenges of Covid.

Tuesday 28 June

This year the International Office is making a priority of advocacy efforts, being intentional to learn about the needs facing each country. They will also support the organisations of people affected by leprosy, participating in meetings and working to reassure and motivate them in their own efforts. Please pray that the efforts will be fruitful in engaging stakeholders and governments to address the stigma around leprosy.

Wednesday 29 June

The wellbeing and dignity of people affected by leprosy is the priority in the work of The Leprosy Mission. These can be protected by improved processes for gathering consent to take photos and share stories. New practices and consent forms are soon to be released. Please pray that the procedures will ensure people feel respected and safe enough to agree or disagree to share their stories.

Thursday 30 June

The Leprosy Mission will be hosting its Global online Workshops between June and July of this year. Please pray that stories of success will inspire participants and that the learning programmes will be fruitful for all involved.



Prayer & Praise

*Strengthening the Leprosy Mission
Family through Prayer*

June 2022

Then he said to him, "Rise and go. Your faith has made you well."

Luke 17:19

Research

Wednesday 1 June

Leprosy Mission NZ will be collaborating with Leprosy Mission England and Wales and Leprosy Mission Netherlands in a research project co-ordinated by No Leprosy Remains. This research project will be implemented by Leprosy Mission Bangladesh, studying the effectiveness of one dose of an antibiotic in preventing leprosy for close contacts of people who have been diagnosed with leprosy. Please pray for the success of this three-year research project and that the collaboration between the groups will work well.