

### **Wednesday 4 October**

Case detection delay means that many people in Indonesia who are diagnosed with leprosy also have developed disability. A major factor in the delay in diagnosis is the fear of the stigma of leprosy. Please pray that the perceptions of Indonesian people towards those affected by leprosy will be changed by education and advocacy so that people can live without fear of a diagnosis.

### **Thursday 5 October**

The Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) project in Indramayu Province is behind target because of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Please pray that they will be able to catch up this year. Please also pray for the planning and preparation for project activities for 2024 onward.

### **Friday 6 October**

Yayasan NLR Indonesia are developing their strategy for 2024-2028. They need to decide their strategy and approach so they can provide optimal support for leprosy elimination despite limited resources. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for those involved.

### **Saturday 7 October/Sunday 8 October**

Give thanks that the PEP pilots in five locations in Indonesia have served as a model for similar projects in other countries. Pray for clear outcomes of the projects so that the way forward becomes clear and people affected by leprosy benefit from them. Also give thanks that the self-care groups, first supported in Indonesia, have provided lessons that are now being applied in other nations.

## **Papua New Guinea**

### **Monday 9 October**

Give thanks for the good work being done by the Community Development Facilitators and the Community Health Volunteers working on the Preventative Health and Community Empowerment Programme (PHACE). Trusting relationships are being built with communities. Pray that the facilitators and volunteers will be encouraged and motivated by the success they see.

### **Tuesday 10 October**

Thank God for his protection during the implementation phase of PHACE. Some of the most remote communities in PNG were visited by staff and connections made. Pray that people affected by leprosy can be diagnosed and receive the treatment they need in a timely manner.

### **Wednesday 11 October**

Give thanks for the partnership between The Leprosy Mission PNG and government ministries, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and communities at large. Pray that these relationships have positive outcomes for people affected by leprosy and their families. Also pray that there will be ongoing positive development in communities.

### **Thursday 12 October**

Give thanks for the successful Annual Reflection meeting that was held late in August and for the learning that has taken place during the past year. Pray that the challenges identified through the reflection can be taken into account for future planning.

### **Friday 13 October**

Cross-country Learning sessions were held in late August. These involved staff of TLM PNG and two members from TLM Timor Leste. Give thanks for the relationships between the staff of the two countries. Pray that both teams will be encouraged and be able to implement ideas relevant to their own countries.

### **Saturday 14 October/Sunday 15 October**

*The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in from now onwards and forever. Psalm 121: 8*

Give thanks for God's continuous blessing in the lives of the staff of TLM PNG and their families. Pray that the staff will be fruitful in their work and will enjoy it. Pray for safety as staff and volunteers travel between communities.

## **India**

### **Monday 16 October**

The Leprosy Mission Trust India is planning to organise large-scale, targeted leprosy awareness campaigns in collaboration with the government of India. Please pray for the effectiveness of these campaigns so that more

and more communities become well-informed about the disease and its cure.

### **Tuesday 17 October**

Pray for the new Physiotherapy College being set up in Naini. Pray that the approval process can be completed without delay. Pray that God will begin to work in the hearts of the next generation of healthcare workers who will be trained at the college so they will be motivated by compassion for those with leprosy complications and other forms of disability.

### **Wednesday 18 October**

Give thanks for the sixteen hospitals run by TLM Trust India. Pray that they can continue to provide the cure and care to people affected by leprosy. Please pray that leprosy complications can be addressed so that patients' outlook for the future can improve.

### **Thursday 19 October**

Please pray that the work of TLM Trust India in advocating for and training people affected by leprosy will bear fruit. Pray that people will grow in confidence as they learn skills for work and as they learn to stand up for their legal rights. Give thanks for the empowerment of leaders through training.

### **Friday 20 October**

Please pray for God's blessing on the students in the Vocational Training Centres run by TLM Trust India. Pray that the students and employers will recognise their potential and that there will be the best possible outcomes from their training.

### **Saturday 21 October/Sunday 22 October**

Give thanks for all the community-based projects that TLM TI are involved in. Pray for greater emotional strength for people affected by leprosy so they will become less vulnerable to discrimination. Pray that people will become stronger and more able to advocate for themselves and others.

## **Kiribati**

### **Monday 23 October**

Kiribati is made up of thirty-three coral atolls spread over more than 3 million square kilometres of the Pacific. Over half the population lives on Tarawa, which is overcrowded. It is not clear how many cases of leprosy

there are in the country but elimination is a major challenge. Please pray that the elimination of leprosy and disability become a priority for the development of Kiribati as a nation. Pray for wise decisions by the government as they look towards the future of Kiribati.

#### **Tuesday 24 October**

The Government of Kiribati, The Leprosy Mission NZ and the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade are beginning to look at developing a programme for the elimination of leprosy in Kiribati. Pray for positive interaction between the stakeholders and pray that bureaucracy will not become a stumbling block to any programme.

#### **Wednesday 25 October**

Staff of TLM NZ may travel to Kiribati this year to make progress in the development of a programme to combat leprosy. Please pray for travelling mercies and pray that the results of a visit would further relationship building. Pray that the extent of leprosy in Kiribati will become clear so that an appropriate programme can be developed.

#### **Myanmar**

#### **Thursday 26 October**

The Leprosy Mission Myanmar partners with the Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital to deliver quality medical care and rehabilitation services to people in need. Give thanks for the services that TLM Myanmar are offering and pray that people affected by leprosy can continue to access the medication they need to be cured.

#### **Friday 27 October**

Give thanks that TLM Myanmar can reach people in remote hilly areas through their work with Christian Leprosy Mission Eastern Shan. Pray that initiatives being established in that area will mean the lives of people affected by leprosy will become easier and safer.

#### **Saturday 28 October/Sunday 29 October**

TLM Myanmar partners closely with local churches to reach even more people affected by leprosy. Give thanks that fifteen churches began running Disability Resource Centres, which provided physical rehabilitation through physiotherapy to overcome

disabilities. Ulcer care and special education were available, as well as counselling and emotional support to people affected by leprosy and other disabilities. Please pray that as many as possible of these activities can continue to be available to those who need them.

#### **Nepal**

#### **Monday 30 October**

The stigma associated with leprosy remains a major problem and those affected by leprosy are marginalised, and suffer continual psychological, as well as physical, distress. It is a challenge to work against the stigma towards leprosy. People in the communities do not want to be included in the self-help groups and be known as leprosy affected people. Pray for new ways to raise awareness and work against the stigma in the communities.

#### **Tuesday 31 October**

Stigma is linked with the perception of deformity. If this perception changes discrimination and marginalisation will be reduced. The primary cause of the fear and prejudice surrounding deformity is a lack of accurate information about the disease in rural communities. Please pray that more health education can be carried out, taking into account cultural beliefs and backed up by treatment that concentrates on the prevention of impairment and disability.



## ***Prayer & Praise***

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

**October 2023**

***‘Praise the Lord, for it is good to sing praises to our God...’***

***Psalm 147: 1***

#### **Indonesia**

#### **Monday 2 October**

The National Action Plan towards Leprosy Elimination for 2023-2027 has just been launched. Please pray that the plan will be officially adopted and interpreted into adequate programmes and budgets by the local and national governments.

#### **Tuesday 3 October**

Leprosy is a public health burden in Indonesia, with a high number of new cases every year and a high proportion of disability among new cases. Please pray for persons affected by leprosy to be able to have access to quality health services and basic services.