

Quarterly Prayer Guide



July, August, September 2018



Welcome

This is the Quarterly Prayer Guide for Jul-Sep 2018.

It is designed to be used as an accompaniment to the ASK 2018 Prayer Diary, providing updates and new prayer topics that have arisen since the ASK Diary's publication.

Over the next three months please join us in prayer for The Leprosy Mission and partners in Australia, Myanmar, USA, Canada, Ireland, India, Papua New Guinea, Chad, Netherlands and Sri Lanka, as well as our Trading branch, leprosy research work and our annual global meetings.

Thank you for supporting the work of The Leprosy Mission in prayer.

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Produced by The Leprosy Mission International Office
80 Windmill Road
Brentford
Middlesex TW8 0QH
UK

+ 44 (0)20 8326 6767
friends@leprosymission.org

www.leprosymission.org

Editor: Heather Warne
heather.warne@leprosymission.org

Cover photo: Adiya

Right top: Adiya practising tailoring

Changing Course



Adiya, 19, has been training as a tailor at Bankura Vocational Training Centre (VTC). She enjoys everything about the course. Soon, when the course finishes, she will have a week's holiday to go home and see her family, then she will move with eight of the girls she has been studying with to a hostel to start a new life in Kolkata, working for the tailoring industry. She has never been to the city and is getting excited. The teacher has visited the production unit she will be working for to ensure it is all safe for the girls.

Adiya's father had leprosy. He was a mason, but after the leprosy diagnosis he was forced to be a helper to the mason as he developed severe ulcers. Now his hands are disabled and he cannot use his right hand at all.

Although she didn't know it, Adiya was brought up in a leprosy colony from the age of one after her family were thrown out of their village. As she grew older, she began asking questions about her father's disability and what was wrong with him. Children at school, despite having leprosy in their own families, told her not to eat with her father, to stay away from him. When she was old enough

to understand, her mother told her that her father had been diagnosed with and cured of leprosy. Adiya was worried by what her school friends had told her, but her Mother said to her "Adiya, I have been sharing with your father for all these years - I am fine! You will be fine too. There is nothing to worry about."

Adiya and her older sister had to stop going to school as their parents ran out of money for books. As Adiya told us this her voice broke; the pain she felt for her parents, knowing they couldn't provide this crucial foundation for their children, was hard to see. A child's future can rest on their parents' ability to work and provide schooling. Leprosy changes everything. Her mother was so worried about the children, worried about her father doing manual work which could cause him severe disabilities.

Then Adiya found out about the VTC - an opportunity to carry on learning and support her family and herself. She is so happy to be standing on her own feet, and her father is proud of her. Adiya is grateful for all the help she's received and determined to change her family's course for the future.

2 - 8 July

Australia

Overseas Travel

Give thanks that Geraldine Toh, Finance Manager, was able to participate in the Global Fellowship Human Resource meetings held in Ethiopia during June. This was her first time participating and was a great time to learn and share.

Sponsorship Growth

Sponsorships continue to grow as a source of funding. Georgie and Lisa, Sponsorship Officers, have done an excellent job in delivering personalised customer service. Donors are engaged and feel connected to the projects and people they support. Give God thanks for this and pray that fruit will come from the seeds continuing to be planted.

Timor Leste

Australia's August campaigns this year are all focused on Timor Leste. This is a major push for local public donations to supplement the Australian Government's funding for The Leprosy Mission's Timor Leste projects. Please pray this will be successful and will continue to encourage people in Australia to reach out to support and care for their 'close neighbours' affected by leprosy in Timor Leste.

Merchandise

The Leprosy Mission Australia's catalogue and online store continues to grow and bring in new supporters. Praise God for this! In this quarter they will be running an acquisition campaign in a motoring magazine. This has been a successful way to recruit

supporters in the past. Please pray this will bring in new customers who are keen to help people affected by leprosy and disability through their shopping.

Annual Conference

The Leprosy Mission Australia's National Conference and Annual Country Learning take place in October. This is when Board Members, National Council Members, and staff come together to learn, pray, plan and celebrate together. It is a wonderful time of encouragement. Please pray everyone involved arrives safely, especially the international guests: Nelson from Timor Leste and Rosa from Papua New Guinea.

9 - 15 July

Myanmar

Barrier Free Marketplaces

Please pray for the initiating process for the implementation of barrier free marketplaces (accessible for all including persons with disability) and agricultural tools adapted for farmers with disabilities in Hpa Do township, Bago Region.

Training

Pray for the ongoing training of Grade 2 Public Health Supervisors (from the Ministry of Health and Sport), jointly organised by TLM Myanmar and the National Leprosy Control Program. By last month, 6 trainings had been completed, and another is taking place this month, with a target of 12 in a year. A refresher training on prevention of disabilities is given to newly appointed Grade 2 Public Health

Supervisors in high leprosy endemic areas.

Early Childhood Intervention

Please pray for Early Childhood Intervention System Project pre-service training being held this month for professionals (teachers, physiotherapists, social workers etc who will provide professional assessments and interventions) and paraprofessionals (who will assist families and do home visits) from nine pilot sites. Pray for all the logistic arrangements to go well and also for travel mercies for all the 300 participants from different parts of the country.

Mid-term Evaluation

Please pray for the mid-term evaluation of the Disability Inclusive Community Based Disaster Risks Reduction project, taking place this month.

World Servants Volunteers

Give thanks for the visitors from World Servants who will be generously volunteering their time and energy to support Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital this July and August. The first group of 33 participants will be volunteering from 14 July - 2 August and the second group of 30 from 7-26 August. Pray that God watches over them, and that they and those they are serving experience the love of Christ through their work.

16 - 22 July

India

Repeal Discriminatory Laws

Pray for the Private Members' Bill for the repeal of discriminatory laws to be taken up for discussion in the monsoon session of Parliament this week.

American Leprosy Missions

New Fiscal Year

This month is the start of American Leprosy Missions' new fiscal year. Pray that they can start the year strong both with programmes and fundraising.

Strategic Plan

During summer and autumn, American Leprosy Missions will start looking ahead to their next strategic plan. Please pray for those involved in the planning process that they will have wisdom and discernment to produce an effective plan that will bear great fruit.

Donor Event

In October, American Leprosy Missions is holding a weekend-long donor event. Please pray that the right people would come and that their hearts would be moved for the ministry.

effect:hope (Canada)

Every Child Thrives - learning

Pray that the midterm evaluation results and project review meetings from effect:hope's Every Child Thrives project will help effect:hope to learn from their work and make further improvements.

Every Child Thrives - campaigns

Pray for successful Vitamin-A supplementation and deworming campaigns in Oct/Nov.

Every Child Thrives - support

Pray for successful engagement with parents and community members to ensure all children, regardless of sex or disability, receive treatments. Pray too for continued support from government and other partners in coordinating services.

R2STOP

Pray for support for the investigators in their important research into transmission of leprosy, that it will help us solve the mystery surrounding this subject. Pray too for ready funding for research.

End of Project Evaluations

Please pray for the end of project evaluations for effect:hope's projects in Bangladesh and planning meetings in August for next phases.

TLM Ireland

Bailey and Pim

This quarter TLM Ireland celebrates the one year opening of their cafe in Dun Laoghaire 'Bailey and Pim'. This cafe is a space for people to come and learn about the history and work of TLM. Pray that it continues to grow.

Board Meeting

TLM Ireland's Board will also be meeting this quarter. Please pray for continued wisdom and strength to make the necessary decisions that will bring about positive change.

New Staff

Please pray for new TLM Ireland staff as they get to grips with their roles and engage with churches and schools in the coming months.

23 - 29 July

India

Project Proposals

Many community empowerment projects are ending this year. The projects are in the process of developing new proposals for continuing the work. Please

pray for God's guidance in this process.

Human Rights Defenders

Please pray for successful training of human rights defenders on how to use the toolkit for addressing stigma.

Cooperative

Pray for the successful formation of a block-level multipurpose cooperative in Chhattisgarh by the SHCD (Self-help groups towards Holistic Community Development) project.

Para Athletics

Praise God for the champion from Tamil Nadu who participated in the International Para Athletics Championship 2018 and won a gold medal and a silver medal.

Mid-term Reviews

Pray for the mid-term review of TLM India's hospitals, projects and community empowerment projects that will be conducted from July 11-26. Pray for God's guidance in the planning and arrangements and for fruitful reviews.

Leprosy Awareness

Pray for God's guidance in rolling out the community leprosy awareness campaign in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in the third quarter.

Ceramic Unit

Pray for the success of the newly set up ceramic unit run by families affected by leprosy, in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.

30 July - 5 August

TLM Trading

Autumn/Winter Catalogue

Please pray for resilience for the team as they finalise the development and ordering of the many products that will

feature in the catalogue. We thank God that Gifts for Life donations are ahead of last year, and pray that this will continue.

Christian Sales Agents and Trading Partners

Praise God for the wonderful meeting TLM Trading had in April with their Christian Sales Agents and Trading Partners. Thank God for their passion for wanting people in every town to have access to Christian books, cards and other items, and for their loyal support for TLM. Please pray that Christian Bookshops will survive the tough economic climate on the UK High Streets.

Artisans

Please give thanks for the leprosy-affected artisans in India, Nepal and Bangladesh who have produced some beautiful new items for TLM Trading to sell. Please pray that the items will appeal to our supporters and generate good sales, giving encouragement and a livelihood to our artisans and their families.

Christian Comedy Evening

Thank you for the TLM Trading Team giving up a lot of their personal time to put on a Christian Comedy Evening for 300 people to raise funds for and awareness of leprosy-affected people. Praise God that attendees enjoyed the evening and that ticket sales raised nearly £4000

Christmas Cards

We thank God for our new Christmas card supplier and their willingness to support TLM. They have put much effort into understanding the need for Christian Christmas cards, provided samples free of charge, and provided good quality at cheaper prices.

Please pray that these cards serve to raise awareness of people affected by leprosy whilst spreading the Good News!

Board Meeting

Give thanks for the March Board Meeting where the Board approved the 2017 Financial report and independent audit report. Thank God that the Board Members provide a good balance of support and challenge.

6 - 12 August

Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Sustainable Livelihood Development

Various training related to the Sustainable Livelihood Development project is underway. Please continue to pray for the Community Facilitators and Business Mentors as they support the people affected by leprosy who are implementing livelihood activities in their communities.

APEC Meeting

The 2018 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting will be held in Port Moresby from November 12-16. Pray for peace in the city during this disruptive event where leaders from all the Asia-Pacific nations will converge in this one place.

Community Facilitators

Retaining consistent, capable and reliable Community Facilitators has been a challenge. Pray that the team in PNG will be able to find the right people to be the facilitators, who will consistently support people affected by leprosy who are doing livelihood projects.

Finance and Administration

Thank God for the great work being done by Dorothy and Mathias to keep the PNG office finance and administration together and running. Pray for continued strength for them in their daily work activities.

Leprosy Case Finding

The World Health Organization is continuing to fund leprosy case finding activities in PNG this year. Pray for effective visits to the high endemic provinces and that new cases will continue to be found and treated completely, before people develop disabilities.

Funding

TLM PNG has submitted a concept note to an Australian Aid Incentive Fund. Pray that if it is God's will, this project will be viewed with favour and funding will come through.

Bougainville

Bougainville (an island province of PNG) is preparing for a Referendum for Independence in mid-2019. Pray for all that needs to occur to implement this referendum, and that whatever the outcome, peace will remain between the two regions of PNG and Bougainville.

13 - 19 August

Speaking Out - prayer requests from the ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) Panel of People Affected by Leprosy

Overcoming Stigma

Please pray for the dreams of all persons affected to overcome the discrimination and stigma associated with leprosy to come true.

Recommendations

Pray that the ILEP Members, ILEP Technical Commission,

Panel of People Affected, and staff can work together well and find ways to put the recommendations of the Panel into practice.

Communication

The Panel are looking for ways to communicate effectively with organisations and individuals affected by leprosy, to hear about the issues they face and to pass on relevant and useful information to them. Language, culture and technology are some of the barriers. However, they have seen that when people affected by leprosy connect, they are able to encourage, empower, enrich and learn from each other. Pray for innovative ideas and problem-solving towards effective communication.

Participation

Pray for increased participation of people affected by leprosy in service delivery, decision-making and advocacy. This has proven to empower individuals and communities, improve services and raise awareness. In the coming months the Panel will draft a participation policy for ILEP - pray for wisdom.

Stigma Guidelines

The Panel will be revising and updating the ILEP Stigma Guidelines. The aim is to include more content and also rework the format so that it will be a pragmatic, user friendly resource that people can use in order to understand, assess and reduce stigma. The role of people affected in this project is crucial. Pray for effective consultation and collaboration.

20 - 26 August

Chad

The Rainy Season

Please pray for a good rainy season with abundant rain to cover the fields and refill the wells. The water level has become dangerously low.

Physiotherapy

Pray for the integration of the two trained physiotherapists supported by TLM Chad within the national health system. TLM is looking at the possibility to set up a physiotherapy service in a neighbouring province so that one of the two may start serving patients in need in an unserved new area.

27 August - 2 September

Netherlands

Prayer Support

In 2018 the number of praying supporters in the Netherlands has already increased to more than 700 supporters. Praise the Lord!

Support in Ethiopia

In September TLM Netherlands' office volunteer Eva Liwier will travel to Ethiopia for a few weeks to support cross-cultural worker Tanny Hagens. Pray for a safe and successful trip, that Eva can do useful work in Ethiopia.

New Staff and Volunteers

Praise God that TLM Netherlands has been able to reinforce their team with new staff members and also new volunteers.

Donor Event

On 13 October, TLM Netherlands will organise an event for Dutch donors.

Pray for an inspiring day where new contacts can be made and existing contacts can be strengthened.

Newspaper Cooperation

Thank God for the successful cooperation with a Dutch newspaper in which many inspiring articles about leprosy and the work of The Leprosy Mission have been published.

3 - 9 September

Sri Lanka

Interreligious Harmony

Pray for interreligious harmony in Sri Lanka – as earlier in the year anti-Muslim riots led to an area of Kandy being burnt down. Pray too that our partner Alliance Development Trust's efforts in bringing religious leaders together to combat leprosy will contribute to improved community relations.

People's Forum for Change

Pray for the development of the leprosy-affected people's organisation 'People's Forum for Change' as it expands into the south of Sri Lanka with support from our partner Kaveri Kala Manram and TLM England and Wales.

Government Anti-Leprosy

Pray for a good appointment of a new director of the Government 'Anti-Leprosy Campaign' and good relations with Alliance Development Trust and Kaveri Kala Manram.

Inner Wellbeing

Pray for Rev Joshua as he will be providing training on Inner Wellbeing support for people affected by leprosy to Northern Province Government social welfare staff.

10 - 16 September

Research

Training Workshops

Give thanks that the two training workshops in Ethiopia and Nepal were well received and have had good results. Many participants have submitted full research proposals to the Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI), and they will be reviewed this autumn. A key component of the process is to link each research team with an experienced mentor, who can help guide them through these initial stages of research. Pray for this process, and for plans for a further workshop in Africa in 2019.

Student Supervision

The recruitment and supervision of Masters and PhD students at The Leprosy Mission's research laboratories is an ongoing process, so please pray that new students at this level can be identified each year.

Research Coordinator

The position of a cross-cultural mission partner to work at Nilphamari, Bangladesh as a research coordinator is on hold at present while we try to establish a solid funding base for the research work at Nilphamari. Please pray for progress in this endeavour.

Leprosy Review

Leprosy Review continues to be an important way for research findings to be disseminated to leprosy staff around the world. The Journal is free online, to anyone with internet access. Give thanks that through it we are able to access learning that enables us to improve our work, and share our learning with others.

Leprosy Research Initiative

Give thanks for the definite boost that the LRI has given to leprosy research. It covers the whole spectrum from basic laboratory research to clinical and social science research.

ILEP Technical Commission

All the members of the ILEP Technical Commission are generally very busy with other work outside the ITC, so please pray for wisdom in prioritising different commitments.

17 - 23 September

Global Meetings

Monday 17 September

Over the coming week and a half, TLM staff from around the globe will be gathering in Ethiopia for a series of meetings. Pray for safe travels and good health for all those attending, for God's peace and support for the team hosting in Ethiopia, and give thanks for this blessed opportunity to meet with international friends.

Tuesday 18 September

Today many of our Country Leaders (those without a local Board) are receiving their annual appraisals. Pray for open, confident and constructive discussion that helps us learn, support each other's needs and move forward as a global organisation.

Wednesday 19 September

Today all our Country Leaders are meeting, as are our Board Chairs. Pray that this time together will strengthen each group in unity and provide positive opportunities to discuss the operations of the Global Fellowship.

Thursday 20 September

Today and tomorrow our Members' Meeting takes place, where many key issues and opportunities relating to the Global Fellowship are discussed and voted upon. One topic of discussion will be our new five year strategy. Pray that people would be engaged and open and that all involved would be satisfied and inspired by new decisions and initiatives.

Friday 21 September

Tonight at a special dinner we will present two people with the Wellesley Bailey Awards. These unique awards recognise the achievements of people who have made extraordinary contributions to society through overcoming the social stigma and physical challenges of leprosy. Give thanks for our two award winners, for their perseverance and for this opportunity to recognise and show our appreciation for their efforts.

Saturday 22 September

Today we are hosting a Global Forum with the topic 'Pathways to well-being for people-affected by leprosy and NTDs: critical research questions'. Pray for all participants to benefit from the forum, for speakers and workshop leaders, and for a positive learning atmosphere. Give thanks for this opportunity to highlight the work of TLM and our Ethiopian partners ENAPAL.

Sunday 23 September

Today we hold a Fellowship Day, an opportunity for us to take time together to worship God, celebrate our successes and grow in our understanding of each other's work. Give thanks that we can join together in this way, to praise our Father who is the Giver of all good gifts, and pray for God's loving presence among us as we gather in His name.

24 - 30 September

Global Meetings

Monday 24 September

Pray for the Global Fellowship Audit and Governance Committee, who are meeting today to discuss key actions arising from the Members' Meeting.

Tuesday 25 September

Over the next two days, the Global Fellowship Board is meeting to review and assess matters arising from the various meetings over the previous days. Pray for wisdom to discern God's will.

India

College on Wheels

TLM Trust India is starting a new project, College on Wheels, for women's empowerment through education and employment. Pray for the success of this new initiative.