



# **ASK DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

**April 2025**



# Welcome from the editor

Following the structure of the ASK Prayer Diary, three Member countries have provided devotions this month. The first week of the month, we will also hear from five researchers involved in the great research work of TLM. One week, five staff members from TLM's International Office will share their thoughts.

31 March-4 April

7-11 April

14-18 April

21-25 April

28 April - 2 May

Research

France

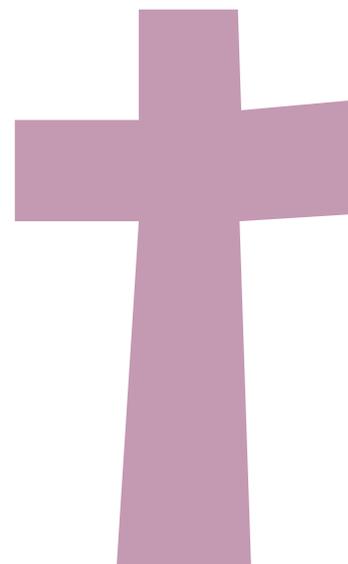
Nepal

TLM's International Office

Papua New Guinea and Bougainville

We pray that these Scriptures and thoughts will be a source of blessing for all of us, and that the reflections will encourage and stimulate our prayers for the work of TLM.

## Allan Ekstedt



**“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2**

As we all know, this world is moving against God’s will and many of us are following the same common path. But in the book of Romans 12:2, Paul is urging us to respond to God’s mercy and follow His will. Paul tells us to abandon the chase for pleasure, possessions, and status—to stop living like everyone else.

Specifically, he writes that we must be changed in how we think, to have our minds renewed so that we can begin to understand God’s will for our lives. Many of us have been working in the leprosy field for a long time, as per God’s will, not by chance. Many of us did not think or plan to serve in the leprosy field, but God had a special plan for us and called us to serve Him through the care of leprosy patients.

We still do not know many things about the causes and consequences of leprosy. There is a big need for new research to understand the facts of leprosy and its transmission and to overcome the challenges in the leprosy field. So, we need to work together to know the truth, which is only possible with the wisdom of God. Then we will be able to free this world from leprosy as it says in the book of John 8:32, ‘And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’



**Dr Indra Napit**, is an Orthopaedic Surgeon, working in Anandaban Hospital since 2008. In April 2024 he took on a new responsibility, as TLM Nepal’s Research Director.

## Prayer

Dear Lord, do not allow me to conform to the things of this world, but transform me by renewing my mind. Help me to see and understand your will in my life. Help us to offer our lives and our minds for a better understanding of leprosy through new research so that we will be able to eradicate leprosy from this world. Amen.



**“And besides this, using all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1: 5–8**

An important spiritual principle is that the more we earnestly seek and obey God, the more revelation He gives us about Himself and about His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. If we don't care and don't seek, there is little to be found!

There is an intriguing parallel with research. Research is ideally driven by our desire to understand truth and to reveal what is unclear or unknown altogether. We can do research for the pure delight of knowing and understanding. This world is God's creation and understanding His creation in any aspect is inspiring and honours God. Research can also help improve the life of those in need. As TLM, we want to provide the best for those we serve, be it medication, preventive measures, surgical techniques, or improved social conditions. This also honours God and reveals His presence to the world.

As with faith, the fruit of research does not come easily. We need vision to reach our goal. We need diligence, virtue, knowledge, temperance, and patience. There will be obstacles; practical, technical, and financial. We may be discouraged by the lack of interest of people who do not share our vision. But as with faith, overcoming the challenges and obstacles will certainly produce fruit. Where our endurance in faith leads to intimately knowing Jesus Christ, endurance in research leads to new insights that give glory to God and provide benefit to those in need. What a wonderful thing!



**Jan Hendrik Richardus**, is emeritus professor. He served in TLM as medical doctor for 10 years and afterwards focused on research, helping to develop leprosy post-exposure prophylaxis.

## Prayer

Dear Lord, we want to follow and obey you in all our ways. We pray that we come to know you more intimately day by day. We pray that your loving kindness is expressed through our lives and through our research endeavours for those we serve as a Mission.



**“From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding?... God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.” Job 28: 20, 23-24**

There are several different shades of meaning in the words wisdom, understanding, knowledge, discernment, etc. I recently heard a helpful analogy about how our understanding of the world around us can be compared to a piece of woven fabric.

The vertical threads are known as the ‘warp’ which can represent scientific knowledge and understanding about how the world works, while the horizontal threads running across are known as the ‘weft’ which can represent our personal discernment, experience and intuition – knowledge about our own place in the world and the relationships we have with God and other people.

When a tapestry is being made, the warp threads are fixed in place at the beginning and don’t change, while the weft threads are continually added to build up the picture with different colours and patterns. In some tapestries, the warp threads are not even visible in the finished fabric, but give an essential framework for the artwork that is provided by the weft threads.

Research in leprosy tries to give us a better scientific understanding of the disease and how we may help those affected, but this must be done in the context of relationships based on love and service.



**Paul Saunderson**, has worked in leprosy for over 40 years, including as Medical Director of American Leprosy Missions, and more recently as Editor of Leprosy Review. Paul is also the convenor of TLM’s Research Working Group.

## Prayer

Lord God, thank you for the beauty of creation and the wonderful complexity of life on earth. Please bless our efforts to understand your world through research, and help us to use both our knowledge and our personal experience of You to bring hope and blessing to those whom we serve. Amen.



## “Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.” Hebrews 11:1

In chapter 10, the writer of Hebrews describes why the new covenant in Jesus Christ was superior to the old covenant of animal sacrifices (Hebrews 10:1–18). This concluded with a reassuring reminder not to “shrink back,” but to “have faith” (Hebrews 10:39). The definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1 links this command to the examples of believers who demonstrated real, saving faith in God.

Each example of faith demonstrates trust, based on what that person knew and held as reassurance that God would act according to His promises. The “assurance” and “conviction” of faith is not blind belief, or gullibility, or wishful thinking – they all had good reasons to trust in God. Their “faith” was not naively accepting fairy tales; it was acting in full confidence that God would do as He had promised, based on those experiences.

As the rest of this chapter demonstrates, that kind of faith—trust which produces obedience—results in God's blessings and approval. God will make good on His promises, even if our earthly lives don't last long enough to see them come to fruition. God “creates” out of things we cannot see—both in a literal, physical sense, as well as a spiritual sense. Just because we don't understand how God will act does not mean He cannot or will not act.

Research starts with the unknown, but through testing and experimentation leads to knowledge and learning – adding to the evidence-base.



**Jannine Ebenso**, is Head of Knowledge Management & Learning at the International Office. Her work includes supporting and encouraging our research teams across the Global Fellowship.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, as our researchers across the Fellowship seek to add to the evidence-base about leprosy, we ask You to give them the wisdom and resources to focus on Your priorities, ask the right questions, design the best studies and share their results. Amen.



**“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”  
Matthew 7:7-8**

The essence of research lies in expanding the horizons of knowledge by seeking the unknown. This verse inspires us, as believers, to approach God with persistence, trusting in His attentive care.

As a member of The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh research team, I draw motivation from Jesus' words in Matthew 7:7-8: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” This promise drives not only me but all of us in our relentless pursuit of breakthroughs in leprosy research, believing each advancement brings us closer to healing and transformation for those affected by this disease.

Leprosy is not just a medical condition; it carries profound social stigma and exclusion. Our research addresses these challenges holistically, focusing on prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation while restoring dignity and hope to individuals and communities. We ask for wisdom to understand the complexities of leprosy, seek innovative solutions to overcome barriers, and knock-on doors of opportunity to secure resources that expand our impact.

With your support, we can deepen our research and uncover transformative findings that improve lives. Funding enables critical studies, inclusive health systems, and advocacy for policies prioritising the marginalised. Each discovery brings us closer to a world where leprosy no longer causes suffering or exclusion.

We invite you to join this mission of faith and perseverance. Your partnership will help us ask bold questions, seek sustainable solutions, and knock-on new doors of opportunity. Together, we can create a future where leprosy is a thing of the past, and every individual life with dignity and hope. Let us ask, seek, and knock, trusting that God will open doors for healing and transformation.

**Komol Palma**, currently serves as a Research Officer at The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh, where he supports the research team in implementing research projects and liaising with government officials to ensure effective project outcomes.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, grant us wisdom to understand leprosy's complexities, courage to seek innovative solutions, and faith to knock on doors of opportunity. Bless our research with breakthroughs that heal, restore dignity, and bring hope. May Your guidance lead us to a world free from suffering and exclusion.



**“When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.” Mark 6:53–56**

Jesus and his disciples arrived in Gennesaret after crossing the sea. As soon as they disembarked, the people recognised Jesus. This immediate recognition demonstrates the faith of the people, who seek light and find it in Jesus, the true Light. Yet Galilee was not known for its piety, and false prophets or political leaders often deceived people. But in Jesus, they see the one who fulfils ancient prophecies, not through acts of power, but through justice, love, and the fruits of his actions.

Wherever Jesus goes, to villages or squares, people bring the sick, hoping to be healed. This faith in Jesus transcends even the healthcare institutions of the time, showing that healing is a gift from God, not simply a human skill.

Jesus allows himself to be touched, even by the fringe of his cloak. This gesture is not superstitious, but a sign of His Incarnation: in it, God's grace touches and transforms people. Faith in Jesus inspires us to go beyond the limits of the world, towards eternity. He is the bridge between God and humanity, between time and eternity. This hope is universal and surpasses anything the world can offer.



**Pascal Machefer**, is the Country Leader of TLM France.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus,  
You are the Light that dispels the darkness of sickness and suffering.  
Renew my faith and my strength.  
Guide my steps towards Your peace,  
And make me a witness of Your love and Your healing.



## Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (The Parable of the Prodigal Son)

The youngest son leaves his father's home, believing he will find happiness far from his father's love.

One of the first things sin engenders is shame; it darkens our souls. Like the prodigal son, we feel unworthy, prisoners of our sins. Shame isolates us, making us forget that we are loved. Yet, even in this distress, a glimmer of hope emerges: guilt. It becomes a cry to God: "I am no longer worthy to be called your child." This painful feeling can be a first step toward return, as for the son who braves his fear and returns home.

The Father awaits us with infinite tenderness. He runs to us even before we utter regrets, and if the Father embraces him so tightly, it is to erase all distance between him and his son. His love calculates nothing: he restores our dignity by clothing us with his grace, symbolised by the ring and the feast. This forgiveness costs much more than the "fatted calf": it is marked by the blood of Jesus on the Cross, the ultimate offering for our liberation.

In contrast to this joy, the elder embodies those who serve God out of duty, not love. His resentful heart recalls a trap: believing that our efforts deserve divine love. The Father whispers to him, "All that is mine is yours," inviting us to move from self-serving service to a free relationship.

And us? Do we dare, despite our falls, believe that God awaits us with hope? Shame does not have the last word. Like the prodigal son, let us rise: mercy is already on its way, ready to dance with joy for our return.



**Pascal Machefer**, is the Country Leader of TLM France.

## Prayer

Merciful Father,  
In my distress and shame,  
I return to You, broken but humble.  
Forgive my pride, my senseless flight.  
Welcome me as I am,  
Restore my wounded heart.  
May your grace envelop me and transform me. Amen.



**“The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, ‘Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.’ Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.”**  
**Mark 8:11-13**

The Word, present from the beginning, is the creative force and divine life at the origin of everything (John 1:1-3). It is not an abstract idea, but a loving presence that shapes the universe and every being. Within it resides light, the clarity that pierces the darkness of ignorance, fear, or indifference (John 1:4-5). Jesus, this light, does not impose itself: he gently illuminates, inviting each one to walk toward truth and freedom.

God does not remain distant. The Word "became flesh" (John 1:14), sharing our joys and sorrows. In Jesus, God lives among us, touching our fragility, understanding our struggles. This divine closeness transforms everything: our humanity, marked by limitations, becomes a sanctuary where infinite love shines.

The light of Christ also reveals our vocation. Like John the Baptist, we are called to bear witness to this grace (John 1:6-8). To believe in the Word is to be born "not of human will, but of God" (John 1:13), receiving the strength to act with justice, tenderness, and courage.

Finally, this Word is a gift for all. It transcends ancient laws, offering "grace upon grace" (John 1:16). It is up to us to welcome it, not with words, but with actions: helping the excluded, listening to those who doubt, defending their trampled dignity.

In Jesus, God whispers to us: "I see your suffering, I walk with you" (cf. Exodus 3:7).



**Pascal Machefer**, is the Country Leader of TLM France.

## Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for this moment of intimacy with you that I can enjoy despite the hustle and bustle of daily life. You come to save us, you the Word incarnate, and I want to give you even more space in my life.



## **"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill." Matthew 5:17-19**

At the heart of the Gospel message, Jesus restores the true meaning of the Law: not a list of rules, but a call to live out concrete love. "I have come to fulfill" means that he reveals the law of love hidden in the Scriptures.

The Beatitudes show this path: the poor, the meek, and peacemakers become bearers of hope. Jesus invites us to go beyond the letter of the commandments to grasp their spirit. The true Law can therefore be summed up in two points: to love God and one's neighbour as oneself.

Christ's fulfillment comes through concrete actions: caring, listening, and lifting up those rejected by society. His humanity becomes the model for a love that becomes service. It is not a constraint, but a compass toward true happiness.

Like salt that gives flavour, our fidelity is measured by our ability to preserve the dignity of each life. New technologies must not make us forget that we are creatures called to communion.

Love becomes law when it is expressed through outstretched hands, patient listening, and the sharing of resources. In this way, we in turn become "fulfillers" of the Word—not by our own strength, but by the grace of loving as Jesus did.

The evangelical revolution is here: transforming every encounter into an opportunity to reveal divine tenderness. A daily challenge that makes us artisans of peace and witnesses of hope.



**Pascal Machefer**, is the Country Leader of TLM France.

## **Prayer**

God of love, guide our steps on the path of peace. Give us a heart attentive to suffering, hands to serve, and words that reconcile. May your Spirit enlighten our choices, strengthen our hope, and unite us in your tenderness. Through Christ, Amen.



## Luke 13: 6-9

Turning to the light of Christ means responding to a call that transcends the individual: it means embracing a hope for humanity. Like the fig tree in the parable (Luke 13:6-9), each person needs time and care to bear fruit. Christ teaches us that God is patient, digs the soil of our lives, and places there what nourishes us - trials, encounters, doubts - so that a desire for justice and peace may germinate within us.

Conversion is not a sudden flash, but a slow sunrise. It begins by looking at the world's fractures with God's eyes: "I have seen the suffering of my people" (Exodus 3:7). These words resonate today in the face of exile, inequality, and solitude. To convert is to allow this divine compassion to transform our hands into concrete gestures: sharing, listening, and defending the dignity of every being.

The psalmist reminds us that God is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Ps 102:8). This patience is not indifference, but an invitation to act tirelessly. In our societies, often marked by individualism, conversion also becomes a community commitment: no one grows alone.

Fragility is part of the journey. Paul emphasises this: even nourished by grace, we can stray (1 Cor 10:12). But every fall is also a chance to begin again. Like the fig tree receiving one last chance, we are called to become artisans of reconciliation, not through perfection, but through an active faith that dares to sow hope where despair reigns.



**Pascal Machefer**, is the Country Leader of TLM France.

## Prayer

**Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus, who reveals Your heart. Help us reflect His love and truth daily. Fill us with compassion, guide our steps, and make us beacons of Your light. May our lives glorify You and draw others to Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.**



## **"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1**

Last year, our hospital premises faced a devastating landslide. Many buildings were severely damaged, including the Self-Care Unit, where landslide debris and water-mixed mud flooded up to two feet inside the building. There was no electricity, no lights, and no telephone network. The continuous heavy rain brought down large trees, adding to the chaos and destruction.

Inside that building, alone in the darkness, was a 72-year-old woman affected by leprosy. She had no fingers on her hands and only one leg due to complications from the disease. Trapped in the storm, she remained there for 18 hours before being rescued. Despite the terrifying ordeal, she appeared calm—not fearful. When asked if she had been scared, she simply said: "I remembered the story of Jesus and His disciples crossing the sea. The disciples were afraid of the storm, even though Jesus was with them. But I spent my time praying to God and felt that Jesus was with me—whether I survived or died."

In the midst of the landslide and relentless rain, her unwavering faith not only carried her through but also inspired all of us. Her resilience was a powerful reminder that even in the face of disaster, faith can bring peace and courage.

**Dr Kaleb Budha**, Health Service Director, Anandaban Hospital ,TLM Nepal

## **Prayer**

**Dear God, Please grant us the faith to stand firm in the storms of this world. Help us to feel Your presence even in the midst of the landslides of our lives. Open our eyes to see our journey from a Kingdom perspective, trusting in Your divine plan and unfailing love. Amen.**



## **"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." Psalm 50:15**

In our daily lives, we make plans to move our projects forward and achieve good outcomes. However, things do not always go as we expect. In the communities where we live, we strive to grow together, but while many may support our vision, some may disagree with our plans for the well-being of the community.

Even within our own families, things do not always unfold the way parents hope. In our personal and professional lives, we face hundreds and thousands of ups and downs, enduring many struggles. But God always knows our troubles and delivers us from them all. So, when trouble appears near you, do not forget Him and His promising word. Walk with Him day by day, and He will not leave you alone in times of trouble.

Yet, Psalm 50:15 reminds us of God's promise: "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." This assurance strengthens our faith, knowing that even when challenges arise, God is with us, guiding and delivering us for His glory.

**Sher Gurung**, Head of Hospital Administration, Anandaban Hospital, TLM Nepal

## **Prayer**

**Dear God, thank you so much for Your continuous blessings upon us. Even in the midst of trouble, you are always there to support me. I have tasted your kindness and faithfulness, and you are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.**



## **“Be persistent in Prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.” Colossians 4:2**

My neighbour, a housewife and mother of two, had what seemed to be a good life. Her husband, a soldier in the Army, provided for their family. However, everything changed when she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour. She began attending church and reading the Bible, deepening her faith.

When her husband discovered her newfound belief, he reacted with anger and violence. He beat her with his army boots, subjected her to physical and emotional abuse, and even tore up her Bible, making her life miserable. Despite years of suffering, she never wavered in her faith. She continued to pray for her husband, trusting in God's timing and grace. Today, that same man who once persecuted her is now a pastor in a small village. His life has been transformed, and God has used him for His glory, making him a blessing to many.

Many of us may be facing struggles—whether financial, emotional, or physical. But dear friends, remember that God is in control, and our prayers are never in vain. A habit of prayer, even when God seems silent, is an essential part of our Christian walk. God hears our prayers and remains faithful to His promises. Even when waiting feels long and answers seem distant, He works in His perfect timing, making everything good for those who trust in Him. So, be persistent in prayer.

**Ms Mahima Bantawa**, Nursing Superintendent, Anandaban Hospital, TLM Nepal

## **Prayer**

**Dear Almighty God, thank you for hearing our prayers and please keep remind us who you are and help us to keep praying no matter what situation we face. Empower us with your Holy Spirit to pray daily so that it can produce wonderful results for your glory. Amen.**



**“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”**

**Psalm 23:4**

Disaster, uncertainty, political unrest, and recession, are the things that we see going on around us every year. These things are like hurdles that slow down our pace of work and service. These things even distract our focus. The Word of God encourages us in the midst of all these circumstances. The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest.” Exodus 33:14. Yes, His presence helps us experience His peace, regardless of the circumstances surrounding our lives. God's presence can bring us to a place of calm, comfort, confidence, and rest. We just have to make room, diligently seeking Him and trusting in His love. And knowing that His presence makes a difference. Kind David was so confident about this. Therefore he wrote; Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.” Kind David said with confidence, “The Lord is my Shephard.”

Experiencing the Lord's guidance as a Shepherd in daily life is really a blessing and comfort under his arm. The Lord of the Universe is my Shepherd at my work, my home and within my family life. Our God who leads in all the unrest situation protects us, as per his promise, in the midst of all the calamities.

I thanked God when I could see his protection at the time of the massive disaster that occurred at Anandaban Hospital in 2024. Yes, God is faithful in his promises and showed his presence with us at such a difficult moment.

**Abidan Parajulee**, Head of Operations and Finance, Country Office, TLM Nepal.

## Prayer

**Heavenly father, we thank for your presence that goes with us. Thank you for being our Shephard who guide us, lead us, teach us to be in the path of righteousness. Thank you for your protecting hands upon us. Amen.**



## **“He is not here, he has been raised.” Luke 24:6**

As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, we reflect on the profound significance of this event. The words of Scripture declare: "He is not here; He has risen." This moment in history is unparalleled—nothing like it has ever happened before, nor will it ever happen again.

While Christmas is celebrated with great joy and happiness in remembrance of Jesus' birth, the events of His crucifixion and resurrection do not always receive the same level of celebration. However, this passage reminds us that the fulfillment of Jesus' mission—His sacrifice and victory over death—is equally vital. Without the resurrection, the Gospel of salvation would be incomplete.

The power of Christ's resurrection has had an immense impact on human history. When we truly understand its significance and apply it to our lives, we find freedom from the captivity of sin. The resurrection is not just a fundamental part of Christianity—it is an essential truth. Jesus Himself is the truth, and death could not defeat Him. His resurrection stands as undeniable proof that truth prevails in the end.

"Friday is here, but Sunday is coming!" This powerful reminder fills us with hope. Though Jesus died on a Friday, He conquered death and rose again on Sunday. His resurrection assures us that even when our struggles seem overwhelming and our faith is tested, the truth will ultimately triumph. If Christ had not risen, our hope and faith would be in vain—but because He lives, we can hold fast to His promises with confidence.

**Ruth Shrestha**, Senior counselor of Anandaban Hospital, TLM Nepal

## **Prayer**

**Dear God, thank You for your resurrection which gives us hope and new life, without your crucifixion and rising from the dead our faith would have been of no use. Lord, renew our faith everyday as we walk daily with the risen Lord. Enable us to live victorious life.**



**“One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The first is, Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:28-31**

Why is safeguarding important to TLM? There are many answers you could give to this question. You might say, “It’s a legal thing that we need to do.” Or maybe, “In the past, we never had this bureaucracy, but in today’s world, we need to do it.”

I am convinced that we are called to a much greater vision of safeguarding than these. I believe we should be leading lights in safeguarding. Why? Because I believe safeguarding is a reflection of God and God’s dealings with people. The verses from Mark are famous words. These commands to love God and to love our neighbour work together to describe the transformed life of a follower of Christ. Firstly, love God with your whole being (that’s our vertical relationship). However, we are then called to love on a horizontal level. In fact, our love for others is an indicator of how much we truly love God.

Loving our neighbours, whether that is persons affected by leprosy or our colleagues, our leaders, or those whom we lead – these are not optional extras to our devotion to God. No, these are practical examples of our love for God. If we truly love God then we cannot ignore the wellbeing of the people around us. So I encourage us all to take safeguarding here at TLM as a precious outworking of God’s love for those who are vulnerable and a healthy expression of our love for our neighbour.



**Julia Kragulj**, is the Global Safeguarding Advisor, based at TLM International Office.

## Prayer

**Loving God, strengthen and guide us as we strive to make TLM a safe place for everyone. Give us wisdom and courage to listen with open hearts, see with open eyes, and speak out to ensure that children, vulnerable people and our colleagues, are safe, loved, respected, and cared for. Amen.**



**“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” Romans 8:24–25**

Looking beyond what is visible encourages you to consider deeper meanings, different perspectives, and new possibilities, going beyond the surface level of what is immediately apparent. Having a deeper meaning encourages us to think about the underlying reasons, implications, or context of a situation, rather than just accepting it at face value.

Considering different perspectives, looking at things from multiple viewpoints, and considering how others might perceive the same situation or event; this will prompt us to be open to new ideas, solutions and outcomes that may not be immediately obvious. Moreover, when we move beyond the obvious, it enables us to see what might be obscured beneath the surface level.

So consider the following: do we focus on weaknesses, not strengths? Do we look at incapacity, not capacity? Do we look at disability and not the smile? Are we missing the potential a person affected by leprosy has to create greater opportunities for themselves and others?

Let us view people and things with God's perspective because God sees beyond what we see. God sees potential and hope and patiently guides and nurtures so that full potential is achieved.



**Kalpana Shah**, Finance Officer at the International Office.

## Prayer

**Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us your perspective and helping us to look beyond what is not immediately obvious. Help us to focus on strengths and not weaknesses. Give us the patience to hope for what we do not yet have. Amen.**



Have you ever heard people online asking if we can normalise something? Can we normalise being overdressed for random, mundane activities? Can we normalise being dumb once in a while? Can we normalise putting your co-workers in a time out when they give you attitude? (For my sake, maybe not the last one).

What I'd like to normalise is seeing the beauty in God's world in unusual places. Because yeah, nature's great, but it's a bit basic, no? You see mountains or a beach and you say 'Wow, isn't God's creation great?' Come on, let's be original. God's creation is beautiful in much weirder places.

I find God's creation beautiful when someone plays a guitar very, very loudly. I am astounded by God's creation every time I re-watch [Thiago's physics-defying goal against Porto](#) (did it touch the floor? Will we ever know??). I love God's creation every time I remember the ['fold in the cheese' scene](#). It could be [THAT Ben Stokes innings at Headingley](#), the [TikTok tortilla challenge](#), or the video of Korn and Slipknot performing Sabotage by the Beastie Boys (I won't hyperlink that one, as it's a bit much!)

Maybe you don't recognise any of the references I've just made. That's my point – God's creation is so diverse that you probably find it beautiful in ways most people haven't even heard of. Because God did not promise us we would not face challenges. He did not promise we would always be happy. But he did make a world so diverse that there is no end to what we can find beautiful.

What is the weird thing in your life that reminds you that God made a world that is meant to be enjoyed?



**Timothy Burton**, is the Global Communications Lead at TLM International. He has been with TLM since 2019, working across advocacy and communications.

## Prayer

**Lord God,  
Thank you for making a world that is made beautiful by its diversity.  
Thank you for making each of us different so that we each find  
beauty in different places. Thank you for all the moments we feel  
truly alive.  
Amen.**



### John 20: 1- 19

#### Living in the Resurrection

Picture the early morning mist and Mary Magdelene on the path to the tomb. The quiet of the day barely disturbed at that early hour, except perhaps for a distant birdcall. At the end of that path, what was revealed to Mary Magdelene and later to the disciples changed their lives and beyond.

As we move beyond Easter Sunday, the joy of Christ's resurrection continues to resonate in our hearts. The tomb is empty, the stone has been rolled away, and Jesus is alive. But, what does this mean for us today, in the quiet days that follow Easter?

In John 20:19-22, we read of the disciples, gathered in fear, unsure of what to do next. Jesus appears to them, offering them peace. "Peace be with you," He says. His resurrection was not just a moment for celebration; it was the beginning of a new reality for His followers.

This week, is an opportunity for us to reflect on how the resurrection continues to shape us. Are we living in the freedom and victory that Christ's resurrection offers? Are we embracing the new life that comes with His defeat of sin and death?

As the disciples received peace, so do we. The risen Christ offers us His peace in our daily lives, even when we feel uncertain or fearful. The hope of Easter is not just for a day—it is a call to live in the power of the resurrection every moment of every day.



**Melonie Rajaratnam** – Grants Officer at The Leprosy Mission International (since October 2000)

## Prayer

**Dear Lord Jesus, help us to live in the reality of your victory, walking in your peace and sharing your love with a world that desperately needs it. We at The Leprosy Mission have a unique opportunity to share your love through the work that we do. We thank you for your call. Amen.**



**"We are asking God to give us a gift from the wealth of his glory. We pray that he would give us inner strength and power through his Spirit."  
Ephesians 3:16**

Our colleagues form a unique work community. We spend a third of our day, about 8 hours, with them. For some, we connect with colleagues remotely, across provinces, cities and countries.

In our interconnected workplaces, how often do we recognise the God-given gifts and strengths of our colleagues? Do we see beyond the tasks, deadlines, languages, religions, and diversities to recognise the image of God in every person we work with? Would you consider your workplace as a mission field of God's love and grace? What would that look like? How would it translate into our interactions with one another? I find Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16-19 (God's Word Translation) a meaningful starting point, let's use "we" instead:

"We are asking God to give us a gift from the wealth of his glory. We pray that he would give us inner strength and power through his Spirit. Then Christ will live in us through faith. We also pray that love may be the ground into which we sink our roots and on which we have our foundation. This way, with all of God's people, we will be able to understand how wide, long, high, and deep His love is. We will know Christ's love, which goes far beyond any knowledge. We pray this so that we may be completely filled with God."

May we represent God's heart, pursuing unity and extending grace. In doing so, may our Global Fellowship become vibrant communities where we see the capability of the other, lift up those who are down, places where we enable one another to experience God's love.



**Cindy Norfor**, Global HR Advisor, TLM International Office, serving with TLM since 1996.

## Prayer

**Dear Lord, thank you that we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Enable us to serve you with gratitude, reverence and awe (Heb 12:28). May your word be a lamp unto our feet and a light for our paths (Prov 6:23) which we rely on like a compass to steer us true. We ask that you will help us to create workplaces that honour you and demonstrate your heart. Amen.**



**“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

Community development is about building up people and places. It's about recognising that we are interconnected and that our well-being is tied to that of those around us. As people of faith, we are called to be active participants, driven by love and compassion.

Recognising our shared humanity, the above verses reminds us that we are not meant to be alone. We live in a world full of people. We are created for the community. When we see the needs of our neighbours, we are seeing an opportunity to reflect God's love. This goes beyond physical community improvements – it addresses the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of individuals.

Our faith compels us to act with compassion. We are called to be "doers" of the word, not just "hearers". This means actively seeking ways to improve the lives of those around us. Whether it's volunteering for food distribution, mentoring young people, or taking part in a community clean up, every act of service makes a difference. Effective community development requires unity and collaboration. We must work together, over-coming differences to achieve common goals. Let us strive to create communities where everyone feels valued, respected and empowered to contribute their gifts.

How can I be a better neighbour? What are some needs in my community that I can help address? How can I work with others to make a positive impact?

By living out our faith through acts of service and community building, we can create a world that reflects God's love and justice.

**Clare Oza**, Community Development Facilitator for Hiri-West in Central province, PNG

## Prayer

**Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of community. Help us to see the needs of those around us and to respond with compassion. Give us the wisdom and strength to work together to build strong thriving communities. May your love shine through our actions, and may we bring hope and healing to those in need. In Jesus's name. Amen.**



**“One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord. And He will repay him for his good deeds.” Proverbs 19:17**

The definition of poor means someone who is “lacking sufficient wealth and resources to live a normal life in a society”. In a world of diverse culture, traditions and languages, the definition of poor still stands. Regardless of where we are, we are surrounded by people in need, because they don't have enough to live a normal life in the community.

No wonder Jesus mentioned this in Mathew 25:35 – “For I was hungry, and you gave me food to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you took me in.”

Because of being in a state of poverty, many people affected by leprosy are hungry, thirsty, and some even don't have a place to reside. The biblical text goes further to explain an action phase. Matthew 35:40 says, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”.

During our activities for The Leprosy Mission, let's not only talk about doing good, but let our actions reach people who are thirsty and hungry and in need. Let's provide through food, or water or referral for medicine, or self-care for disabilities, or support for those who are homeless due to violence. Let's be channels of God's love.

In doing so, the Bible text also speaks of a reward of God's blessings. He will repay those who do good deeds.

**Larsen Neayambe**, Works as the Senior Programme Manager for TLM-PNG, supporting projects to reach out to those in need.

## Prayer

**Lord, please open our eyes and minds to see those who are in need each day. Help us to become a channel of blessings with what you bless us with. Help us to touch a person in need today. Amen.**



**“But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.” 2 Chronicles 26:16**

Uzziah became king of Judah at just sixteen years of age. He sought God in his youth and “did what was right in the eyes of the Lord” (26:4) and as long as he sought God, the Lord gave him success (26:5).

Uzziah’s fame grew as he built cities, grew in wealth, strengthened Judah’s army and invented advanced weapons for his time. “His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful” (26:15). Who was Uzziah greatly helped by? God? His servants? His army? His leaders and advisors? Probably all of these. King Uzziah started his reign with humility and dependence on God, and because he sought the Lord, God granted him success, strength, influence, favour and collaboration from others.

However, as his power grew, so did his pride. He became self-reliant and overstepped his boundaries, by entering the temple to burn incense – something only priests were allowed to do. When confronted by the priests, he raged at them and “leprosy broke out on his forehead” (26:19). King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house – leprous, and banned from the temple of the Lord”. (26:21)

Pride deceives us into thinking we can live independently of God. It makes us forget who is truly in control. Uzziah’s downfall serves as a powerful warning. Success can be dangerous if it leads us away from God rather than closer to him. Are there any areas in our lives where pride might be leading us away from God’s will?

**Peiwa Kila**, A former School Teacher, passionate about faith-based activities, sports, fishing and leadership roles. Currently serving as a Community Development Facilitator for TLM-PNG, working with Volunteers to Support Local Communities.

## Prayer

**Lord help us remain humble in every season of our lives. May we never take your blessings for granted, but always walk in humility, obedience and gratitude. Amen.**



**“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings, you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” Psalm 91:4**

When you picture a magnificent flying bird, it is usually not a chicken that comes to mind. I've never seen a chicken pictured in flight – many eagles, but no chickens. In addition to the Psalm above, Isaiah 40: 31, talks about being “borne up on the wings of eagles”.

There is a difference however, between being ‘on’ His wings and being ‘under’ his wings. This promise in Psalm 91 is not talking about the flying wing, which indicates strength and accomplishment. The protective wing indicates familiarity and safety. The warmth of a nest and the security of being under the wings of a nurturing, loving mother hen with chicks, it paints a vivid picture of the sheltering wing of God’s protection.

Did you notice it says “He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings, you will refuge”? We can seek refuge under His wings if we choose to – it’s up to us to make that decision!

Mathew 23:37 is another such verse: “Oh, Jerusalem... How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling”. Notice the contrast between His willingness and our willingness – His wanting to compared to Jerusalem’s (our) not willing to – His ‘would’ against our ‘would not’.

What an amazing analogy to show us that there is protection offered that we don’t accept. God is deeply committed to us – yet, at the same time, we can reject His outstretched arms if we so choose.

**Dorothy Owen Human Resources**, Admin & Logistics Coordinator, The Leprosy Mission PNG

## Prayer

**Lord, help our hearts to be willing to run to you in faith every time trouble or danger presents itself. May we choose to seek the refuge that you have made available to us. In the name of Jesus, Amen**



**“She said to her mistress, ‘If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria. He would cure him of his leprosy.’” 2 Kings 5:3**

In The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship, there are different ways to address leprosy. One key activity implemented is general leprosy awareness raising, which we carry out in communities, churches, hospitals or even in public and social gatherings. The leprosy key messages are also disseminated through different media platforms.

The Bible tells a story of how a young servant girl did awareness raising for leprosy to her mistress. Her understanding about leprosy and where to refer her master was an important lesson that God gave to this young girl. It shows that God can use anybody who has the heart to serve, to be a help to others.

The servant girl provides a good referral pathway, despite the huge stigma and discrimination in the communities. God has given all of us within The Leprosy Mission, a heart of determination to show kindness and humanity to leprosy patients, who have significant needs. How can we use this determination to most effectively support people with leprosy in these areas?

Looking further into this story, in 2 Kings 5:10-12, we see Naaman’s initial attitude towards hearing the Prophet Elisha’s instruction. He is angry and frustrated. However, with a bit of wise advice from other servants, Naaman did as instructed and was healed. This shows how we must be resilient in spreading key information about leprosy to patients, so that they become hearers of key messages, and get treated, despite their initial reluctance. The story also tells us of God’s healing mercy for Naaman (who was not even one of God’s chosen people). Let God be our lead – He himself will heal the patients.

**Larsen Neayambe**, Works as the Senior Programme Manager for TLM-PNG.

## Prayer

**Lord, we pray that our message of healing will come from you and will be heard by the communities and patients that need to hear them. May they find more healing in you and be free from leprosy, just like Naaman. Amen.**

