# ASK DAILY DEVOTIONAL February 2025



## **Welcome from the editor**

In this second edition of ASK Devotional Diary we will concentrate on four members of the TLM Global Fellowship on three continents. You will find more information about the countries in ASK Prayer Diary.

> 3-7 February 10-14 February 17-21 February 24-28 February

Denmark Bangladesh Sri Lanka Nigeria

We pray that Scriptures and thoughts will be a blessing for all of us and that it will encourage and stimulate our prayers for the work of TLM in the four countries.

### **Allan Ekstedt**









## For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

This verse challenges us to literally set our fear aside and focus on the new spirit that God himself has given us. Fear and timidity will keep us from using the gifts that God has given. God has given us all we need to live daily as unstoppable over-comers. The choice is ours.

Our determination comes from God's unconditional love in which he builds our character and gives us a sound mind to navigate life's ups and downs.

As we have recently embarked on the Global Strategy, we are facing many challenges including limited public health capacity to address leprosy amongst their population, international aid being shifted towards domestic priorities, climate change and geopolitical conflicts.

Our answer is a spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Hans-Jørgen Knudsen is the Country Leader of TLM Denmark. He is convening the TLM Advocacy MAWG focusing on integrating advocacy in the Global Strategy's breakthroughs.

### Prayer

Let's pray that we will not shy away from any fear in our daily endeavour to follow Jesus. We will not be limited by any man, nor structures or systems as we work towards selfempowerment of persons affected by leprosy allowing them to uphold their human rights.





#### But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

As humans, we can often find ourselves in situations, where we do not understand the reactions of others. Our earthly being could be tempted to counter the reaction of our fellow man by proactively trying to change their behavior.

Instead, we could use such occasions to mirror the fruit of the Spirit in our own lives so that we can be shaped like an empty clay vessel ready to be filled by the Holy Spirit.

We have a responsibility to exert self-control over our own feelings and to manage our reactions so that God can use us as witnesses to His love.

Our task is to bring joy, peace, and goodness to all we meet, be it persons affected by leprosy, persons with disability, partners, governments, our own family, and our neighbours.

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### Prayer

Let's pray that our body, mind and soul be filled with all the fruits from the Spirit so abundantly that they will bring blessings, hope and tenacity for others to meet any obstacle, difficulty, and challenge as mere stepping stones on their way into the arms of Jesus.







## But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Mathew 6:33

The glow of life comes from serving others.

It is a privilege to be called into God's service and commit ourselves to a cause greater than ourselves.

In our earthly world unconditionality is challenged. The question "What do I get out of it?" seems to permeate relationships, reducing people to assets with the sole purpose of benefiting the power, material wealth, and esteem of others.

As a Christ-centred Global Fellowship we exist to serve persons affected by leprosy. In the spirit of companionship, we give ourselves to our fellow man; humbly, generously and unconditionally. As Jesus gave himself to us.

As we daily pray for wisdom to walk in the footsteps of Christ, he will transform us more and more in his picture and show us his kingdom. He will lead us to persons affected by leprosy, persons with disability, and women under the scourge of social control, the people who cry out for redemption and righteousness. As we give ourselves to our fellow man, God's Kingdom will come and set us all free.

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### Prayer

As we offer our companionship, let's pray for righteousness for all those who suffer. Like a deer searching for water to quench its thirst, you Lord blesses us with your living water.







## Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:34

Life is so fragile. We never know what tomorrow brings. That uncertainty can bring any person to escape reality and find temporary comfort in earthly things.

Australian nurse Bronnie Ware has asked people who were dying about their regrets and compiled a top five of the most common reasons.

1. I wish I had had the courage to live a life that was true to myself, and not what others expected of me.

- 2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard.
- 3. I wish I had had the courage to express my feelings.
- 4. I wish I had kept in touch with my friends.
- 5. I wish I had allowed myself to be happier.

Live life this day, do not worry, and find comfort in the Lord, he will provide for you.

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### Prayer

Let's pray to be steadfast and faithful in our belief in Jesus, who died on the cross to carry our sins, resurrected and gave hope for an eternal life in his Kingdom.







#### Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Psalm 117

With its 27 member countries, TLM is the largest leprosy INGO in the world. Through ILEP we coordinate and partner with many other organisations to defeat leprosy and transform lives.

When we as nations come together for a common purpose, diseases can be defeated and human rights ensured through collaboration between civil society, the public sector, academia, and enterprises.

Purpose-driven collaboration is to reach out to others, to smile and greet them as new friends, and to celebrate our joint competencies, capacities, wisdom and understanding.

During the next six years TLM will realise the strategic, aspirational goals breaking the chains of infection, securing access to high quality rehabilitation, including everybody in local and national communities, and blessing funders to fund this amazing work.

We follow God's commission to reach out and touch somebody's hand, making this world a better place.

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### Prayer

Let's pray for steadfast tenacity on our journey towards breaking the chains of leprosy and set body, mind and spirits free.





#### Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Genesis 1:31

The Bible is full of good news. God created the earth and it was perfect and He loved it. The goodness for men started from the creation and God presented the best for humans. His creation of humans was also a great thing God loved so much. The evil wanted to damage the relationship and bring bad news to the human race.

The good news immediately emerged for men after they committed sin, and death entered for humans. Genesis 3:15 indicates a plan for salvation for all through Jesus Christ. As we have recently celebrated the birth of Jesus, we remember the event when God showed His greatest love for the world. The good news continues (Luke 2:10) and it will remain with us. Many a time when we face suffering, and pain we tend to think God is not listening to our prayers or God let it happen. We often use the term, what has happened was a plan of God.

Sickness, pain, suffering and death was not in God's plan. He sent Jesus to overcome all these through his blood on the cross. And a new covenant was made between God and Human. We are living under his grace and promised all good things will happen in our life. As his child we will be victorious over all the odds and mountains (Mark 11:23). Also all the goodness of God promised through Roman 8:28, 3 John 1:2. If we are not holding upon these words, we are letting evil to bring bad news in our life.

We can maximise his blessings by believing and trusting these words. A victorious life is promised for His children. Let us continue to enjoy that.

**Salomon Sumon Halder**, Executive Director for The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh working for 30+ years.

### Prayer

Father, we trust your words of goodness and we know the unfailing strength of your words will bring us happiness and victory over pain and suffering. Help us through the Holy Spirit to trust upon your promises.





I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, And shall trust in the LORD. Psalm 40: 1-3

At the beginning of the year, many of us make new promises and set fresh goals. But I had a question in my heart: Do we truly want to sing a new song? The scripture teaches us to do so, as seen in Psalm 40: 1-3, where it says, "He has put a new song in my mouth, the praise of our God." This is a song of thanksgiving and praise.

David's life shows us why we should sing a new song. When Saul sought to kill David, he hid in a cave. One night, David found Saul and his army sleeping. His servant Abishai urged him to strike, but David chose mercy. He took water and a spear from Saul's side instead of harming him. This act of justice and submission, described in 1 Samuel 26:12, reflected David's faithfulness to God's will. As a result, David was blessed and saved, and his heart overflowed with gratitude, leading him to sing a new song in Psalm 30:1-3.

Just as God protected David, He has saved us from various threats and answered our prayers throughout the past year. As Psalm 34: 7 & 19 remind us, God is faithful to deliver us from troubles. I have experienced His mercy, and my heart is filled with joy and praise. This year, I will continue to sing His praise, knowing He is always with me.

David Ashim Singh, Finance Manager, Dhaka Working in TLMI-Bangladesh since 1994.

### Prayer

Dear God, give us the strength through your words and Holy Spirit to discover your new blessing every day and my heart will sing praise with new song each day.







In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26-27

Sometimes, during my personal quiet time, I find myself struggling to find the right words for prayer. I often run out of words or feel lost in how to pray for the right cause. In those moments, I turn to the key verses of the day and submit myself to the Holy Spirit. I can feel His support and guidance in those times. As I continue in prayer, I reflect on the scripture and humbly ask for His direction.

These two verses highlight the Holy Spirit's role in helping us pray, which serves as a reminder that we are God's children and that nothing can ever separate us from His love. This is the fulfillment of His promise in Matthew 28:19–20, where Jesus assures us that the Comforter, the Advocate, will be with us until the end of time. It is the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, and now dwells in our hearts. Romans 8:26–27 teaches us how the Spirit guides us in prayer and assures us of His help.

In Romans 8:26-27, Paul explains that even when we don't have the strength to take another step or find the words to pray, the Spirit intercedes on our behalf. The Holy Spirit is active and powerful, even when we feel powerless. In our weaknesses, He steps in and helps us.

I encourage us all to submit ourselves and invite the Holy Spirit to fill us every day. As we face new challenges in this year—both personally and professionally—I believe that in every difficult situation, His Spirit will guide us and help us overcome.

**Joseph Tutul Biswas**, Project Manager-BRBL Project, TLMI-B Working in TLMI-B since January 2024

### Prayer

Please thank God and pray for my family, organization, and our beloved country. I seek to be filled with Holy Spirit and the direction to lead a life that is overflowing with His Blessings.







## Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Mathew 5:16

This verse is very significant to me. It reflects the purpose of our earthy existence. It addresses the fundamental questions of our identity and purpose. On the other hand, it expresses the meaning of our work for persons affected by leprosy through TLM.

The verse emphasises that we are the bearers of God's image, and our divine calling is to be beacons of light for humanity. Jesus himself highlighted the importance of being shining lights, not merely a single light. This implies a collective responsibility to radiate goodness and inspire those around us.

Life inevitably presents us with challenges, problems and hardships. These difficulties can sometimes lead us to dim our inner light. However, we must resist this tendency. By cultivating positive behaviours - smiles, compassion, love, forgiveness, kindness, empathy, integrity and authenticity - we can amplify our radiance and allow our individual light to shine brighter than ever before.

Organisationally, when every individual within the organisation shines their light and actively fulfils their roles, TLM will collectively radiate brighter than ever before. By providing high-quality service, offering unwavering support and fostering innovation in the fight against leprosy, TLM can empower people affected by leprosy to discover their life's purpose as well.

**Suma Reverio**, Head of HR and Safeguarding, The Leprosy Mission International-Bangladesh.

### Prayer

May God bless all TLM's Members, staff, partners, and OPLs so they can a shining light for others. We pray for God's continued guidance as we strive to carry out our good works, bringing glory to HIS name. Amen.







#### Reading: John 9:1-38 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner [or no,] I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. John 9:25

A man born blind once approached Jesus, and not only did he receive the gift of sight, but he also became a powerful witness to his community and the Pharisees.

When the crowd questioned whether he was the right person to testify, the man clearly shared his experience: "A man called Jesus made clay, anointed my eyes, and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' I went, washed, and received my sight." (John 9:11). Later, the Pharisees asked about the power of Jesus. Without fear, the man responded again, "Whether He is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I know: I was blind, but now I see."

This powerful example inspires us at TLM to work with people affected by leprosy and disability, empowering them to speak up for themselves and become advocates for their own rights. It's crucial that we build their capacity and encourage their active participation, whenever possible. Self-advocacy often proves to be a powerful tool in reducing discrimination and improving access to services for people affected by leprosy. The lived experiences and voices of those who have faced leprosy are essential in raising awareness among global communities and policymakers. It's through their participation that we can remind the world that leprosy still exists, and together, we can defeat it.

**Surendra Nath Singh**, National Lead-Inclusive Development, TLMI-Bangladesh More than 30 years in TLMI-B.

### Prayer

Let us pray for His strength to support poor people affected by leprosy who are facing economic challenges due to political unrest and high living cost in Bangladesh. Pray for achieving sustainability of associations/federations of leprosy/disability.







## Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14

As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). The future belongs to children like Nirusha, who are overcoming stigma and discrimination with resilience and hope.

I recently met Nirusha, a young girl from Batticaloa, who is awaiting university admission after achieving thee As in her advanced-level exams. This accomplishment is extraordinary, especially considering the challenges she faces in a region with high child leprosy cases. Last year, 26 child cases were recorded in Batticaloa, highlighting the struggles of many children who face poverty and disrupted education. Despite the physical and emotional toll of leprosy, and the societal stigma, Nirusha triumphed through hard work and perseverance.

When I visited her home, I saw the modest hut she shares with her family—simple walls of coconut leaves and an aluminum roof. Yet, nothing could break her spirit. Her story reminds me of Jesus' unshakable faith in the wilderness. Like Him, Nirusha chose faith, courage, and hard work to rise above her challenges.

Her resilience teaches us that no matter how many times life tries to break us, faith will help us rise again. Nirusha's journey also highlights the transformative power of education. It uplifts and creates opportunities to rewrite destinies.

Like Nirusha, we are called to build a future that replaces stigma with hope and possibility, where every child, regardless of their circumstances, can thrive. May her story inspire us all to face challenges with resilience and compassion.

Besil Benart, Communications Officer - KKM - Sri Lanka.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, Creator of all, we lift up children affected by leprosy. Protect their dreams, shining like stars, from stigma and rejection. Grant them the strength to overcome challenges and thrive. Bless them with access to education, transforming their lives. May Your love and support surround them always. Amen.







## The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon. Psalm 92:12

Righteous people live like resilient crops. I vividly recall a sermon from 45 years ago when my pastor said, "We should live like the Palmyra Palm tree." At the time, I didn't understand, but it sparked my curiosity. When I was 12, I collected some Palmyra seeds and planted them in my homeland. Over time, without any care, five trees grew strong and bore fruit. The Palmyra tree thrives in the dry zone, needing no water or fertilisers, yet I still didn't grasp the deeper meaning of my pastor's words.

Two decades later, in 1998, while starting a leprosy mission in Katupulam village, I encountered a community surrounded by Palmyra trees. When I asked how they survived, they humbly replied, "The Palmyra tree provides for us." They explained that every part of the tree—its fruit, wine, flour, leaves, roots, timber, and jaggery—sustains their lives. The tree thrives through floods and droughts, providing abundantly with no human intervention. I asked an elderly man how these trees endure, and he explained, "The Palmyra's roots are deeply connected to groundwater, storing vast amounts of water, raising the local water table."

Then, I understood my pastor's message. Life doesn't thrive on material wealth, but on being deeply rooted in Jesus Christ, the true source of life. Just like the Palmyra, when our roots are in Him, we can withstand life's challenges and nourish others. I've seen this truth in the lives of many righteous people affected by leprosy, whose faith often surpasses my own.

Rev Joshua, Executive Director –KKM –Sri Lanka.

### Prayer

Father God, You are a righteous God, and we are so thankful that You provide us with an instruction manual on how to live this life like Palmayra palm tree. You have given Palmyra palm forests in Sri Lanka in the dry zone areas. Help us etch Your precious nature's glorious into our hearts. Give us the courage to stand firm in our convictions and stand up for what is true and right according to our lives witness. Amen.



### Sri Lanka



#### Love your neighbour as yourself. Mark 12:31

This powerful verse captures the essence of love—not as a command, but as a reflection of how we treat ourselves. If we truly value ourselves, we naturally extend that care to others.

Love and kindness can sometimes fade, even from a mother, due to difficult circumstances. I experienced this when I was diagnosed with leprosy, and it taught me the importance of loving myself. Self-love is a gift from God. If we don't love ourselves, how can we share love with others? My love for myself liberated me from challenges, as Jesus taught us.

As the Director of the Leprosy People Association (LPA), I've seen how love transforms lives. Our work empowers people affected by leprosy, bringing hope and renewal. We don't demand love—we inspire it, encouraging people to value others as they value themselves. For those affected by leprosy, love and care are necessities, not luxuries. These gifts lead to transformation and healing. God uses their resilience and stories to help eliminate stigma and create a more inclusive society.

Jesus exemplified this love by serving without discrimination, healing those whom society rejected, including people affected by leprosy. His actions remind us to build a stigma-free world where compassion triumphs over prejudice. The members of LPA have become symbols of hope, leading efforts to eliminate leprosy, stigma, and discrimination. Guided by God's teachings, we strive for a just, loving society. Let's reflect on Jesus' unconditional love and extend it to the marginalised, creating a world where love replaces judgment and every life is valued.

Debora Suresh, Director Leprosy People Association -Sri Lanka

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for LPA's mission to support families and communities affected by leprosy. Bless its leaders and volunteers as they fight stigma and discrimination. Guide LPA's work to bring healing and hope. Expand its impact, and may Your grace sustain its efforts for years to come. Amen.







#### He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

Walking with Jesus has been a transformative experience for me. We often hear that walking with Him means gaining power, but I've come to realise it's about sharing in His suffering—bearing the cross with Him. True strength, I've learned, isn't about accumulating power, but about surrendering my energy and will in service. It's through this surrender that I've found peace. When I lose my personal power, it creates space in my heart to welcome Jesus, and with Him, I no longer need to rely on my own strength.

I'm deeply grateful for the knowledge God has given me, especially about leprosy. For over three years, I've been involved in this work, and looking back, I remember the fear that once consumed me. But through faith and determination, I've overcome it and now share my story.

When I was diagnosed with leprosy, the struggles were overwhelming. Yet, the knowledge I had gave me hope. Even after losing sensation in my hands and feet, I could manage the disease. The greatest challenges came from leprosy reactions—fever, pain, clawed hands, and ulcers—devastating consequences of neglect or treatment side effects.

In places like Jaffna and Batticaloa, people often lose their limbs and livelihoods due to a lack of awareness. Through my journey, I've learned the importance of self-care, timely treatment, and community support. By raising awareness and helping one another, we can end the stigma of leprosy and ensure everyone can live with dignity, health, and hope in God's grace.

Mr Inparasa, Advocacy officer - KKM

#### Prayer

Heavenly Father, I lift up all those affected by leprosy in our communities. Bless them with strength to complete their treatment and overcome painful reactions. Restore their shattered lives and renew their joy in what they love. Protect them from harm, replace their sadness with happiness, and surround them with love and support. May they live safely and with dignity, filled with your grace and peace. Amen.



### Sri Lanka



And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Thessalonians 15-11

Missions have a way of bringing us closer to God, and through my journey, I've visited many homes of people affected by leprosy. I've listened to their stories of pain, wounds, and resilience, and in those moments of listening, I've felt drawn closer to Jesus. Listening to someone's story—whether of struggle or triumph—creates a space where God's presence fills the space between the storyteller and the listener. When we listen with genuine care, it becomes an invitation for God to be there with us.

Each storyteller, in their vulnerability, shares their emotions authentically. In that raw honesty, listening becomes an act of love, and it's in that love that God's presence is felt. We are all made in God's image, and that truth calls us to love one another as He loves us. Every day, we encounter people whose needs may not be visible, but many are silently crying out for help.

As humans, we can't solve every problem, but have we considered the small ways we can support others? I know I've failed in some moments as a child of God. There was a time when my mother was struggling, and I didn't offer her a comforting word that could've made a difference.

Many wonder what we can give when we feel we have nothing. The answer is simple: listening. People affected by leprosy carry untold stories of pain and stigma. When we listen, we see their pain and encounter God's presence. Let's offer healing and hope through the profound act of listening.

Mrs Angel Mithu, Mental health & Wellbeing officer - KKM

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us together. We pray for those without companions to share their grief and burdens. Lord, hear their silent cries and turn their sorrow into joy. Bless our work among the vulnerable, especially those affected by leprosy. Grant them peace, hope, and healing. Amen.







If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sunscorched land and will strengthen your frame. Isaiah 58:10-11

A Light in the Darkness.

As The Leprosy Mission Nigeria steps into 2025, the call to strengthen impact, deepen commitment, and enhance effectiveness in serving those affected by leprosy and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) remains urgent. In Isaiah 58:10-11, God promises that when we pour ourselves out for the hungry and satisfy the afflicted, our light will rise in the darkness, and He will continually guide and strengthen us.

Our mission extends beyond medical treatment; it is about restoring hope, affirming dignity, and creating lasting transformation. Like Jesus, who reached out and touched the person affected by leprosy, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed" (Mark 1:40-42), we are called to break barriers, eliminate stigma, and champion inclusion. Each person affected by leprosy is not just a patient but a life deserving of compassion, justice, and equal access to healthcare.

Yet, effectiveness in this mission requires divine wisdom—in our strategies, resource allocation, and partnerships. Without God's guidance, our efforts may be misdirected, our resources insufficient, and our impact limited. As we move forward, let us pray for divine insight, innovative solutions, and strengthened outreach. Let us also seek God's grace for every staff member, volunteer, and partner, that they may work with resilience and passion.

May our light shine brighter in 2025, illuminating the path of healing, restoration, and justice for all, bringing an end to leprosy transmission and a future of dignity and inclusion for those we serve.

**Dr Sunday Udo**, MD, Ph.D., is the Country Leader of TLM Nigeria, passionate about ending leprosy, strengthening health systems, and promoting inclusion.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, guide us as we serve persons and communities affected by leprosy. Grant us wisdom, strength, and resources to bring healing, hope, and dignity. Bless every staff, volunteer, and partner with resilience and compassion. May our light shine brighter, breaking barriers and ending leprosy transmission in Jesus' name. Amen.







## And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Trusting in God's Abundant Provision.

In the mission to eradicate leprosy and transform lives, resources—both human and financial—are essential. Whether it's funding for programmes, access to essential medicines like MDT, or partnerships for sustainable impact, there is always a need. Yet, we are not called to rely on human strength alone. God assures us in Philippians 4:19 that He is our provider, supplying every need according to His riches in glory, not our limitations.

Throughout Scripture, God has proven Himself as Jehovah Jireh—the Lord Who Provides (Genesis 22:14). When Elijah faced famine, God sent ravens to feed him (1 Kings 17:6). When the widow of Zarephath had only a handful of flour and a little oil, God miraculously sustained her household (1 Kings 17:14-16). Jesus Himself multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed thousands, demonstrating that God's resources are never scarce—He multiplies what is surrendered to Him.

As TLM Nigeria moves forward in 2025, let us pray for supernatural provision—funds to sustain and expand programmes, partners and donors who will strengthen our mission, and an uninterrupted supply of essential medicines. May we walk in faith, knowing that God opens doors, moves hearts, and provides abundantly for every need. Let us trust boldly, give generously, and work tirelessly, believing that God's provision is always sufficient for His purpose.

May we never lack what is needed to bring healing, dignity, and transformation to those we serve. Amen.

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### Prayer

Lord, we acknowledge You as our Provider. We trust You to meet every financial, material, and human resource need for The Leprosy Mission Nigeria. Open doors of funding, supply essential medicines, and bring partners who will support this cause. Let Your provision be evident in every aspect of our mission. Amen.





#### Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. Ecclesiastes 4:9

The Power of God-Ordained Partnerships

No great mission can be accomplished in isolation. The work of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria requires strong, God-ordained partnerships—with government agencies, NGOs, donors, research institutions, and the Church. Ecclesiastes 4:9 reminds us that "two are better than one because they have a good return for their labour." Collaboration multiplies impact, strengthens advocacy, and enhances service delivery.

Jesus Himself modeled this principle during His ministry. He did not work alone but gathered disciples, empowered them, and partnered with others to spread the message of the Kingdom. Likewise, the early Church flourished through strategic partnerships, resource-sharing, and mutual support (Acts 2:44-47). Their unity and collaboration enabled them to care for the vulnerable, advance their mission, and transform communities.

As TLM Nigeria engages with government bodies, PPSN, CBM Global, ILEP, and disability advocacy groups, let us pray for divinely orchestrated relationships that align with the mission to eradicate leprosy. May doors open for impactful collaborations, and may our advocacy efforts be met with favour—leading to policies that promote inclusion, access to healthcare, and sustainable change.

May God grant wisdom, unity, and divine connections that will amplify our impact in 2025. May partnerships be strengthened, and may each alliance bring us closer to a leprosy-free Nigeria, where no one is left behind, and every individual experiences healing, dignity, and full participation in society. Amen.

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### Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the power of partnerships. Align us with the right individuals, organisations, and policymakers to advance the work of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria. Open doors for collaboration, grant us favour in advocacy, and let every partnership be impactful for Your glory. Amen.





But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Strength for the Journey.

Leadership in The Leprosy Mission Nigeria is both an honour and a challenge—guiding the organisation, making strategic decisions, and ensuring the well-being of those affected by leprosy. The weight of this responsibility can be heavy, requiring wisdom, endurance, and divine strength to navigate obstacles and sustain impact.

Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that those who put their hope in the Lord will renew their strength, run without growing weary, and walk without fainting. Even Moses, a great leader, needed the support of Aaron and Hur to keep his hands lifted during battle (Exodus 17:12). This reminds us that leadership is not a solo journey—it requires divine grace and the collective effort of a strong team.

Scripture teaches us that great leaders rely on both inner resilience and external support. Joseph endured years of betrayal and imprisonment, yet emerged as a leader in Egypt, using his position to save many lives (Genesis 50:20). Nehemiah faced opposition while rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, but his unwavering faith and reliance on God enabled him to complete the task (Nehemiah 6:15-16). Their stories prove that persistence, purpose, and trust in God sustain leaders through challenging situations.

As TLM Nigeria steps into 2025, may its leaders draw from faith, wisdom, and teamwork, staying focused on the mission to eradicate leprosy. True strength does not come from striving alone, but from trusting in God, embracing partnerships, and persevering with courage.

**Dr Sunday Udo,** MD, Ph.D., is the Country Leader of TLM Nigeria, passionate about ending leprosy, strengthening health systems, and promoting inclusion.

### Prayer

Father, we commit the leadership (Trustees and Senior Leadership Team) and team of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria into Your hands. Strengthen them, grant them wisdom, and fill them with vision for the year ahead. Let them not grow weary but be renewed daily by Your Spirit. Unite them in purpose and bless the work of their hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.







# He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

A Call to Justice and Transformation.

Advocacy is at the heart of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria — ensuring that people affected by leprosy are heard, included, and given access to essential healthcare and rights. Micah 6:8 reminds us that God calls us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. Advocacy is not just a strategy; it is a biblical mandate to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8-9).

Jesus was an advocate for the marginalised. He touched persons affected by leprosy when society rejected them (Mark 1:40-42), healed the sick on the Sabbath despite opposition (Luke 13:10-17), and challenged unjust systems that oppressed the poor. Likewise, Scripture records leaders like Moses, who confronted Pharaoh to demand freedom for the Israelites (Exodus 5:1), and Esther, who risked her life to advocate for her people before the king (Esther 4:16). Their courage reminds us that advocacy requires boldness, persistence, and unwavering faith.

As followers of Christ, we are called to challenge stigma, promote disability inclusion, and push for full implementation of policies like the Disability Act (2018). Transforming communities requires more than policies; it demands action, engagement, and unwavering commitment.

May those in positions of influence–leaders, policymakers, and partners–be stirred to support the mission of inclusion, dignity, and healing. Justice is not given; it is pursued. Let us be bold in our pursuit.

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### Prayer

Lord, we lift up the advocacy efforts of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria. Give them boldness to speak for the voiceless, favour before policymakers, and wisdom to push for real change. Let communities be transformed, stigma broken, and justice established. In Jesus' name, Amen.

