

# ASK DAILY DEVOTIONAL

March 2025



# Welcome from the editor

Following the structure of ASK Prayer Diary, we will be blessed by devotions from three member countries this month. During the last week of March, we will read the devotions of Amar Timalsina, the Global Network Coordinator for IDEA International.

3-7 March

10-14 March

17-21 March

24-28 March

Great Britain

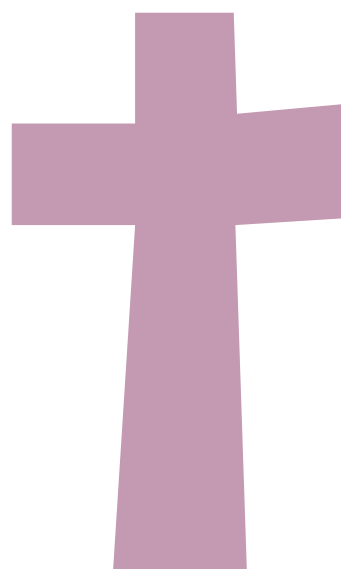
Ethiopia

Myanmar

Organisations of Persons affected by Leprosy

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

## Allan Ekstedt



## **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27**

The café was a symphony of distraction.

The clink of spoons against porcelain, the low hum of conversation, the hiss and roar of the coffee machine. Someone laughed too loudly. A chair scraped. The door swung open again, sending a gust of wind through the room, carrying the sounds of the street inside.

I sat there, staring at my open Bible, but the words blurred into the noise. Not just the noise around me—the noise inside me.

The unfinished conversations replaying in my head. The mistakes I wish I could rewrite. The pressure to be better, to do more, to prove something—to who exactly, I wasn't even sure.

I exhaled, slow and deep. Reached into my bag. My fingers found my noise-cancelling earbuds. A quick tap. A hum. A shift.

And then—silence. The café was still there, the world still moving. But the noise had lost its grip on me.

And in that space—so quiet I could have missed it—He was there. Not in a thunderclap. Not in a booming, undeniable voice. Just a whisper. A presence.

A steady voice that had never left, only been drowned out. "My sheep listen to my voice." How often had He been speaking while I was too distracted to hear?

I closed my eyes. The noise was still there—but now, it no longer owned me. Lord, I'm listening.

**Steven McLeish**, Scotland Country Head at The Leprosy Mission GB, is an author, speaker, poet, and advocate for leprosy, mental health, dyslexia, and poverty eradication.

## **Prayer**

Lord,  
I've been waiting for You to speak, but maybe You've been speaking all along.  
Drown out the doubt, the fear, the endless distractions. Let Your voice be the only sound that matters.  
I'm here, Lord. I'm listening. Amen.



## **When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch. Luke 5:4**

“Launching into the deep” is a phrase taken from Luke 5:4. In this passage, Jesus encourages Simon Peter to go into deeper water to find fish after a fruitless night’s fishing. He and his fellow fishermen were experts at fishing in Lake Gennesaret. Who was this Jesus, whose expertise was in carpentry, to tell them what to do? And yet, Peter, the often overbold and reactive disciple, did just that. The result was he caught so many fish that he needed others to help him land the catch.

There are three things we can take away from this passage to apply to our lives. First, Peter showed humility by taking Jesus’ command at face value without argument. Humble yourself before Him by obeying His commands, and see how He blesses your obedience. Second, he showed trust: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5-6). In so doing, Jesus made a straight path for Peter to succeed. Trust Him and see the paths of your life straighten out. Third, Peter was bold enough to try something new. Is there something in your emotional, physical, or spiritual life that the Lord is calling you to face? Do it today!

You could launch into the deep in a new way to support The Leprosy Mission. Is Jesus calling you to give, pray, or volunteer to extend His kingdom through His work in this His charity? Step out boldly!

**Kit Smith**, has worked for Christian charities, including Tearfund, The Leprosy Mission, and Toilet Twinning, for over ten years. He studies part-time at Wolverhampton University.

## **Prayer**

Dear Lord Jesus, I come to you today to ask you to help me launch out into my own deep. Help me to have the humility to obey and trust you in areas of my life where I stay in my comfort zone. Lord, show me what to change. Amen.



**When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." Mathew 8:1-4**

There are different ways to look at Jesus' ministry and focus. One of these is to see Jesus' purpose as to bring 'inclusion and participation'. Ultimately of course, there was a chance for eternal inclusion and participation in 'The Kingdom of God', but there were also strong efforts to see inclusion and participation during Jesus' earthly ministry. In the passage, we can see that healing of the man was important, but then Jesus made sure he went to the Priest to be certified as 'fully healed' so that the man could then be again included within the community and fully participate in society.

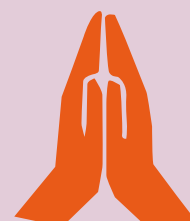
In the choice of disciples, from working-class fishermen, to a corrupt official who collected taxes, to a man the Romans probably considered a terrorist, Jesus seemed to reach out to those on the margins who may not be included in community life and were largely avoided by religious and community leaders, yet Jesus invited them to participate in His mission. Likewise, the people Jesus healed and associated with were the excluded: Samaritans, foreigners, women, people with disability, those who had committed crimes, the less educated and of course people affected by leprosy.

On a recent visit to Sri Lanka, I spoke with Government health workers, partner organisation staff, religious leaders and people affected by leprosy themselves and saw their efforts to overcome exclusion and discrimination. I was reminded that this was also a priority of Jesus and rejoiced in the differences our projects had been able to make.

**James Pender**, has worked as Programmes Officer for 12 years at TLMGB, which has included the exciting opportunity to support leprosy programmes in Sri Lanka.

## Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that you want all of us to be part of your eternal Kingdom, help us to follow you in reaching out to the excluded and marginalised to bring them life in all its fullness and the chance to participate and be included. Amen.



**“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5: 13–16**

Living a Life that Reflects Christ

I love this translation that paints our Jesus calling to bring out the God-flavours and God-colours in our world. Salt preserves, enhances, and brings out the best in food. In the same way, as followers of Christ, we are meant to bring out the goodness of God in the world around us. Our words, actions, and presence should reflect His love, grace, and truth. But Jesus warns us: if salt loses its saltiness, it becomes useless. Likewise, if we blend into the world and lose our distinctiveness as His people, we fail in our calling.

Light, on the other hand, dispels darkness. A single candle can push back the night, and in the same way, even a small act of love or kindness can shine Christ’s light into a dark world. Jesus tells us that our faith isn’t meant to be hidden. We are like a city on a hill—visible for all to see. Our lives should point people to God, not through self-righteousness, but through genuine love, generosity, and faithfulness.

Today, consider: Are you bringing out the ‘God-flavours’ in the world around you? Is your light shining brightly, or have you hidden it away? Ask God to help you reflect His glory, to season your relationships with grace, and to shine His love in every place you go. Your life is a testimony—let it glorify Him!

**Michael Hardie** – Community Partnerships Manager – TLMGB

## Prayer

Lord, help me reflect your love, grace and purposes to all those around me today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4: 15–16**

I once met Queen Elizabeth II. I say I met her, but that’s not strictly true. As a police officer, I stood about 20 feet away as she drove past, slowly waving to the crowds. I don’t think she’d have remembered me!

But in Hebrews 4, we learn something extraordinary. The God of the universe, who created galaxies and planets, stars and black holes. The One who raised the beautiful Himalayan mountains up into the sky. He who designed elephants and hippos, ants and amoebas, all with just the power of His word. This God, who is all glorious, majestic, perfect, and righteous, who radiates holiness such that no human could ever bear to even look upon His glory, this God sees you and knows you today.

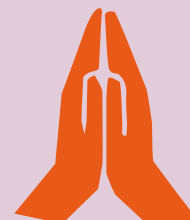
He knows what’s on your heart. And with the warmest of smiles, He tells you to come to Him. To come to his very throne room with boldness and confidence. Here you will find love, joy, and acceptance, just as a child approaches their mother or father. Wow! How is this possible? You can’t come in your own strength, efforts, or ‘goodness’. We come only through our Saviour Jesus, our great high priest. The one who took our place of judgement that we might be made right with God.

So come to Him today, come tomorrow! Come every day, and find never-ending stores of mercy, grace, and joy from the One who loves you more than you’ll ever know.

**Jonny Wicks**, Partnerships and Legacies Manager – TLMGB

## Prayer

Father, thank you that your love knows no bounds. Even to sinful, broken people like me, your grace breaks through and in Jesus I am yours forevermore. Whatever situations I face today, may I run to you and lay them at your feet. May I rest in your peace, as you uphold me. Amen.



## **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Mathew 11:29**

This verse is spoken by Jesus after he healed the blind, made the lame walk, cleansed the persons affected by leprosy, restored hearing to the deaf, raised the dead, and preached the gospel to the poor.

The core point of this chapter is to highlight Jesus' attributes and diligent efforts to fulfil His Father's will on earth. During His deeds, multitudes followed Him, asking about His identity, much like those who went into the wilderness to see Him. Despite witnessing His sympathy, humility, miracles, wonders, and the gospel He preached, their response was not as positive as expected due to their hardened hearts.

In contrast, Jesus extended an invitation for them to learn from Him, emulate His actions, and find rest for their souls. Jesus' attributes teach us patience, commitment, and respect for the people we serve, without boasting about our actions. Without these qualities, our efforts may not be fruitful, and we won't achieve success or find rest in our souls.

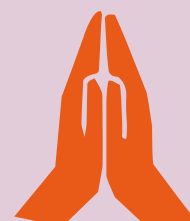
Surely, the lesson enables us that we can handle any challenges we face in our service if we follow Jesus' teachings and take on His yoke. By doing so, it will be easier for us to take on any responsibility.

As a TLM team, we should serve persons affected by leprosy and other disabilities with meekness and humility, without partiality. This approach enables us to reach all aspects of their lives, ensuring they find rest in their souls through Christ Jesus and receive proper medical treatment.

**Abebech Lemma Dadi**, Finance and Admin Officer of TLM Ethiopia.

## **Prayer**

God, you call us from darkness to light, to eternal life. Support us in living with the humility and compassion of Jesus, reaching people through the gospel, serving with commitment, and sharing love. Let the power of the Holy Spirit support us to grow into the fullness of your perfect life. Amen!





**“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”  
John 16:33**

What Did Jesus Mean When He Said, "Peace I Leave With You, My Peace I Give You"? "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27. This peace that Jesus was talking about means rest, quiet, or a stillness in your heart. It is not the absence of trouble, but it exists despite trouble.

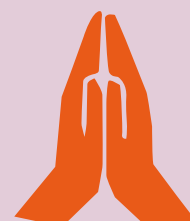
This peace pushes through all the disturbing circumstances that life can throw at you. It gives you the ability to endure and be calm even in the face of extreme turmoil. This peace doesn't eliminate conflict or trouble but gives you the ability to endure it. Consider it an inner confidence that you know God will come through in this situation, and that removes your fear and worry and replaces it with peace. For Christians, this verse is a reminder to rely on Jesus' peace in times of difficulty, anxiety, or fear. It encourages all of us to trust in His promises and to find comfort in His presence, even when life feels uncertain or overwhelming.

It is also our responsibility to share this peace to those who are far from it might be because of leprosy and their stigmatising issues.

**Solomon Getahun**, Program Coordinator since June 2020.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, The everlasting peace is only from You and it returns to you. Our saviour, Grant us the life of true peace and guide us to live into Your peace. Help us to share Your amazing peace to others so that they can rest only in You. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



**The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.**

**Psalms 118:24**

Some days feel like rejoicing is luxury. The honest reflection of the writers of the Psalms often exposes their sorrow, overwhelming situations, stressful moments, anxiety, and so on. But no matter how low the psalmists felt, they were always honest with God. And as they talked to God, their prayers ended in praise. Rejoicing is an instruction in our Holy Bible; not to be confined by our current situations.

'Joyful' for Christians is beyond a smile or laugh; it rather has a deeper meaning; it is a deep inner happiness and peace taken from our faith in God.

There was this woman who couldn't sleep at night for many years because she worried that her home would be burgled. One night, her husband heard a noise in the house. He found the burglar and said to him, "Could you come upstairs and meet my wife? She's been waiting for you for so long!" Fear and worry take away our soul and might slowly divert us from our life focus.

One way of rejoicing, in my opinion, is being grateful in life, focusing more on appreciating the opportunities God has provided us. As a leprosy burdened and implementing country, we do not take lightly the opportunities that God provided us so that we can play a critical role to contribute to the reduction of leprosy transmission and for the dignified lives of persons affected by leprosy in Ethiopia. Yes, it truly makes us 'Joyful'. God has given all of us this day to live and to serve him - be glad!

**Beletshachew Tadesse**, is the Country Lead of TLM Ethiopia since June 2019

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, We thank You for Your grace that is sufficient and is a source of joy for us. I pray that You would help us to receive Your grace and live by it. I pray that You would fill us with joy and peace as we trust in You so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



## Luke 10:25–37

The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) illustrates boundless, selfless love. A man is attacked and left for dead, ignored by a priest and a Levite. However, a Samaritan—despised by Jews—stops, tends to his wounds, and ensures his recovery. This challenges us to act with compassion beyond societal norms.

Similarly, organisations fighting leprosy and advocating for disability inclusion must embrace empathy beyond stigma. Every individual, regardless of condition, deserves dignity, care, and opportunity. True compassion requires action, not just sympathy.

To embody this, we must:

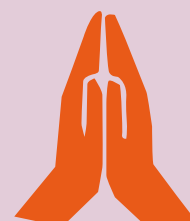
- Seek out and support affected individuals.
- Provide medical care, rehabilitation, counselling, education, and vocational training.
- Design inclusive programmes that eliminate barriers.

The Good Samaritan's example calls for proactive, inclusive compassion—one that does not wait but initiates change. Organisations must ensure their services are rooted in unconditional care and long-term support. By doing so, they not only offer tangible aid but also challenge societal prejudices, fostering communities where everyone is valued.

**Birhanu Enigda**, Finance and Admin Coordinator for TLM Ethiopia.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the Good Samaritan's lesson of boundless love. Help us serve those affected by leprosy and disabilities with compassion. Guide our efforts to foster inclusion, break barriers, and provide lasting support. May our actions reflect Your love and grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.**

**John 1:18**

This verse highlights Jesus as the divine Revealer of God. Since no one has seen God directly, Jesus, the "only begotten Son," who is intimately one with the Father, makes Him known. The Greek term *exēgeomai* ("to declare") suggests a full, detailed revelation—Jesus "narrates" God's nature through His life, death, and resurrection. He is the perfect embodiment of God's character, love, and truth.

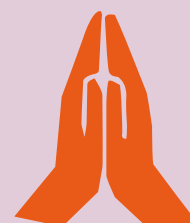
Though we cannot see God, Jesus has revealed His heart, love, and grace. As believers, our daily lives—at home, work, and in our communities—should reflect Christ's light. Through prayer and Scripture, we deepen our relationship with Him, allowing His humility, sacrifice, and service to guide us. Every act of kindness, service, and integrity becomes an opportunity to share God's transformational love.

Jesus reached out to the marginalised, extending healing and hope to all, regardless of status or condition. His love does not measure worth by physical ability or social standing but sees every person as valued and cherished. As His followers, we are called to break down barriers of stigma and exclusion, offering empathy and support. By doing so, we embody Christ's love, which uplifts and transforms lives.

**Natnael Mesfin**, The Leprosy Mission International Ethiopia - Program Coordinator.

## 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.**



**The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Isaiah 58:11**

As we pray for the Myanmar Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (MAPAL), we trust in God's guidance, strength, and provision. MAPAL seeks to grow by improving its registration process, strengthening leadership, and increasing member involvement. Though challenges exist, we find hope in God's promise to lead us forward.

God has gifted us with community and collective decision-making. We pray for wisdom and unity as MAPAL's members step into leadership roles, embracing responsibility and becoming catalysts for change. Their vision to engage youth and develop future leaders is vital for sustainability. May young leaders be inspired and equipped to serve with compassion and vision, fulfilling 1 Timothy 4:12: "Let no one look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity."

We also pray for MAPAL's efforts to establish safeguarding policies, ensuring a safe, supportive environment for all members. As Psalm 82:3 urges, "Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed."

Finally, we ask for wisdom in risk assessment and feedback mechanisms, ensuring transparency, accountability, and a deep connection to those MAPAL serves. May God strengthen and sustain their mission.

**Thura Maung Aye**, Operations Manager, The Leprosy Mission Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar

## Prayer

**Heavenly Father, thank You for MAPAL's work. Grant wisdom in registration, development, and leadership. Raise strong, compassionate leaders to serve boldly. Guide them with hope, unity, and vision. May they continue their mission with purpose and love. We trust in Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.**



## **Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3-4**

Today's verse, Romans 5:3-4, reminds us, "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." These words feel particularly relevant in Myanmar as we face the challenges of this summer. With electricity limited to only a few hours each day, daily tasks like cooking, working, and staying connected become increasingly difficult. This, coupled with the ongoing civil conflict and a sluggish economy, creates overwhelming pressure.

Yet, even in these struggles, we are invited to see God's goodness. He is our constant guide, providing the strength to endure. While God doesn't promise to take away our hardships, He promises to be with us through them. This passage shows us that suffering, though unwanted, has the potential to produce something beautiful: endurance. As we endure, our character is shaped and refined, and from that character comes hope. This hope isn't a superficial optimism, but a deep trust in God's faithfulness, enabling us to face each day with resilience.

Even amidst power outages and other challenges, we can take comfort in knowing that God is our true source of power. Let's lean on Him, support one another, and find reasons to rejoice, even in the midst of our trials.

**Naw Say Say Phaw**, HR Manager and Designated Safeguarding Lead at The Leprosy Mission Myanmar.

## **Prayer**

**Please pray for the TLM Myanmar Team as they journey through the second quarter of 2025. Pray for the health and safety of all staff and volunteers working in field offices during extreme weather, especially in hard-to-reach areas. Ask for protection from violence and harm amid political instability and travel mercies for all. Amen.**



**He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Isaiah 53:7**

Myanmar's political landscape is marked by deep divisions, fuelled by the military junta's oppressive actions. However, lessons from South Africa's reconciliation efforts offer hope. Nelson Mandela's approach to conflict resolution was rooted in patience, pragmatism, and emotional intelligence. By building relationships and understanding opposing viewpoints, Mandela fostered peace through consensus and empathy.

Similarly, Archbishop Desmond Tutu's leadership in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission emphasised the healing power of acknowledging past wrongs and embracing forgiveness. His focus on restorative justice—repairing harm rather than imposing punishment—along with his Ubuntu philosophy, highlights our shared humanity and interconnectedness, offering a path to unity.

For Myanmar, these lessons can guide efforts to bridge the country's divides. Establishing trust through open dialogue and transparency is key, as is including diverse ethnic groups and political factions in negotiations. Addressing past atrocities is vital for healing, while promoting forgiveness and reconciliation, though difficult, is necessary for overcoming animosities. By incorporating these strategies, Myanmar can work toward a peaceful future, building a unified front and transitioning to a more stable, just society, much like South Africa's journey to peace.

**Dr Zaw Moe Aung**, Country Leader, TLM Myanmar

## Prayer

**Heavenly Father, grant Myanmar wisdom, patience, and empathy as shown by Mandela and Tutu. Inspire our leaders to forgive and reconcile, fostering unity in adversity. May dialogue and understanding lead us toward peace, healing, and a brighter future for all. In Your name, we pray. Amen.**



## **Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6**

This verse powerfully affirms Jesus as the only way to God, the ultimate truth, and the giver of eternal life. Spoken during the Last Supper, just before His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus comforts His disciples, preparing them for His departure. In our daily lives, it's essential to have faith and walk in God's light.

I deeply resonate with the TLM Mission Statement: “Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission works with persons affected by leprosy, partners, and supporters toward a world where leprosy is defeated and there is healing, dignity, inclusion, and life in all its fullness.” This mission reflects the truth that we are called to rely on Jesus alone for salvation, not on our own efforts or other spiritual paths. Jesus is not just showing the way; He is the way, making reconciliation with God possible only through Him.

Jesus is the new and living way to the Father (Hebrews 10:19-20). As the truth, He shapes how Christians should think, act, and live according to His teachings, revealing God's faithfulness (Psalm 119:160). Through faith in Jesus, believers receive not only eternal life in the future but a transformed life now. Jesus has power over life and death, offering eternal life in communion with God (John 11:25-26, John 3:16).

**Kalayar Tun**, Finance Manager at TLM Myanmar since 2006.

## **Prayer**

**Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Jesus, the way, truth, and life. Guide my steps, help me trust in Him as the only way to You. Fill my heart with Your truth, and may my life reflect Your love and grace. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.**





**He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Isaiah 2:4**

Isaiah 2:4 offers a powerful vision of peace, where God transforms instruments of war into tools for growth and care. The verse says, "He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." This speaks of a future when justice and peace replace conflict, bringing harmony and productivity. It's a reminder that God's justice will usher in a lasting peace beyond our understanding.

As we reflect on Myanmar's current turmoil, where ongoing conflict and suffering affect so many, this verse offers hope. Despite the hardship, God's justice will ultimately prevail. His righteousness and favour will shine through, mediating disputes and ending suffering. He will turn weapons of violence into instruments of growth, like plowshares and pruning hooks, symbolising transformation.

This promise reminds us of a future where people live in safety, free from fear, with peace and security reigning. Let us pray for Myanmar, lifting up its leaders, those imprisoned, and all who suffer from violence and oppression. May God's peace fill their hearts, and His justice bring an end to the conflict. In the midst of hardship, let us trust in God's plan for peace, waiting in hope for the day His peace reigns.

**Naw Tin Tin Mar**, Head of Programme Management at TLM Myanmar since 2021.

## Prayer

**Heavenly Father, we bring Myanmar's struggles before You, seeking justice, peace, and freedom. We pray for the leaders, people, and all suffering from violence and oppression. May Your reconciliation transform destruction into peace. Guide us toward harmony and trust in Your will, knowing it will bring lasting peace. Amen.**



### Luke 17:11–19

This is the story of ten individuals affected by leprosy, living on the margins of society at the border of Samaria and Galilee. According to Old Testament law, leprosy was considered an unclean disease, and those afflicted were required to declare themselves "unclean" for as long as they remained affected. As a result, they were cast out from their families and communities, forced to live in isolation.

One day, Jesus saw these ten outcasts and was moved with compassion. He declared them healed, and they were all cleansed of their disease. He then instructed them to present themselves to the local priest, so they could be officially declared free from leprosy and reintegrated into society. However, out of the ten who were healed, only one returned to Jesus to express gratitude and give thanks. In response, Jesus acknowledged that this man had recognised not only the source of his healing but also the deeper meaning of true restoration.

He demonstrated that spiritual healing and restoration are the highest forms of renewal—something far greater than physical healing alone. Even today, countless physical healings occur around the world, yet few acknowledge God as the true source of healing and restoration. This story serves as a reminder that while physical well-being is important, it is spiritual renewal that brings true wholeness.

**Amar Bahadur Timalisina**, Global Network Coordinator for IDEA International and author of "Sunlit Mountains" and "The Returning the Lost Smiles: One Man's Fight against Leprosy" serves as a global advocate against discrimination.

## Prayer

**God, we pray that those who are restored from sickness and disease through medical treatment or social intervention may come to recognise You as the true source of healing. Father, we ask that their hearts and minds be open to acknowledging Your intervention and love in their lives.**



# Organisations of Persons Affected by Leprosy

25 Mar

**Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12**

In Mark 5:25–34, we read about a woman who had suffered from a bleeding condition for twelve years. She had exhausted all her resources, seeking help from doctors but only grew worse. Yet, when she touched the hem of Jesus' garment in faith, she was instantly healed. Jesus then affirmed her healing, saying, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering" (Mark 5:34).

Similarly, we have encountered many people affected by leprosy who, in their desperate search for healing, have depleted all their resources—visiting hospitals, shamans, and traditional healers, often to no avail. Many not only lose their means for treatment but also their hope for restoration. Beyond the physical suffering, their hearts and souls carry deep wounds—rejected by spouses, family, and society. Some even feel exploited and betrayed by those they turned to for help.

As community development practitioners and organisations working with people affected by leprosy, our role extends beyond medical care. We are called to help restore not only their physical health but also their wounded hearts and souls. Just as Jesus reassured the woman, we must release them in peace, speaking hope into their lives: "Go in peace, your faith has healed you" (Mark 5:34).

**Amar Bahadur Timalina**, Global Network Coordinator for IDEA International and author of "Sunlit Mountains" and "The Returning the Lost Smiles: One Man's Fight against Leprosy" serves as a global advocate against discrimination.

## Prayer

**Heavenly Father, we lift up those suffering, abandoned, and without hope. Just as Jesus healed the woman and spoke peace over her, may we bring healing—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—to those in need. Use us to restore dignity and faith. Let them go in peace, fully restored. In Jesus' name, Amen.**



**A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Matthew 8:2-3**

## The Power of Human Touch in Healing

In Nepali, the word "sparsa" refers to a gentle touch—one given with the intent of offering comfort and support to someone experiencing pain, suffering, or sorrow. This simple yet profound gesture can be incredibly meaningful, helping individuals cope with overwhelming emotions, especially when received from a loved one or a supportive presence.

I had a remarkable experience while accompanying some guests to Anandaban Hospital. Many of them were unaware of how vital proximity and touch are for individuals affected by leprosy. Those who kept their distance were not at fault; they simply did not understand the deep psychosocial impact that leprosy has on a person’s life.

The story of Jesus provides a powerful example of courage and compassion. Despite the prevailing fears of contamination, He reached out and touched those affected by leprosy, healing them and restoring their dignity. While we may not have the power to heal in the same way, our touch and presence—when expressed within appropriate social boundaries—play a crucial role in the process of healing and restoration.

May we cultivate the same courage and compassion that Jesus demonstrated, extending love and kindness to those in need.

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## Prayer

**God, grant us boldness and courage to reach out to others despite our fears and misconceptions. Help us break irrational beliefs and extend Your healing and love to our communities, especially to those who are ostracised. May we be instruments of Your compassion, restoration, and true wellness. Amen.**



**But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” Romans 10:8-11**

The above passage from the book of Romans beautifully emphasises the power of faith and confession in our lives. Faith in God, when deeply rooted in our hearts, liberates us from guilt and the internal struggles that often hold us captive. It breaks the strongholds of inner bondage, allowing us to experience true freedom from shame. Confession, as mentioned in the scripture, signifies salvation—it is the declaration of God's truth that brings about complete freedom.

A powerful illustration of this can be seen in the story of the healing of 10 individuals affected by leprosy. While all were healed, only one returned to Jesus to give thanks. This act of gratitude was more than a simple gesture; it was an acknowledgment of the deeper transformation he had received. In coming back to worship Jesus, he experienced complete salvation—freedom not just from physical affliction but also from the shame and guilt that once defined him. His identity was restored as a child of God.

Verse 11 assures us that those who trust in Him, holding faith in their hearts, will never be put to shame. Those who boldly declare Jesus as Lord will walk in freedom. As community development practitioners and children of God, our role is to help others overcome both guilt and shame, empowering them to live in true freedom—from the inside out.

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## Prayer

**Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of faith and salvation. Help us trust You wholeheartedly, freeing us from guilt and shame. May our confession of Jesus as Lord bring true freedom. Use us to uplift others, leading them to healing and restored identity in You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**



**Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12**

Jesus declared that those who believe in Him will do the works He did—and even greater. He had an extraordinary vision for His disciples, leading by example as a servant leader. His mission was to reach the entire world, a task that could not be fulfilled if He remained confined to Jerusalem or Bethlehem. To carry out this mission, He chose individuals who were timid, doubtful, and uncertain—ordinary people engaged in their daily work. Yet, despite their initial fears and shortcomings, all but Judas became devoted, self-sacrificing followers, willing to lay down their lives for God's Kingdom.

I recall a story shared by Mr Sheldon Rankin, former Director of TLM Australia. He spoke of how Jesus healed Simon, a man affected by leprosy, and empowered him to such an extent that he later hosted Jesus before His crucifixion. This is a powerful revelation of how Jesus treats others, regardless of their background—offering healing, dignity, and purpose.

Today, many institutions serve people affected by leprosy, but the real question remains—are they truly walking alongside them? Are there examples of individuals who, despite their affliction, have been empowered to rise and inspire others? While the world may find reasons to fall short, as Christians, we have no excuse. Our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, has set the ultimate example for us to follow. May we learn from Him to uplift and empower those who follow us, always striving to help them reach even greater heights than we have.

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## Prayer

**Heavenly Father, help us follow Jesus' example of servant leadership. Teach us to empower the weak, uplift the marginalised, and walk in true compassion. May we serve selflessly, guiding others to their fullest potential. Let our lives reflect Your love and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

