



Prayer & Praise

Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer

April 2024

**"O Lord, how manifold are
your works! In wisdom have
you made them all; the earth
is full of your creatures."**

Psalm 104:24

Worldwide

Monday 1 April

Democratic Republic of Congo has the most leprosy cases in Africa. Give thanks that about 94% of these patients are receiving multi-drug therapy. Also give thanks for the non-governmental organisations that are improving conditions for leprosy patients. Please pray that this will continue so that people affected by leprosy will have a hopeful future.

Tuesday 2 April

Give thanks that in Nigeria female members of Self-Help Groups have started livestock practice with cow fattening to improve their incomes. Previously only

men have been involved in this work, especially in northern Nigeria. Please pray that the women's incomes will increase, and their families will prosper. Also pray for safety for the women and that their involvement will become an accepted part of the communities.

Wednesday 3 April

In Mozambique, messages about leprosy through local radio stations and at events associated with World Leprosy Day have been tailored to be more gender inclusive. Gender specific language has been used and events have been held and broadcasts made at times appropriate for women. Give thanks that more women from local communities are learning about leprosy because of these initiatives. Please pray that the information gained will help women and their families.

Thursday 4 April

ILEP is a group of international organisations, including The Leprosy Mission, all of whom work towards a world with no leprosy. All recognise that no organisation can achieve this on their own. Give thanks for the hearts of all the people working towards the elimination of leprosy. Please pray that the partnerships between all the organisations will bear more fruit for the elimination of leprosy worldwide.

Friday 5 April

Brazil has one of the highest rates of leprosy in the world. New cases are still being detected despite economic development, the expansion of healthcare and the efforts of the leprosy elimination programme in the last thirty years. Please pray for breakthrough in the treatment and care of people affected by leprosy so that transmission can be ended.

Saturday 6 April/ Sunday 7 April

Leprosy is still prevalent in Sri Lanka because people affected by leprosy are ostracized by society. Give thanks that TLM International can support the Sri Lankan government in new case detection, training in

recognising the symptoms of leprosy, in complication management and to end legislation that discriminates against people affected by the disease.

Bangladesh

Monday 8 April

Give thanks that The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh identifies approximately 60% of the new leprosy cases found in the country each year. They also support the government to strengthen health systems, retain expertise in leprosy and to raise awareness of the disease. Please pray for a successful recruitment programme for new leprosy control staff, who will work alongside government health staff.

Tuesday 9 April

The Chattogram People's Development Project aims to improve the health, well-being and income-generation of leprosy-affected, disabled and marginalised people. Please pray for the development of a new design for this project for 2024 to 2026. The project needs to work towards being self-sustainable.

Wednesday 10 April

Advocacy and partnerships are vital to work towards the adoption of leprosy policy and to establish sustainable organisations of people affected by leprosy. Please pray for the advocacy efforts of TLM Bangladesh, who collaborate with ten local NGOs, tea gardens and educational institutions. The aim is to ensure the implementation of the government's leprosy strategy across the country.

Thursday 11 April

Regarding the Post Exposure Prophylaxis++ research project, please pray that the dose administration can be completed by the end of May as scheduled. Please pray that the results of the trial will clearly show if the administration of two doses of an antibiotic will reduce the likelihood of a close contact of a person affected by leprosy contracting the

disease. Give thanks that the team in Bangladesh have been able to perform extremely well in difficult circumstances.

Friday 12 April

Please pray that in 2024 there will be no delays in importing drugs for the clinical trials being conducted in Bangladesh. In 2023 there was difficulty in importing Rifampicin for the PEP++ project. Please also pray for the countrywide research programme, which aims to support current and future research into preventative antibiotics, better treatment for leprosy reaction and field-friendly diagnostic tests.

Saturday 13 April/ Sunday 14 April

Please pray about the expansion programme for the DBLM Hospital at Nilphamari. The hospital is known as a centre of excellence. Pray that God will guide those involved in the implementation of the new business plan to improve services and increase local income generation from non-leprosy patients.

Timor Leste

Monday 15 April

Give thanks that activities around female empowerment have been undertaken in Timor Leste. Women have been encouraged to join self-help groups to take part in training related to income generation. They have then been linked to opportunities in the local market where they can sell their produce. Please pray that families of people affected by leprosy will benefit from these activities so they can lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

Tuesday 16 April

Awareness-raising around gender-based violence has also been taking place. As a result, women are becoming more confident, working towards financial independence and standing up for their rights. Give thanks for the opportunities that women

are taking up and pray that they can encourage other women and build strong networks to support their whole communities.

Wednesday 17 April

Please pray for the recruitment of a new Programme Manager for the PHACE Programme in Timor Leste. Pray that well-qualified, enthusiastic candidates will apply and that the process will be straightforward. Also pray that TLM TL can find five motivated Community Health Volunteers for Atoro and Bobonaro municipalities.

Thursday 18 April

Give thanks that the training of Field Co-ordinators is starting. The co-ordinators will in turn train Community Health Volunteers about health issues that are found in the villages. Please pray that the training will be successful so that the Field Co-ordinators gain knowledge and practice that will be valuable for local people. Please pray that everyone involved will grow in confidence as they carry out their part of the programme.

Friday 19 April

TLM TL have a newly appointed Gender Co-ordinator and a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection and Learning Co-ordinator (MERL). Please pray for the new staff to settle into their positions with a good grasp of what is expected of them. Pray for enthusiasm and motivation to move the programme forward.

Saturday 20 April/ Sunday 21 April

The Annual Progress Report for MFAT on the PHACE Programme is due. Please pray that the team of TLM TL can put together the material for the report in a timely manner and that the report will be well-received.

Bougainville

Monday 22 April

Give thanks that the NZ government funding for the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme from

2024 to 2028 has been approved. Pray for God's wisdom for the Leprosy Mission NZ Programmes team, the staff of the BHCP, local communities and other stakeholders as they move into the next phase of the programme.

Tuesday 23 April

Please pray for wisdom for the management team and for enthusiasm to see ideas implemented in ways that benefit communities. Give thanks for what has been achieved in Bougainville and pray for day-to-day strength for field staff as they interact with the communities.

Wednesday 24 April

The relationship between the BHCP and the local Department of Health in Bougainville is very important. Please pray that the relationship can continue positively, and that collaboration will be maintained and developed. Please pray that the lives of those affected by leprosy and disability will improve because of this collaboration.

Thursday 25 April

Pray for the Bougainville Healthy Communities Project Treatment Supporters and the Village Health Volunteers who are supervising leprosy patients with their treatment in remote communities. At times they face challenges in supervising the patients. We pray that God gives them strength and the commitment to carry on.

Friday 26 April

Pray for the areas in Bougainville that have a high prevalence of leprosy cases. These areas include Sivo, Dantanai, Kopani, Gagan and Suir. Give thanks that as Village Health Volunteers, District Facilitators and the Leprosy Control Officer continue with tracking cases of leprosy and the commencement of treatment more people affected by leprosy are being

diagnosed, including children.

Saturday 27 April/ Sunday 28 April

Pray for Raphael Chemate, the Leprosy Control Officer of the Bougainville Department of Health. Please pray for wisdom and safety for him as he travels all around Bougainville wards and communities to track leprosy and to treat people. Raphael is the only specialized Leprosy Officer that works with BHCP District Facilitators and Health Facility Staff in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Indonesia

Monday 29 April

In Indonesia, The Leprosy Mission does not have staff but works through Yayasan NLR Indonesia. Give thanks for the relationship between TLM NZ and the local organisation and for the NZ supporters who have given generously to fund the Post Exposure Prophylaxis project in Indramayu.

Tuesday 30 April

Give thanks that the PEPCOM project supports the work of local health facilities. The project is increasing case finding, improving leprosy control, and providing Rifampicin to close contacts of someone diagnosed with leprosy.