

Wednesday 2 October

One of the best ways to find new cases of leprosy is to screen the people who live or work near a newly diagnosed person. In 2023, teams of The Leprosy Mission and their partners have conducted this work most thoroughly in Bangladesh, DR Congo, Sri Lanka, India, and Mozambique. Give thanks that many government health ministries are starting to see the value of contact screening.

Thursday 3 October

The Leprosy Mission are working with partners to explore new, more effective antibiotics for preventing leprosy. Give thanks for the PEP++ research project, working on a combination of antibiotics that will be more effective than a single dose of Rifampicin. Pray that results of the research will be clear so the effectiveness of the antibiotic trial will be evident for the benefit of people affected by leprosy and their families.

Friday 4 October

Please pray about the work being done alongside partners to explore the use of a completely new antibiotic, Telacebec. This antibiotic is very promising and could cure leprosy faster and more effectively than anything we have seen before. Give thanks for the research being carried out to improve the treatment for people affected by leprosy.

Saturday 5 October/ Sunday 6 October

In Sri Lanka churches, mosques, Hindu and Buddhist temples are all engaged in raising the awareness of leprosy. Give thanks for the many different faith leaders involved in the fight to end leprosy

Timor Leste

Monday 7 October

Pray for continued advocacy and awareness efforts regarding healthy living, patients' rights and the rights of people with disabilities. Pray that these efforts will cause people to think about what they do and how they treat others. Give thanks that the Preventative Health & Community Empowerment Programme has the potential to bring about change to Timor Leste society as people put into practice what they are learning.

Tuesday 8 October

Please pray for the successful completion of the second round of training for volunteers in community health under the PHACE Programme. The programme is being carried out in Atauro, Bobonaro and Liquica districts. Pray for continued enthusiasm and increased knowledge among the volunteers and that this will result in improvements in the lives of people in the communities.

Wednesday 9 October

Please pray for the strengthening of partnerships with stakeholders involved in the PHACE Programme. Pray that everyone involved will be motivated to work together effectively for the benefit of the community.

Thursday 10 October

Pray for the teams working at grassroots level in Baucau, Manatuto, Liquica, Atauro, Oe-cusse and Bobonaro. Pray that their communication and co-ordination with local authorities and health teams will be fruitful in building relationships. Pray that the activities of The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste will lead to significant progress and positive results in the lives of community members.

Friday 11 October

Please pray for the management team of The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste as they oversee the PHACE Programme. Pray for wisdom in the administration of the resources and the ability to find creative solutions to problems that will build resilience in the lives of staff, volunteers and people affected by leprosy. Please pray that love and truth will always be their focus.

Saturday 12 October/ Sunday 13 October

Please pray for the health and strong commitment of the entire team of The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste, including the Board, staff and volunteers. Give thanks for them and pray that they will continue to be dedicated to serving those in need.

Bangladesh

Monday 14 October

During October, training in slit skin smears will be provided for Government TB and Leprosy Control Assistants. This will be done through the Leprosy Control Project at Nilphamari Medical College and

Hospital. Give thanks for the facility and the staff to carry out the training. Pray that those trained will go on to greater expertise in the diagnosis of TB and leprosy.

Tuesday 15 October

Give thanks for the Proyash Project. The project aims to improve the health of people affected by leprosy. They work to improve access to quality healthcare, improve the execution of active case finding and provide awareness campaigns for a better understanding of leprosy. Give thanks for the comprehensive programmes the Proyash Project carries out.

Wednesday 16 October

During November a team will carry out an evaluation of the Proyash Project. Please pray for the ability to navigate the evaluation process smoothly and successfully. Also pray that the benefits and challenges of the project will be clearly seen so that good decisions can be made for the future.

Thursday 17 October

Mohammed Shahajalal and Mohammed Abdur Rahaman are disabled due to leprosy. They have been admitted to DBLM Hospital because of bad ulcers and other difficulties. Please pray for quick recovery, strength and mental wellbeing for these two men and all others in similar situations.

Friday 18 October

Many people affected by leprosy and their families have recently been impacted by monsoon floods in Brahmonbaria, Feni and Noakhali districts. Please pray for them to be able to overcome the difficult situations they are in and restore normality in their lives.

Saturday 19 October/ Sunday 20 October

Give thanks that The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh has pioneered an innovative approach to leprosy services. Work is done at a local level by partnering with individuals, community organisations, the media and government healthcare workers. Give thanks that these local partners advocate for leprosy treatment to be provided by local health centres, combat stigma, raise awareness and help identify new leprosy cases.

Indonesia

Monday 21 October

Indonesia should have a new President and administration installed during October. Please pray that the new government will show a strong commitment to addressing neglected diseases, especially leprosy.

Tuesday 22 October

As part of the Leprosy Control Programme the team in Indonesia have carried out training for some people affected by leprosy. Please pray that this will lead to greater participation by people affected by leprosy in efforts to fight the disease. Also pray that the trained people will join leprosy-related organisations, where they can make a valuable contribution.

Wednesday 23 October

Please pray about the efforts being undertaken to reduce the stigma of leprosy in communities. The stigma is found at all levels of Indonesian society so advocacy for people affected by leprosy is being undertaken with health organisations and other groups. Please pray that these efforts will raise awareness and lead to a decrease in the stigma of leprosy.

Thursday 24 October

Give thanks that the PEPCOM project in Indonesia supports the work of local health facilities. Give thanks for the relationship between TLM NZ and the local organisation, Yayasan NLR. Staff of the local organisation are carrying out the PEPCOM project with some financial contributions from New Zealand supporters.

Friday 25 October

Disruptions to routine health services create barriers to patients accessing health facilities and treatment. Please pray that disruptions will be minimised in Indonesia so that people needing treatment can get the medication and services they need to recover.

Saturday 26 October/ Sunday 27 October

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Papua New Guinea

Monday 28 October

Give thanks that, in Papua New Guinea, the Preventative Health & Community Empowerment Programme has been working in partnership with targeted communities. The aim is to establish collaborative relationships and identify Community Leaders and Village Health Volunteers in 45 communities.

Tuesday 29 October

The aims of the training programmes for volunteers are to ensure that health knowledge is widely known in communities. Pray that learning, sharing and ownership of knowledge will empower community decision-making, leading to change in behaviour among individuals and families.

Wednesday 30 October

The referral pathways established ensure that people affected by leprosy, vulnerable and marginalised people feel safe and included in their communities. Give thanks that there is an increasing number of suspected cases of leprosy being found through active case finding. Please pray for continuation of the activities and of change in people's lives.

Thursday 31 October

Give thanks that local people are gaining the know-how to establish essential water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure. This means providing access to taps and toilets. Instead of relying on a few bush latrines or pit latrines for the whole village. Please pray that the goal of having a pit toilet for every household can be realised. This will significantly reduce the risk of contracting disease.



Prayer & Praise

Strengthening the Leprosy Mission Family through Prayer

October 2024

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21

Worldwide

Tuesday 1 October

Many leprosy-endemic countries do not have strong health systems so a government's leprosy programme will be under-staffed and under-resourced. Give thanks that, in Mozambique, TLM have developed a decentralised approach to leprosy work. Connections have been made between health ministry teams and services and local leaders, which is helping to strengthen health services. Give thanks that, as a result, the number of people diagnosed with leprosy more than doubled between 2021 and 2023.