Country Focus: Spain and Portugal

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."’
Jeremiah 29:11

About TLM Spain
TLM Spain receives support from individual donors and churches. They continue to raise funds through the sale of a children’s book about a young boy with leprosy, and have recently written an article about leprosy and the Bible to increase people’s knowledge about the disease. They plan to visit churches and schools to share the vision of TLM and are looking for more volunteers to help with their work.

About TLM Portugal
There has been a TLM support group in Portugal for 22 years. During this time, support has been received from churches and individuals interested in the work of The Leprosy Mission. TLM Portugal has also sought to raise up prayer support.

Prayer points
Mon: TLM Spain has a new website. Give thanks for the skills of those who have developed the website and pray that it will be well received by supporters.
Tue: Pray for TLM Spain as they visit churches this year. Pray especially that people will generously support the work of TLM despite the difficult financial situation.
Wed: Give thanks for the team of TLM Spain and pray that God will continue to strengthen the working relationships between members.
Thu: Praise God for the churches which support TLM Spain financially and by publicising TLM’s work within their congregations.
Fri: Pray for Patricia Bento, the national director of TLM Portugal, as she promotes the work of TLM through ‘Christian Algarve Lay Link’ and other Christian groups.
Sat / Sun: Praise God for those in Portugal who support TLM’s work. Continue to pray for an improvement in the financial situation, both here and in Spain, and that more people will support TLM through prayer and financially.

Country Focus: Papua New Guinea

About Papua New Guinea
TLM’s involvement in Papua New Guinea began in the mid 1960s; TLM helped with the staffing of the leprosy hospital at Tari in Southern Highlands Province. In 1980, TLM’s office moved to Madang and the emphasis changed from hospital-based care to training of health staff in leprosy and setting up field programmes.

TLM works alongside the Ministry of Health and other agencies in PNG. Education and training of health workers is helping to identify and manage the disabilities that leprosy can cause.

Kundiawa Village, Simbu: TLM staff work in partnership with local health officers throughout PNG to assist leprosy-affected communities and to educate them about the care and cure of leprosy.

In Kundiawa Village, in the Highlands, TLM has been working with a group of leprosy-disabled people living in the only leprosy colony in PNG.

TLM staff help groups to establish livelihood projects.

Prayer points
Mon: Pray for Tweedy Malagian who became TLM Country Leader for Papua New Guinea in January 2012. Give thanks for his work so far and pray that the Lord will bless Tweedy in all that he does this year.
Tue: Give thanks for the partnership between TLM and the Ministry of Health in PNG and for the benefit that this has brought to the lives of many leprosy-affected people.
Wed: Praise God for livelihood projects that enable leprosy-affected people to provide for themselves instead of relying on welfare. Pray for the ongoing success of these projects and that increasing numbers of people will benefit from them.
Thu: Over 700 village health volunteers have been trained thanks to the BHCP. Give thanks that communities and families have been empowered to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.
Fri: Pray for the leprosy-disabled people in Kundiawa Village who have been rejected by their communities and are unable to return. Give thanks for the support that TLM has given them and pray that people in PNG will become more accepting of leprosy-affected people.
Sat / Sun: Give thanks for the support and funds raised by TLM Australia and TLM New Zealand for the projects in Papua New Guinea.

Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP)

Over 700 village health volunteers have been trained thanks to the BHCP. Give thanks that communities and families have been empowered to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

In Kundiawa Village, in the Highlands, TLM has been working with a group of leprosy-disabled people living in the only leprosy colony in PNG.

TLM staff help groups to establish livelihood projects.

Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (BHCP) is designed to encourage a community-based and community-owned primary health system. The programme aims to cover all 13 districts of Bougainville by 2014.

Quiz

When was World Leprosy Day celebrated this year (answer on page 8)?

In Touch is the official magazine of which country which supports leprosy work in PNG (answer on page 10)?

Staff
Tweedy Malagian – TLM Country Leader
Yuek Ming Poon – Capacity Building Advisor

Team

Spain
Mr Miguel Torralba – President
Mr José Manuel Carbazo – Vice President
Ms Inés Roca – Executive Secretary

Portugal
Ms Patricia Bento – National Director

Week 21: 20–26 May

Week 22: 27 May – 2 June
Country Focus: Nigeria

‘And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.’
Romans 8:28

About TLM Nigeria

Large numbers of new cases are still found in some areas of Nigeria and there are many people with leprosy-related disabilities. The number of children contracting leprosy is high. There is discrimination and lack of awareness about the disease. TLM’s projects in Nigeria include: hospital services, leprosy control, eye care, prevention of disability, vocational training, micro-credit schemes, housing, advocacy, community awareness and research. TLM Nigeria also raises funds for TLM’s work.

Key events in 2013

- **October** – TLM Nigeria Annual Country Learning
- **November** – the second TLM Nigeria Board meeting of 2013

Top: Sunday Udo, Country Leader for TLM Nigeria
Above: A child living in a leprosy settlement in Nigeria

Prayer points

**Mon:** In January of this year, the TLM Nigeria National Co-ordination Office relocated to Abuja. Pray for Dr Sunday Udo, TLM Country Leader, and the other staff as they settle into their new office. Pray that the benefit of moving to the capital will be fully harnessed by the Mission.

**Tue:** Pray for the staff who have moved house to be near the new office in Abuja. Pray that they will have quickly settled into their new homes.

**Wed:** Give thanks for TLM’s engagement with churches and other partners through World Leprosy Day. Pray that God will continue to raise up people and organisations to join the fight against leprosy.

**Thu:** In September staff will look at the lessons learnt from TLM’s projects over the past year. Pray as participants use this information to make future plans.

**Fri:** The TLM Nigeria staff conference took place in April. Give thanks for the spiritual refreshment which this brought to Board members, staff and volunteers and for their renewed commitment towards impacting the lives of leprosy-affected people for God.

**Sat / Sun:** TLM Nigeria’s Board met in April with another meeting planned for November. Pray for wisdom, grace and foresight for all members as decisions concerning the Mission in Nigeria are made.

About TLM Scotland

The Leprosy Mission Scotland seeks to educate and inspire individuals, churches and groups from across the country about leprosy and the work of TLM in bringing healing and justice to people affected by the disease.

The Leprosy Mission Scotland:

- raises funds locally and nationally through direct mail, events and other activities.
- prays and encourages people from across Scotland to join in these prayers.
- visits churches and groups to spread its message of healing and justice.
- will do whatever it can to help Scots get involved in eradicating the causes and consequences of leprosy.

The Leprosy Mission Scotland is asking people from across Scotland to stand in the G.A.P. to uphold people affected by leprosy by Giving, Acting or Praying to be part of the work of God through The Leprosy Mission.

Key events and activities in 2013

- **June** – Supporter Conference
- **Fundraising events throughout the year**

Prayer points

**Mon:** It is becoming harder to engage with churches who are interested in supporting the work of TLM. Pray for new opportunities to broaden TLM’s contact with churches. Pray too for wisdom in TLM Scotland’s approach in order to become more appealing to churches across the country.

**Tue:** Give thanks for all those who chose to support The Leprosy Mission by Giving, Acting or Praying in 2012. Pray that they will continue to do so this year and that more people would join them to support our partner projects.

**Wed:** Pray for God to raise up new volunteers to use their gifts and talents to do new things to increase the support provided to TLM Scotland. Pray that the enthusiasm of volunteers would be infectious to others in their communities.

**Thu:** Pray for wisdom and vision as TLM Scotland aims to attract support, particularly from churches. Give thanks for the changes made to TLM Scotland’s fundraising and communications strategy last year and pray that these will continue to be effective.

**Fri:** Pray for the board and staff of TLM Scotland as they seek God’s guidance about how to serve Him effectively through their work for TLM. Pray that they would understand how best to use resources in Scotland to make the biggest impact for partner projects around the world.

**Sat / Sun:** Give thanks for the Scotland v Poverty exhibition which took place in autumn last year. Praise God for the involvement of TLM Scotland and the opportunity that it gave for people to learn about TLM’s work.

**Quiz**

How many new cases of leprosy are detected in Angola each year (answer on page 52)?

Senior staff

- Linda Todd – TLM Country Leader
- Stuart McAra – Communications Manager
- Jill Bain – Support Services Manager

Top: Linda Todd, TLM Country Leader
**Country Focus: Timor Leste**

**About TLM Timor Leste**

TLM TL’s vision for the next five years is to see an improvement in the quality of life of people affected by leprosy and people with disabilities and their families.

TLM projects in Timor Leste include:

- **Community-Based Rehabilitation Enablement Project** which aims to integrate people affected by leprosy back into the community. Currently there are 24 self-help groups in six districts and the project will expand to over seven districts in partnership with the Disability Advocacy Project.

- **Capacity Building for Sustainability Project** – aims to build the capacity of the Ministry of Health’s National Leprosy Control programme in Timor Leste.

- **Disability Advocacy Project** in partnership with RHTO (Ra’es Hadomi Timor Oan) and the National Disabled People’s Organisation (DPO), aims to ensure that disability is advocated for and that the rights of people with disability are acknowledged. RHTO’s staff are made up of people with disabilities and those affected by leprosy.

**Key events in 2013**

- **3 December**: International Disability Day
- **10 December**: Human Rights Day

**Prayer points**

**Mon:** Thank God for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TLM TL and the government for the next five years. Pray that through this, the government of Timor Leste will continue to work with TLM to help vulnerable people, especially those affected by leprosy and disability.

**Tue:** Pray for the co-ordinators of the three TLM projects as they work with partners. Pray that God will continue to lead them and bless their work as they transform the lives of people affected by leprosy.

**Wed:** Pray for the TLM TL team, that they will continue to build good relationships; have co-operation and understanding in their work with each other, and that they will stay committed to TLM’s vision for Timor Leste.

**Thu:** Give thanks for developing relationships between TLM TL and churches in Timor Leste. Pray that the church community will become more aware and interested in the work of TLM.

**Fri:** Thank God for the new staff of the National Disabled People’s Organisation. Pray for continued commitment as they raise awareness in the community about the rights of people with disabilities.

**Sat / Sun:** Pray for the new government and for the establishment of new working relationships between ministries in Timor Leste. Pray that they will have commitment to building the nation and that peace will be maintained.

**Quiz**

Which TLM country is organising a Walk for Leprosy to raise money for projects in Timor Leste? (answer on page 40)?

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**Advocacy**

**How is TLM involved with advocacy?**

Advocacy is a process that involves the co-ordinated effort to change attitudes, practices, ideas, policies, and power and resource distribution that exclude disadvantaged groups. The Leprosy Mission is involved in advocacy in many different ways to change policies and practices that exclude leprosy-affected people and disabled people. Almost all of our projects involve some degree of advocacy.

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**Prayer points**

**Mon:** Last year saw changes to TLM Bangladesh’s Co-ordination for Advocacy and Networking (CAN) Project which is committed to the promotion and protection of the human rights of leprosy-affected people. New plans have been made. Pray for new vision and opportunities as the project moves forward.

**Tue:** Give thanks for TLM England and Wales’s ‘Leprosy Out Loud’ campaign. This mobilised young people to ‘Stand Up, Speak Out and Stamp Out Leprosy’. Pray that this will have a lasting impact on those involved.

**Wed:** Pray for TLM India’s Challenging Anti-Leprosy Legislation (CALL) project. Give thanks for what it has achieved so far and pray as it continues to reduce discrimination and fight for equal rights for people affected by leprosy.

**Thu:** International funders are increasingly focused on the World Health Organisation’s list of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Pray for TLM staff as they advocate for the active inclusion of leprosy in NTD initiatives.

**Fri:** Give thanks for the advocacy work of TLM England and Wales, which last year prompted the UK Home Office to reconsider immigration guidelines which were discriminatory towards leprosy-affected people.

**Sat / Sun:** Thank God for TLM Scotland’s ‘Delete the L Word’ campaign. Pray that people around the world will stop using the word ‘leper’ which denies people dignity and encourages mistreatment.

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**Quiz**

Approximately how many people are diagnosed with leprosy every year? (answer on page 8)?

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**Senior staff**

TBA – TLM Country Leader
Alliana (Nona) Lisnahian – Admin, HR and Finance Manager
Armando Marques – Capacity Building Project Co-ordinator
Marcos Soares – Community-Based Rehabilitation Project Co-ordinator
Joaozito dos Santos – RHTO National Disabled People’s Organisation Co-ordinator

**Top:** TLM staff with disability-affected people who have benefitted from TLM’s work

**Above:** Salouhou, 65, lives in a leprosy-affected community in Maradi, Niger, and is the government representative for leprosy-affected people for his region