

# Leprosy doesn't have to be a life sentence

Antonio's life is marred by leprosy. He depends upon others for all his needs. He wasn't treated early enough so he gradually lost all feeling in his hands and feet. Horrifically, without a sense of pain to protect him, he would repeatedly injure himself. He couldn't feel sharp objects under his feet or sense that his hand was being burnt by the fire. Antonio's injuries became infected because he often wasn't aware of them, so he didn't keep the wounds clean. Even when he was aware of an injury, keeping it clean living in a mud hut, sleeping in the dust and with no water supply in the village, was impossible. Tragically, Antonio lost a finger and all of his toes because his wounds became infected and ulcerated. His feet are badly deformed and he cannot walk on them except a short distance using crutches.



Antonio's wife, Gabrielle, is also disabled because of leprosy but was treated earlier, so is not as badly affected as her husband. She works hard in the fields to provide for their family of five children. It is incredibly hard for Antonio to watch his wife struggling. He feels embarrassed and ashamed. He said "I wish I never had leprosy so that I could work and do not have to watch my wife struggle so hard on her own. I can't farm and I can't walk. What choice do I have?"

His sense of dignity is gone. Yet it didn't have to be this way. If Antonio had been treated early; if his feet had been protected from injury and infection, he would be walking today; he would be able to hold his head up high in his community.

Leprosy does not have to be a life sentence.

'You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.'

Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

Almighty God, we lift before You those affected by leprosy around the world.

We pray that, with Your help, we can protect numb feet so that people affected by leprosy do not become disabled.

We pray for a prosperous future for each and every one of the people we serve and that Your love for each person will be seen throughout the work.

Please give us Your wisdom to use all that You give us with integrity, to benefit the people The Leprosy Mission serves.

In the name of Your precious Son, Jesus. Amen

Thank you for praying for our work

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## Prayer diary July to September 2015



[www.leprosymission.org.uk](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk)

'Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy... Freely you have received; freely give.' Matthew 10: 8 (NIV)

## 29 June-5 July



Pray that our **Feet First** campaign, launched in June, will change the lives of the ultra-poor who are living with the effects of leprosy and other disability in **Mozambique**. Give thanks that the UK Government will match every pound donated until the end of August, so that we can empower transformation in the lives of 4,000 people.

## 6-12 July

The 11 July is **World Population Day**. Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon is calling for prioritisation of youth in development plans and strengthening of partnerships with youth-led organisations. Pray that young people in England and Wales will be inspired to get involved with our work of supporting young people affected by leprosy and will boldly challenge age-old restrictions such as being denied access to an education.

## 13-19 July

Pray that TLMEW's work in **Myanmar** will reduce the physical and social barriers faced by people with leprosy and other disability, particularly women who have unequal access to skills, markets, information and credit and who face physical and social barriers.

## 20-26 July

Give thanks for the support received so far for TLM-**Nepal** as they continue to work day and night to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the earthquakes. Pray that God will sustain the staff throughout the increased workload. Pray against the fear experienced by those traumatised by the quakes.

## 27 July-2 August

**Nigeria** has Africa's largest number of leprosy diagnoses. 12 per cent of all new cases have visible disabilities. Pray that God will make a way for TLM staff in Nigeria to reach those communities, where there are threats of terrorism, to diagnose and treat leprosy.

## 3-9 August

Give thanks for TLMEW's **Supporter Care** team and pray for them as they cope with the increased workload generated by our **Feet First** campaign. Also, give thanks for people who have volunteered to help at the Peterborough office during this time.

## 10-16 August

Pray that more churches will take up the challenge of supporting **Feet First** by enjoying a picnic together and taking a ramble, to help 4,000 ultra-poor people affected by leprosy and disability in **Mozambique**.



## 17-23 August

Pray for TLM's work in **Bangladesh**, helping people who are struggling with leprosy-related disabilities to manage diabetes. Pray for the training of staff on technical issues, confirming diagnosis and treatment. Pray that this work will enable TLM to estimate the scale of the issue and to plan accordingly.

## 24-30 August

Give thanks that TLMEW will be attending the **Momentum** Christian event (27-31 August) this year and pray that our presence there will raise awareness to a wider audience about leprosy. Pray that we will get lots of visitors eager to find out about leprosy and how it affects those living with the consequences.

## 31 August- 6 September

On 5 September, **International Charity Day**, pray that people's hearts will be touched afresh by our work with people affected by leprosy and other disability, who are some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. Give thanks for TLMEW's staff and volunteers whose caring acts of kindness help to promote the cause of the leprosy-affected.

## 7-13 September

Pray that TLMEW will be successful in finding a Programme Support and Donor Development volunteer to support our Country Leader in **South Sudan**. Pray that God will prompt the heart of the right person who can identify and develop new opportunities for socio-economic development and empowerment.

## 14-20 September

Give thanks for the excellent leprosy services and other medical care provided at Purulia Hospital, West Bengal state, **India**. Pray for improved trust with the wider community and ask our faithful God, Jehovah-Jireh, to provide the right doctors who will have the cause of leprosy in their hearts.

## 21-27 September

Pray for the **TLM Global Fellowship** from 20 to 24 September. Pray for a time of good fellowship and learning during this opportunity of meeting colleagues from around the world. Pray that they will be encouraged and blessed as they learn more about the amazing work they and their teams are doing and give thanks to God for their commitment to the cause of leprosy.



### Support through prayer

Do you know anyone who would like to support us in prayer? If you would like to start a prayer group or want more copies of this prayer diary, please contact us.

Thank you for supporting leprosy-affected people through prayer

'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)