Healthcare

The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI) has 14 hospitals spread over 9 States in India: Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

These hospitals provide referral services, multi-drug therapy for leprosy, management of reactions and neuritis, and management of deformities and disabilities for leprosy. In addition, they provide related services for people of the community who are not affected by leprosy. These related services include care for skin diseases, diseases of the eye, physical disability, general medicine and surgery.

In doing so, these hospitals address the needs of more than 12,000 people affected by leprosy each year. More than 160,000 people from the community also find it convenient to make use of these services.

In line with the changes suggested in TLMTI’s new country strategy, their hospitals will need to have greater involvement in the community so that the improvements made as a result of TLM’s community-based projects will be sustained, long after those projects have ended.
## Prayer points

**Mon:** Many people affected by leprosy are denied access to healthcare because of social stigma and an indifference to their needs. TLMTI hospitals and health programmes strive to help them access their entitlements and rights and where this is not yet possible, TLMTI tries to directly provide for these needs. This is done through 14 hospitals in 9 States and through associated projects. Pray that these units will be successful in helping people affected by leprosy find solutions to their problems.

**Tue:** TLMTI hospitals do not find funds easily available to continue their daily work in serving people affected by leprosy. They are working hard to raise funds for their various activities to help people affected by leprosy and are also engaged in generating income through their work with people who are not affected by leprosy, so that their activities for leprosy-affected people will not be hampered. Pray that the hospitals will be able to access adequate funds to carry on their work.

**Wed:** TLMTI hospitals have bought into the new country strategy for the next three years. This includes activities to influence the minds and attitudes of people in society, duty bearers who are the staff of government healthcare services and policy makers who influence the duty bearers. Please pray that they will be able to build the relationships that will make their vision come true and people affected by leprosy will never be marginalised.

**Thu:** TLMTI health programme staff have a commitment to the Vision of the organisation (people affected by leprosy, living with dignity in a transformed inclusive society that has overcome leprosy). Please pray that they will be motivated to address the changes that are required to work towards this Vision.

**Fri:** TLMTI staff have a commitment to holistically address the needs of people affected by leprosy, and not just their health needs. Pray that they will continually not only address the health needs of the individual, but also the personal, social, economic and spiritual needs of people affected by leprosy.

**Sat/Sun:** TLMTI’s new country strategy stresses the continued responsibility of TLMTI to the communities they work in even when projects are completed. Pray that the hospitals’ involvement with communities will increase and create sustainable impact that will continue to address the needs of the communities in a holistic manner long after project activities are completed.

## Hospitals and Key Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital/Sub-Hospital</th>
<th>Key Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TLMTI Hospital, Vadathorasalur</td>
<td>Dr Jerry Joshua – Head of Health Programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Dr R Chinnaraju – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLMTI Hospital, Dayapuram</td>
<td>– Dr R Chinnaraju – Acting Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Leprosy Hospital, Salur</td>
<td>– Mr Surjit Pal – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kothara Community Hospital, Kothara</td>
<td>– Dr Asha Massey – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richardson Leprosy Hospital, Miraj</td>
<td>– Dr Suresh Verghese – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethesda Leprosy Home and Hospital, Champa</td>
<td>– Dr Sandeep Kumar – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Leprosy Mission Hospital, Chandkuri</td>
<td>– Dr Manotosh Elkana – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLM Community Hospital, Nandnagri, Delhi</td>
<td>– Mr Stephen Levi – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLM Hospital, Barabanki</td>
<td>– Mr Vijay Prathap – Deputy Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLM Community Hospital, Faizabad</td>
<td>– Dr Timothy Maximus – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLM Community Hospital, Naini</td>
<td>– Dr Premal Das – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premananda Memorial Leprosy Hospital, Kolkata</td>
<td>– Dr Helen Roberts – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purulia Leprosy Home and Hospital, Purulia</td>
<td>– Dr Famkima Darlong – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLM Hospital, Muzaffarpur</td>
<td>– Dr U K Hembrom – Superintendent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Augustine is a 70 year old man living in Bougainville, with 10 children and 30 grandchildren. He was identified as having leprosy by a village health volunteer from Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme (see page 27) about seven months ago and has commenced multi-drug therapy treatment to cure him of the disease. Fortunately his hands and feet are still undamaged.

Then, a few weeks ago, health volunteers noticed patches on two of Augustine’s granddaughters: Ronnie, 10 (in centre of photo) and Philomina, 8 (on far right). They were also diagnosed with leprosy and started their treatment. They have a leprosy positive uncle and auntie too.

The girls weren’t heavily infected. They had fewer than five patches and no other symptoms – they hadn’t really noticed that they had leprosy. They will only need to undergo six months of treatment, picking up their medication from Gagan Health Clinic, only 2 km away from their home. Because they were diagnosed early and their grandfather relatively early, none will suffer lasting disability.

Augustine was very happy that he and his grandchildren have had their leprosy detected early. They feel a little ashamed at having leprosy – it carries a lot of historical stigma – but they haven’t experienced any discrimination from others.
Week 23: 6–12 June

Southern Africa

‘Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” So they pulled their boats up on the shore, left everything and followed him.’
Luke 5:10b-11

About TLM Southern Africa
The Leprosy Mission Southern Africa (TLM SA) has existed since 1949. It raises funds to finance leprosy work in nine provinces of South Africa. The majority of new cases are found in Mpumalanga, KwaZulu Natal and Eastern Cape Provinces. Financial support for TLM’s work in Pemba, Mozambique also continues strongly. A special appeal was launched in 2015 to contribute funds to TLM Nepal’s relief work in earthquake-ravaged areas of the country.

On the home front, in addition to ongoing leprosy care, a recently held patient indaba (conference) was attended by current and former patients to discuss finding the remaining numbers of persons affected by leprosy in their respective communities and the possibility of offering their services as volunteers to help raise awareness at clinics and hospitals in the kwaZulu Natal Province. The Ramp Up programme, which assists faith communities in changing their attitudes towards people living with disability and helping them to be at home in the church, is gaining momentum. Ramp Up facilitated a special workshop to start a conversation amongst church leaders on changing perceptions on disability and embracing persons with disabilities. The Ramp Up website provides excellent resource material.

Prayer points

Mon: Give thanks for excellent bequest income received during 2015. Many supporters have confirmed that they have left bequests to TLM in their Wills. Join us in giving thanks for these faithful friends.

Tue: South Africa’s postal mail delivery service collapsed during 2014 and recovered somewhat during 2015. Give thanks that the service has stabilised. It still operates very slowly, but mail does eventually reach TLM SA’s supporters. Pray that despite problems, the postal service will improve during 2016.

Wed: Give thanks for the newest member of TLM SA’s Council, Dr Henoch Schoeman. Dr Schoeman is the CBM Regional Education Advisor and brings a wealth of experience to TLM regarding disability issues, education and Christian mission. Pray that they will be able to recruit additional council members of similar stature during 2016.

Thu: Give thanks for the warm response which TLM SA received from people affected by leprosy to participate in their indaba (conference) during 2015. One of the main issues to emerge was the need for improved training of health personnel in the early recognition of leprosy. Pray for a breakthrough with health departments that will enable this training to take place.

Fri: A number of innovative suggestions were made at the Ramp Up Bosberaad (meeting) in 2015 about improving the integration of people with disabilities in the church. Pray for wisdom for the Ramp Up team in identifying the best way to roll out these plans.

Sat/Sun: The South African Government proposed a local equivalent of DfID (UK Department for International Development) many years ago, to be known as SAPAD, but there has so far been no progress with this. TLM SA believes that the work of the Mission throughout Africa would qualify for funding from SAPAD once it is established. Pray that there will be a breakthrough during 2016.

Senior Staff

Peter Laubscher – TLM Country Leader
Theo de Villiers – Deputy Director
Erna Möller – Programme Manager
About TLM Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, leprosy control and research are conducted alongside community-based rehabilitation activities to ensure that TLM’s projects address the needs of people affected by leprosy holistically. Leprosy control limits the spread and impact of the disease while research helps TLM to ensure that both medical and social areas of our work are well-informed and effective.

TLM Bangladesh undertakes projects that include leprosy control and research in Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Gaibandha and Jaypurhat districts, Nilphamari, Dhaka and six districts in the Southern province. Key aims of leprosy control programmes include providing quality leprosy services; raising awareness; arresting the transmission of leprosy; preventing disability; and integrating the care of leprosy-affected people with general healthcare provision. TLM Bangladesh also works through government health services, providing expertise and support for prevention of disability, complication management and awareness.

Top: Sharing information about leprosy publicly in Dhaka helps people recognise the signs and symptoms, encouraging early diagnosis and treatment. © Tom Bradley

Below: People getting checked for leprosy in Village Hakhola one year on from receiving a trial vaccine through RHP. © Tom Bradley

Week 24: 13–19 June

Bangladesh: Leprosy Control and Research

‘In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.’ Matthew 5:16

Prayer points

Mon: Dhaka Leprosy Control Project staff are working to strengthen the quality of leprosy services in Dhaka and surrounding districts by contributing to the government health system. Please pray for God’s wisdom for them so that this work will be efficient and effective.

Tue: Pray that with support from TLM Bangladesh’s project team, doctors and other staff assigned to leprosy in government health complexes will increase their skill in managing leprosy-related complications.

Wed: Leprosy Field Research in Bangladesh project (LFRB) provides the opportunity for innovative field-based research to be conducted within high quality leprosy control programmes. Pray that the staff would have the wisdom to balance the needs of research with the needs of caring for the patients.

Thu: Pray that additional organisations and new research projects will be interested to use the valuable resource of highly skilled staff and numerous leprosy patients who are involved in the LFRB project.

Fri: The International Leprosy Congress will take place in China in September 2016. Please pray for members of the Rural Health Programme (RHP) who plan to share research findings there. Pray that all the knowledge that is shared will ultimately benefit people and communities affected by leprosy.

Sat/Sun: Pray for those who experience leprosy complications, that they will receive accurate diagnosis, quality treatment and compassionate attention. Pray that research findings will enhance the understanding of these conditions and the solutions available.

Senior Staff

Dr David Khan – Programme Leader (acting), Gaibandha-Jaypurhat Leprosy Care Project
Mr John Arpan Samaddar – Dhaka and Chittagong Programme Leader

Leprosy Control Project Managers
Mr Keshob Chandra Roy – Gaibandha-Jaypurhat
Dr Sanai Prue Tripura – Chittagong
Mr Parach Chakma – Chittagong Hill Tracts
Mr Thomas Singha – Dhaka
Mr Khorshed Alam – RHP Nilphamari
Week 25: 20–26 June

Ethiopia

‘Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain”. And God granted his request.’

1 Chronicles 4:10

About TLM Ethiopia

TLM Ethiopia is part of the Leprosy Expert Advisory Group (LEAG) which has recently undertaken national leprosy mapping across the country. Ethiopia achieved the elimination target of 1 case per 10,000 population in 1999; however, there remain high endemic pockets of leprosy in specific areas. Mapping results also show Grade II disability rate of 11% among new leprosy cases and nearly 7% of new cases were children. A coordinated programme is planned between the key leprosy stakeholders of the LEAG, focused on training of health professionals to improve their skills; intensive case finding; increasing community awareness of leprosy and its consequences; and strengthening of socio-economic rehabilitation.

TLM Ethiopia has a small team and its work is predominantly conducted through partners:

- Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (ENAPAL) with over 15,000 leprosy-affected members. In 2016 they are starting a new ‘Improved Cooking Stove’ project.
- The All-African Leprosy, Tuberculosis, Rehabilitation and Research Training Centre (ALERT), the main referral hospital for leprosy and an international training centre.
- Addis Ababa Leprosy Victims Rehabilitation Association (ALVRA) which runs hostel accommodation in the city for rural leprosy patients coming for treatment at ALERT.
- Life in Abundance (LiA), a Christian development organisation with a slum project in Woreda (District) 01, Addis Ababa.

Top: Clean up of Woreda 01 in Addis Ababa as part of LiA’s project.

Prayer points

Mon: Praise the Lord that the formation of the LEAG has put leprosy again on the agenda in Ethiopia. Pray for the key partners of the LEAG that together they will be able to put together a comprehensive post-mapping programme which is practical and effective.

Tue: Pray for wisdom and discernment for those involved in appointing a new Country Leader for TLM Ethiopia. Pray too for the renewal of the registration of TLM Ethiopia in July 2016, that the process will go quicker than we ever could imagine.

Wed: Pray for the people affected by leprosy in Ethiopia, many of whom still live below the poverty line, that socio-economic interventions will improve their daily living.

Thu: Pray for all the health professionals who get training in leprosy throughout the year that they will put their new skills and knowledge into good practice and most of all that they will be filled with love and compassion for those they treat and care for.

Fri: Give thanks for TLM Ethiopia’s partners and pray for wisdom for the team in supporting them as well as establishing new partnerships and networks. Pray particularly for opportunities to open for future partnerships with local churches for advocacy in leprosy care. Thank the Lord for the testimony by one of ENAPAL’s association leaders who shared that the mainstreaming and awareness efforts they undertake with local churches are making a real difference.

Sat/Sun: Pray that the Lord will open doors and guide the TLM Ethiopia team to see opportunities for fundraising within Ethiopia.

Senior Team

Ms Tanny Hagens – Interim Country Leader
Mr Berihun Legesse – Finance and Admin Officer
Mr Wogene Belachew – Programme Officer

Heads of Partners

Dr Geleta Simesso – CEO of LiA
Mr Tesfaye Tadesse – Manager Director of ENAPAL
Mr Fisseha Getahun – Manager Director of ALVRA
Mr Mezemir Kefema – CEO of ALERT
TLM Trading

‘Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.’
Proverbs 16:3

About TLM Trading
TLM Trading, the trading arm of The Leprosy Mission, is a mail order company selling a wide range of gifts, greeting cards and books primarily to the Christian community. They produce three main catalogues each year, Spring, Summer and Autumn-Winter, which include a range of products appropriate to the season. In addition they operate a successful online shop which attracts thousands of customers each year via the internet in what is an ever increasing part of their business. They also sell a range of Gifts for Life – these are ‘virtual’ gift cards which customers can buy to give to friends or mark some special occasion and which directly benefit someone with leprosy. They include items such as school equipment, eye surgery or even a donkey and cart!

TLM Trading’s main aims are:
• To help provide livelihood for people affected by leprosy, through the products they sell.
• To raise funds for The Leprosy Mission, through Gifts for Life and donations generously added to order by their customers.
• To help raise awareness of The Leprosy Mission and its work through inspiring books, cards and products.
• Inspired by the love of Jesus, to show love and compassion towards people affected by leprosy, and to empower them to attain life in all its fullness by providing resources of money, awareness, new supporters and prayer.

Prayer points

Mon: Give thanks for the continued support of many longstanding, loyal and generous customers and also those who have joined TLM Trading’s mailing list in more recent years through their recruitment initiatives. Please pray for the ongoing success of these initiatives, that the good results they have seen so far will be maintained through 2016.

Tue: Pray for the small staff team who put the catalogue together and mail it out to customers. Deadlines are often very tight and pressurised to meet key dates – please pray for TLM Trading to achieve a high level of accuracy and diligence in all that they do. Give thanks to God for the handful of faithful volunteers who assist TLM Trading with their smaller mailings and other projects during the year.

Wed: Pray for TLM Trading’s CEO, Jo-Anne Thomson, and also the Board of Directors, headed by Stephen Hammersley, who meet four times each year. They all bring a diverse range of skills and gifts to the company and are highly supportive of the staff.

Thu: Pray for Trading Partners and the many Christian bookshops bringing the products to a wider public around the UK. Give thanks for the success of the new display units which many shops are now using for promoting their card ranges. Pray especially that Trading Partners will be well supported within the churches they seek to serve.

Fri: Give special thanks for the key contribution made by David Selley who helped to found TLM Trading in the mid-1990s and retired from their Board in 2015. Pray that he and his wife Margaret continue to enjoy a long and healthy retirement.

Sat/Sun: Please pray for all the rehabilitation groups who supply the beautiful hand-crafted products in TLM Trading’s catalogue. Pray for increased sales so that even more people affected by leprosy can be given livelihoods.

Senior Staff

Jo-Anne Thomson – CEO
Stephen Hammersley - Chairman