Nepal – Community-Based Rehabilitation

People affected by leprosy and other disabilities are encouraged to meet together on a regular basis, discuss their issues and support each other. These groups are provided with training on group management and income generation. Groups are also encouraged to undertake small projects with local communities, seeking to change attitudes and develop a normal level of participation in society. As self-help groups increase in capacity, they are able to register as Cooperatives, enabling them to apply for Government funds and improving self-sustainability.

TLM Nepal is also involved in developing disaster resilient communities. Last year, over 3,000 health workers and volunteers from all over Nepal were trained and equipped in disaster response. The proportion of children diagnosed with leprosy in Nepal remains high as a result of continued anti-leprosy drug rifampicin as a preventative treatment to the close contacts of people recently diagnosed with leprosy.

Key Staff

Mr Shovakhar Kandel – TLM Country Leader
Mr Chiranjivi Sharma – Programmes Officer

Alison Gill – Administrator

Week 41: 9–15 October

Belgium

‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’
Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

Prayer Points

Mon: Let us pray and give thanks to God for the former members and leaders who served TLM Belgium so well and those who continue to do so even in their advanced age.

Tue: Please pray that the strategy set out to thoroughly involve local churches in Belgium in the work of TLM will work out well and lead to long-standing relationships in support of people affected by leprosy.

Wed: Let us pray that the Lord may touch the hearts of new committed Christian volunteers who could come to reinforce the small team of volunteers and working groups of TLM Belgium.

Thu: Please pray that the board of TLM Belgium will take useful and courageous decisions to consolidate and revive TLM Belgium, and that these decisions will be fully endorsed by the general assembly of TLM Belgium.

Fri: Pray that the Lord will bless the projects that TLM Belgium is supporting and so may bring hope, light and transformation in the lives of the persons affected by leprosy. Thank God for the TLM team in the DR Congo, and pray that their staff may experience God’s hand and leadership in the field work they are performing in often very difficult and challenging conditions.

Sat/Sun: Let us pray for those members of TLM Belgium who are weakened due to their advanced age or due to their precarious state of health.

Prayer Points

Mon: TLM Nepal staff have to travel difficult terrains to conduct outreach camps and implement project activities dealing with treacherous climates, disasters and outbreaks of disease. Please pray for their safety and give them strength to rise above such difficulties to ultimately serve those in need throughout Nepal.

Tue: Nepal continues to face political turmoil. People are frustrated and angry at the false promises that never come to fruition. Please pray that people with foresight and care for the greater good of the people of Nepal come to leadership positions.

Wed: Praise the Lord that TLM Nepal has formed a permanent partnership with CBM (formerly Christian Blind Mission). Following the earthquake, TLM implemented two projects in collaboration with CBM, and they were eager to continue working with us. Please pray that the Injury Management and Disability Prevention project now being implemented in 3 districts of Nepal with the support of CBM runs smoothly, reaching over 7,000 people.

Thu: Please pray for TLM’s ongoing work with IDEA Nepal, an organisation formed and led by people affected by leprosy. In 2014 the two organisations successfully lobbied to annul a marriage ban act against people affected by leprosy who hide their illness. Pray that we will be successful with more fruitful lobbying activities in 2017.

Fri: Please pray that the 16 new Cooperatives formed through TLM’s programmes will be sustainable and well-functioning. Through them, may people affected by leprosy have a voice and be in the forefront as champions who can inspire others.

Sat/Sun: The Far Western Region of Nepal is particularly difficult to work in due to lack of Government reach resulting in growth of corrupt pockets of leaders. Women experience discrimination based on traditional and persistent beliefs. Please pray for TLM Nepal’s efforts to form self-help groups, provide skills development trainings and seed money to improve the lives of 600 males and 600 females from vulnerable communities.

Community-Based Rehabilitation

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Key Staff

Mr Shovakhar Kandel – TLM Country Leader
Mr Chiranjivi Sharma – Programmes Officer

Pray that TLM and its partners may experience God’s hand and leadership in the field work they are performing in many very difficult and challenging conditions.

Week 40: 2–8 October

Top: Nain Bahadur and his sons, recipients of earthquake relief from TLM Nepal, in front of their new home with Chairman Ashok Adhikari (left) and Country Leader Shovakhar Kandel (right).

Prayer Points

Mon: ‘For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’
Matthew 25:35-36 (NET)
Finland and Germany

Prayer Points

Finland
Mon: TLM Finland are focusing on young adults and using new channels of communication to attract new readers for their magazine. Pray for good ideas to inspire young people to take an interest in the work of the Mission.

Tue: In 2016, the Finnish Government made large changes and decreased the foreign development aid offered to non-governmental organisations. Pray for the team in Finland as they seek new ways to widen their support base to make up for this reduced funding.

Wed: Give thanks for TLM Finland’s new board members, who all have long experience in this kind of work. Give thanks too for the long service of Rev Eija Kilpi, who retired after nearly 30 years of service on the board and as vice chair.

Germany
Thu: Pray for peace in Germany and throughout Europe. Pray for the politicians, that God would grant them wisdom to make the right decisions, and protect our land, our families and our children.

Fri: Praise God for the network of volunteers in TLM Germany who kindly offer of their time, ideas and skills. Give thanks especially for the new members and their activities and engagement and pray God will open the hearts of more people to the needs of people affected by leprosy.

Sat/Sun: Pray for special services held by TLM Germany in various churches, that they will awaken interest in TLM’s work.

About TLM Finland
Support for TLM started in Finland in 1968 and the National Council was formed in 1981. TLM Finland is operated solely through the generosity of volunteers, who work with individuals, churches, church groups and other organisations to raise funds to finance leprosy and disability prevention work in DR Congo. They also seek to increase knowledge and interest in Finland about leprosy, how it affects people, and what can be done to help.

TLM Finland produces four annual magazines in Finnish and Swedish; publishes articles and stories about leprosy work in Christian and secular magazines; visits churches and church groups, schools and other groups interested to hear about leprosy and our work; and appears on Christian and local radio and TV stations.

About TLM Germany
TLM Germany started as a local circle of friends around Dr and Mrs Riedel. They were pioneers in the fight against leprosy, working from 1951 to 1997 for The Leprosy Mission. Their hope was to bring all people God’s love and make His kingdom visible. All members of TLM Germany’s executive committee are volunteers and are part of different parishes. They organise special fundraising events and are invited to various groups and communities in order to report on their projects. TLM Germany supports projects in Niger, India and Chad.

Senior Team
Finland
Dr Aki Hietahejra – Chair of the Board
Ms Marja Aho – Vicechair
Riita Pohli – Secretary/National Director

Germany
Dr Johannes Schäfer – Chair of the Board
Betina Merz – Manageress

Prayer Points

Mon: The Nigerian economy is going through very difficult times and this has put great pressure on the public and private sectors with serious impact on the populace. Pray for a prosperous economy and stable work environment as the country team need these to effectively follow on with TLM programmes in Nigeria.

Tue: TLM Nigeria’s 2017 “Friends of the Board” fundraising dinner, slated for the last week in November, will focus on raising support for children’s education. Please pray that God will help the planning and that all invited guests will generously give financially and embrace the vision to partner towards improving the lives of persons affected by leprosy and disability.

Wed: New leprosy cases are still being detected each year in Nigeria. Pray for people who have been recently diagnosed with leprosy and are currently on treatment, that God will grant them speedy physical, psychological and emotional healing.

Thu: Pray for TLM Nigeria board members as they meet in November to take strategic decisions, that God will grant them wisdom, clarity of purpose and uncommon grace to make resolutions that will push the vision forward.

Fri: The TLM Nigeria Annual Country Learning review workshop is scheduled for November. This exercise provides learning opportunities for staff, beneficiaries and partners as they review progress made against planned objectives, Pray for the success of this event.

Sat/Sun: Give thanks for the increased number of general paying clients who continue to patronise the TLM Nigeria Orthopaedic Workshop located in Chanchaga, Niger State. This is helping to sustain the provision of free protective, assistive and other mobility aids for leprosy-affected persons and vulnerable people with disabilities in Nigeria. Pray that God will grant innovative marketing ideas and favour to the marketing team as they move round the country to raise awareness about the services and products of the workshop to key hospitals.

About TLM Nigeria
TLM Nigeria’s determination to continually make a difference that will transform lives, reduce stigma, establish sustainable livelihoods and eradicate leprosy was tailored into the development of their renewed five year country strategy (2016 – 2020). TLM’s projects in Nigeria focus on four major thematic areas: Health and management and prevention of disability; Empowerment and livelihood; Advocacy and communication; Learning and education. These were coined as the HEAL campaign. Alongside the leprosy work, TLM Nigeria has a fundraising strategy and works with churches, individual donors and companies to raise funds for and awareness about TLM’s work in Nigeria.

Top: TLM Nigeria Country Leader Moses Onoch, with TLM Papua New Guinea Country Leader Natalie Smith at the TLM Members’ Meetings 2016

Below: Ojochenni started a seed and produce business thanks to a TLM-facilitated self-help group.