Nigeria: Part 1

About TLM Nigeria

TLM Nigeria supports the National and States Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme, and ministers to over 40,000 leprosy-affected persons residing in various communities in Nigeria. Approximately 4,000 new leprosy cases are diagnosed each year in Nigeria, 12% of whom are children less than 14 years of age, indicating ongoing transmission in the communities. In addition, more than 10% come with visible deformities at diagnosis, which indicates late reporting. These two issues are of great concern. Without vital support from TLM Nigeria and its partners, many of these cases will be missed and people would endure prolonged struggle with consequences of the disease including disability, poverty and social exclusion.

Prayer points

Mon: Nigeria has general elections this year and the political atmosphere is tense and unpredictable. Pray that the election of leaders will be successful and that peace will reign after the elections, especially in the northern part of Nigeria where after-election violence is common.

Tue: TLM Nigeria works in some states in the north-west of Nigeria where the feeling of uneasy political and religious calm continues to exist. Pray for God’s continued grace and protection of all TLM Nigeria staff and Board members.

Wed: The scourge of the Ebola virus sweeping through the West African region has brought death and fear in the hearts of many. Pray for the safety of TLM Nigeria Staff as well as the persons and communities of people affected by leprosy, that God will deliver them from the deadly Ebola virus and other challenging health problems and provide the much needed solution and healing.

Thu: Nigeria has continued to experience security challenges as a result of the Boko Haram terrorist insurgency especially in the north-east part of Nigeria. Please pray that peace will be restored to the troubled States, and that God will heal the wounded hearts that have suffered great loss as a result of the killings and destruction of properties. Also pray for persons affected by leprosy and their families caught in the troubled areas, that divine help will keep and safeguard them.

Fri: The TLM Nigeria staff conference will take place in April. It offers spiritual refreshment for Board members, staff and volunteers. Please pray that God will deposit in the heart of all participants his word for the season, and that everyone will come up from this retreat refreshed with renewed commitment towards impacting the lives of persons and communities affected by leprosy for God.

Sat/Sun: TLM Nigeria’s Board meets in April and November. Pray for wisdom, grace and foresight for all members as decisions concerning TLM in Nigeria are made.

Senior Management Staff

Dr Sunday Udo – TLM Country Leader
Dr Moses Onoh – Technical Adviser
Mr Israel Kehinde Adio – Head of Finance & Admin.
Mr Terver Anyor – Funds Development Manager
Mr Pius Ogwu Sunday – Operations Manager
Ms Temitope Ayoola – Administrative Assistant

Top: TLM Nigeria Country Office staff team (TLM Country Leader Dr Sunday Udo front centre).
New Zealand

About TLM New Zealand
TLMNZ raises awareness of the Mission and its work through appeals, presentations, events and Christian radio. It has 11 full time employees plus many volunteers who contribute about 20,000 hours of their time each year. About 10,000 New Zealanders regularly support the work of The Leprosy Mission.

As part of its Strategic Plan (2014-18), TLMNZ has the following strategic priorities:

1. Engaging New Zealand in ending leprosy and transforming lives.
2. Supporting and resourcing field programmes that cure, care for and restore people with leprosy.
3. Actively partnering with The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship to end global leprosy.

Key events

February – Youth Advocates trip to Nepal
March – Cure One Hundred Day with Radio Rhema
July – Auckland Street Appeal
September – Supporters’ Trip to India
October – Auckland Marathon (Running for Rights)

Prayer points

Mon: TLMNZ will be conducting a range of activities in 2015 with the intention of acquiring new donors. Pray that these activities are successful and that new supporters in NZ come on board and support the work of the Mission.

Tue: TLMNZ conducts six appeals to its regular donors each year. Pray that in 2015 these six appeals are successful and that income targets are met in order to meet TLMNZ’s annual income budget.

Wed: Each year TLMNZ is blessed with around 20,000 hours of volunteer time. This volunteering comes in many different forms and without this contribution, TLMNZ’s work would not be possible. Pray for these volunteers and the great contribution they make to the work and life of TLMNZ.

Thu: TLMNZ partners with India, China, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea and Nepal. Pray that the relationships between TLMNZ and its implementing country partners will be positive and God-honouring and that people affected by leprosy will be cured, cared for and restored.

Fri: The TLMNZ Board is made up of ten people from a range of backgrounds. The Board Chair is Anne Ratliff. Pray for the TLMNZ Board as they govern the organisation. Pray also for the well-being of the Board, all of whom are very busy people, and yet freely give of their time to the work of the Mission.

Sat/Sun: TLMNZ relies heavily on bequests in order to meet its annual income budget. Pray that TLMNZ is able to meet or exceed its bequest target for 2015. Pray also that supporters will consider TLMNZ as part of their bequest.

Senior Staff

Brent Morgan – TLM Country Leader
Gillian Whitley – Donor Development Manager
Martin Malkaney – Finance Manager
Bruce Waldin – Marketing Manager
Andrew Harding – Programmes Manager
Anne Ratliff – Chair of the Board

Top: Brent Morgan, TLM Country Leader, with Nutan at Muzaffarpur Hospital, Bihar, India.
Thailand and Indonesia

About TLM’s work in Thailand
TLM supports the ministry to leprosy patients in Thailand through partnership with McKean Rehabilitation Center, a service centre of The Church of Christ in Thailand. Patients in need of specialised leprosy care and rehabilitation are referred there by government workers or self-report to McKean clinics and hospital. McKean is also the major provider of diagnosis, treatment and follow up for marginalised and disadvantaged leprosy patients who lack Thai citizenship, both in Chiang Mai and in border project work. Other displaced disabled people, including many children, benefit from McKean’s rehabilitation services. Vocational activity training helps in-patients to build sustainable livelihoods. A group of elderly people disabled and dislocated by leprosy many years ago continue to receive residential care and support in Ruam Jai Village of McKean.

About TLM’s work in Indonesia
The Leprosy Mission’s work in Indonesia is currently on hold. The very long process of becoming registered and fully operational as a local organisation was not completed by our deadline of June 2014. This is a dilemma, as Indonesia has the third-largest number of new leprosy patients in the world. Although good work is being done by government and other national and international organisations, we believe there are opportunities for TLM to work directly with partners, leprosy-affected people and churches in Indonesia. Prayer is needed to open doors to TLM in this country.

Prayer points

Thailand
Mon: The new leadership of the national Thai church and Board members take up their positions early 2015. Pray they will seek clarity of vision and awareness of God’s leading in the ministries under the church, including McKean.
Tue: In 2014 McKean produced new vision, mission and values statements. Pray for effective outworking of action plans by leadership and staff to see the vision and mission fulfilled.
Wed: Changes in government and law enforcement make marginalised people more afraid and vulnerable. Pray for safe passage for displaced people enabling access to treatment.
Thu: Leprosy patients unfortunate enough to suffer prolonged periods of reaction can become very discouraged and are in danger of nerve damage. Pray for their relief and healing and encouragement, and for them to be able to access the right help at the right time.

Indonesia
Fri: Pray that God will open doors to TLM to become actively involved again in leprosy work in Indonesia; and at the same time, open the opportunities for funding.
Sat/Sun: Pray for Alexander Frans (Chair), Stanley Prasetyo (Chair) and the other local Board members in Indonesia during this time of uncertainty.

Senior Staff

Thailand
Heather Smith – TLM representative and Assistant Director
Achara Chienvichai – Acting Director/Manager
Rev Trairat Thongsamrit – Assistant Manager
Dr Trevor Smith – Medical Advisor/Doctor
Parati Chalermliamthong – Head of Nursing
Kwanhathai Boonma – Head of Therapy

Indonesia
Tanny Hagens – TLM contact
Alexander Frans – Chair of Management Board
Stanley Prasetyo – Chair of Governing Board
About TLM Bangladesh
The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh has 23 Projects in 24 districts with a support office in Dhaka which is responsible for overseeing the projects, for networking with secular and Christian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and building relationships with government health staff.

Projects include leprosy control and community-based rehabilitation in several districts; a leprosy referral hospital in Nilphamari; and advocacy in the southern provinces. A major aspect of the field work, particularly in the Nilphamari area, is five important leprosy research projects which are of international significance. While training and building the capacity of staff is essential and ongoing, there is also a dedicated training centre at Nilphamari. The centre is a self-funded project providing leprosy and other training to government and non-government organisation staff.

Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission Hospital (DBLM) is based in Nilphamari. It aims to provide and develop a centre of high-level holistic care, focused on leprosy patients, also including patients with general disabilities, prioritising children, women, and the poor and sharing its expertise with others. It is the only dependable specialised leprosy treatment centre in the country and also provides reconstructive surgery and assistive devices to patients. Currently 30% of outpatients have disabilities not caused by leprosy.

Prayer points

Mon: Surgery camps are taking place in March with Dr Jerry Joshua from India and with Dr Indra Napit from Nepal in October. Pray these camps would reach many people with life-changing surgery who would otherwise be unable to receive it.

Tue: Pray for the planning and construction of the recently-funded rebuilding or extension to the DBLM Hospital building and for all the staff members of the maintenance department.

Wed: Pray for God’s blessing for the teams of doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, technicians and counselors in TLM Bangladesh’s hospital and clinic projects as they go about their essential work, and that they will in turn be a blessing for the people they serve.

Thu: Pray for the patients who are seeking help from DBLM Hospital and clinics, that they will receive the right treatment and also attention to their needs for counselling and other support.

Fri: Pray for the staff of TLM Bangladesh setting out to achieve the goals and objectives according to the country strategic plan. Pray especially for God-given wisdom and strong leadership for Matthew Halder, Country Leader, as he leads all the programmes and project activities.

Sat/Sun: Give thanks for the skills and capacities of TLM Bangladesh staff members both in the field and working from central and district offices. Pray they will continue to grow and work harmoniously together achieving God’s work.

Senior Staff
Rev Matthew S. Halder – TLM Country Leader/Country Director
Mr Salomon Sumon Halder – Administration and Finance Co-ordinator
Mr Jiptha Boiragee – Programme Support Co-ordinator
Ms Sukla Sangma – Human Resources Manager
Mr John Dhali – Manager – Admin & Project Support
Mrs Joyantee A Baroi – Manager – External Relations & Office Support
Mr Andrio Boiragi – Finance Manager
Dr David Khan – Medical Coordinator, DBLM Hospital and Rural Health Program
Suay lives near the Myanmar/Thailand border. When, aged 18, he noticed patches on his arms, the nearest doctor told him he was allergic to the water – but no medication seemed to help. Another man who noticed suggested Suay go to the Christian Clinic in Chiang Mai, so he made the long journey to McKean Rehabilitation Center and received the correct treatment. Unfortunately he went on to develop severe leprosy reaction and required further hospital care.

A year later, Suay was asked what was the best way for The Leprosy Mission to help people who had his experience.

He replied ‘Please help them the way you have helped me. No one else understood my problem. I could never have afforded to pay hospital fees. I was so relieved and grateful that support was available. Being able to stay here, not going out to work hard on the land for every mouthful of food, and seeing the doctor and the occupational therapist regularly has saved my hands from bad deformity. My hands are weak but mobile and I am expecting surgery next year. Getting all the medicines I need at the right time has been absolutely wonderful. Having people round me who know what is happening in my body, who remind me to rest, and be hopeful, who teach me how to keep exercising my fingers which are losing strength, and remind me to keep at it. This has been a long marathon, but it would have been impossible without all the help I’ve received...And while here, I have learned lots of things I take back to my home village to improve our income. Tell the Mission thank you, and please keep doing what you’ve done for me for others too.’
About TLM Netherlands

The Leprosy Mission Netherlands (Leprazending Nederland) was founded in the 1980s to support The Leprosy Mission International with funds, prayer and human resources. The office is in Apeldoorn and there are eight members of staff and four volunteers. TLM Netherlands supports two Dutch cross-cultural workers: Geeske Zijp in Chad and Tanny Hagens, who works with several countries in TLM. They also facilitate the work of one TLM International staff member: Piet Both (Advisor to the General Director).

TLM Netherland’s vision is to see leprosy and rehabilitation services strengthened and to enable transformational change in the lives of people affected by leprosy in India, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar and Chad. To achieve this TLM Netherlands seeks support from donors and churches, and organises events to get people involved.

Prayer points

Mon: In TLM Netherlands’s new strategic plan, starting this year, one of the main priorities is to change the downward trend in the number of supporters and income. They intend to put more effort towards innovation, in building relationships and involving supporters with the needs of persons affected by leprosy. Pray that their efforts will bear fruit.

Tues: The Pentecostal Conference is a large Christian event in The Netherlands at the end of May. Pray that TLM Netherland’s presence at the conference will raise awareness about leprosy and will generate new donors to support the work.

Wed: Pray for Henno Couprie, TLM Country Leader, as he leads the team this year. Pray for a blessing on his work and family and for wisdom in decision-making.

Thurs: This year TLM Netherlands wants to really make some steps forward to gain more volunteers to assist the staff in their work. Please pray for inspiration and good ideas to recruit new reliable and capable volunteers.

Fri: TLM Netherlands’s annual audit examination will take place on 2-3 March 2015. Please pray for the necessary preparations for the audit and that the outcome will be good.

Sat/Sun: The Dutch team is small and the average age of staff is over 50. Please pray for inspiration and good health for this team and their families.

Staff

Mr Henno Couprie – TLM Country Leader
Mr Cor van Leeuwen – Head of Communication and Fundraising
Ms Ingrid Peters – Administration
Mr Wim Veenemans – Financial Administration
Mr Nico Zwemstra – Head of Programme Co-ordination
Ms Heidi Hoogvliet – Fund and Programme Monitoring Officer
Ms Wendy Moes – Executive Secretary
Mr Gert Visscher – Relation Manager

‘Most assuredly I tell you, inasmuch as you did it to one of these my brothers or sisters, you did it to me.’

Matthew 25:40b