People affected by leprosy

About people affected by leprosy
Every year between two and three hundred thousand people are diagnosed with leprosy and an estimated three to four million people around the world are disabled because of it. Leprosy is caused by a bacillus called mycobacterium leprae (a relative of TB). If it is not treated it attacks the nerves, meaning that people cannot feel pain and so are easily injured. It can also cause paralysis so that eyes cannot close properly and fingers and toes become bent. This is why leprosy can cause disability if left untreated.

Leprosy is difficult to catch and most people have a natural immunity to it. It is curable through a course of MDT (multi-drug therapy). Even if you’re ‘cured’, living with the consequences can be devastating. There are a lot of misconceptions about the disease which make people fearful and cause those affected by leprosy to be rejected by their families and communities.

TLM works not just to treat the physical aspects of leprosy but also to transform people’s lives through educating communities to reduce stigma, challenging discriminatory laws, establishing sustainable livelihoods, setting up self-help groups and helping people to value themselves. TLM also works with people affected by other disabilities.

Key events for 2013

27 January – World Leprosy Day

Week 1: 1–6 January

Prayer points

Mon: Pray for those experiencing rejection from their families and communities and for the projects that TLM runs which aim to reduce this by challenging misconceptions about leprosy.

Tue: Give thanks that through MDT, leprosy can be cured. Praise God for the surgeons who skilfully provide reconstructive surgery to reduce disfigurement and disability.

Wed: Pray for many more cases of leprosy to be caught early so that fewer people are left with disabilities.

Thur: Pray that through TLM, more people will come to know the love of Christ because He is at the centre of all that TLM does.

Fri: Praise God for the many projects around the world which work to restore livelihoods for people affected by leprosy. Give thanks for the vocational training centres which teach new skills and for the self-help groups which offer loans for new businesses.

Sat / Sun: Pray for a renewed self-esteem for those affected by leprosy, that they will feel valued both within themselves and by their communities.

Week 2: 7–13 January

Country Focus: Leprosy Mission Nepal

About Leprosy Mission Nepal (LMN)
In order to eradicate the underlying causes and consequences of leprosy, the goal of LMN is for people affected by leprosy, disability and those who are marginalised to experience holistic transformation of their lives, integration into their communities and improved self-esteem. To achieve this, LMN are focussing on prevention of disability, addressing environmental barriers (poverty, illiteracy and sanitation), and supporting research and training.

Projects include:

Anandaban Hospital
This is the main leprosy referral hospital for the Central Region of Nepal. Its services include reconstructive surgery, management of leprosy reaction and ulcer care. Anandaban also runs a leprosy referral clinic in Butwal (Western Nepal) and a satellite clinic in Chandranigapur.

Socio-Economic Rehabilitation (SER) and Community Empowerment, Development, Disability and Rehabilitation (CEDAR) projects
These initiatives assist leprosy-affected people to overcome the challenges they face, such as disability and stigma. The projects establish self-help groups providing members with loans for small businesses, low-cost homes, education and training opportunities, and instruction on self-care.

(For more information about the programmes of LMN and other organisations supported by TLM in Nepal, see page 58)

Prayer points

Mon: Pray that leprosy-affected people living with disabilities would know about the reconstructive surgery at Anandaban Hospital and be willing to come here for surgery.

Tue: Every Tuesday, staff and patients attend the Anandaban Hospital Staff / Patient Fellowship. Give thanks that they can meet together to praise God and for the improvement this brings to their lives, both socially and spiritually.

Wed: Thank God for Mr Bishnu Dhungana, Project Manager, and other staff of the SER and CEDAR projects. Pray for safety and good health as they travel to remote areas of Nepal for community work.

Thu: Pray that the Lord will give strength and wisdom to Mr Shovakhar Kandel, Executive Director of Leprosy Mission Nepal, as he provides overall leadership of their work. Pray for Mr Kandel’s duties as the General Secretary of Nepal Leprosy Network and for his family, as he has a busy schedule and travels extensively.

Fri: There are a rising number of new leprosy cases at the satellite clinic in Chandranigapur (Rautahat District). Pray for the staff at Anandaban Hospital as they treat these new cases.

Sat / Sun: Pray for Dr Indra Napit (Medical Director and Orthopaedic Surgeon) and fellow orthopaedic surgeon Dr Pradip Sapkota as they perform around 1,200 reconstructive surgeries at Anandaban Hospital each year.

Staff

Mr Shovakhar Kandel – Executive Director of Leprosy Mission Nepal
Dr Indra B Napit – Medical Director of Anandaban Hospital
Dr Mahesh Shah – Consultant Dermatologist
Mr Kul P Adhikari – Administrative Officer
Mr Sushil Khadilwa – Finance Manager
Dr Pradip Sapkota – Orthopaedic Surgeon
Mrs Nirmala Shrestha – Matron
Mr Bishnu Dhungana – Project Manager, SER and CEDAR projects

Top: Sabita (from Delhi, India) receives treatment for leprosy from a TLM hospital. TLM also provides a scholarship for the education of her son
Right: A woman from Kebbi State, Nigeria

Top: A family outside their new house which was built with the help of LMN

Sita was treated for leprosy at Anandaban Hospital. She responded well to the treatment and has now recovered.

‘Anandaban Hospital gave me a new life.’

‘I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.’

John 16:33
Country Focus: New Zealand

‘Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.’
Proverbs 31:8

About TLM New Zealand
TLM NZ raises awareness of the Mission and its work through:

- Ethnic Communities Network – TLM NZ Ethnic Communities Ambassador, Michael Sheppard, is developing a network of volunteers to build relationships between ethnic communities in New Zealand with Leprosy Mission projects in their home countries.
- Regional volunteers raise local support and raise awareness in churches.
- Youth Advocate Scholarships – young adults with a passion for mission can witness the work of the Mission in Nepal.
- Running 4 Rights Team – raises awareness and finances by participating in the Auckland Marathon and other walking or running events throughout New Zealand.

Alongside fundraising, TLM NZ: accesses government funds for TLM field projects and works with implementing (field) country staff to get the best possible outcomes for projects.

Key events in 2013

- 27 January – World Leprosy Day
- February – Parachute Music Festival and Youth Advocate Scholarship to Nepal
- March and September – inTouch magazine
- October – Running 4 Rights marathon

Top left: Brent Morgan, TLM Country Leader, and family
Top right: TLM New Zealand’s Running 4 Rights Team
Above: TLM New Zealand Youth Advocates in Nepal

Prayer points

Mon: Pray for opportunities to promote the work of The Leprosy Mission in the public arena, e.g. through media, politicians and Christian events.

Tue: Pray for the NZ team as they prepare for the Parachute Music Festival in January. This is an excellent opportunity for TLM NZ to profile its work to a Christian audience of over 20,000 people.

Wed: Pray for the TLM NZ Programmes team of Matt Halsey and Andrew Harding as they work to get NZ government funding for projects. Pray for Matt and Andrew’s families as they both travel frequently.

Thu: Pray for the TLM NZ Marketing team (Gillian, Bruce, Indira, Tracey, Heather, Carolyn and Ngaira) as they manage direct mail, face-to-face and bequest campaigns. Pray for wisdom and discernment for this team as they interact with existing and new supporters.

Fri: Pray for the TLM NZ Finance and Admin team of Martin Malkaney and Sylvia Massey-Borman. Pray for strength and resilience as they go about their daily work.

Sat / Sun: Pray for God’s wisdom and vision for Brent Morgan, TLM NZ Country Leader, as he leads the team in 2013.

Senior staff
Brent Morgan – TLM Country Leader
Tracey Adamson – Communications and Marketing Co-ordinator
Gillian Whitley – Donor Development Manager
Martin Malkaney – Finance Manager

Quiz
TLM New Zealand funds the eye-sight project of which partner organisation (see page 44 for the answer)?

Country Focus: Bangladesh

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’
Romans 15:13

About TLM Bangladesh
TLM has 21 projects in Bangladesh. The TLM Support office in Dhaka is responsible for overseeing the projects, for networking with secular and Christian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and building relationships with government health staff.

TLM’s projects in the Chittagong region of Bangladesh aim to improve the quality of life of leprosy- and disability-affected people through self-help and self-care groups, and to eliminate leprosy-related stigma so that more leprosy-affected people will come forward for treatment.

TLM Bangladesh also works in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a remote mountainous area, to improve the health and economic situation of leprosy-affected people, people with disabilities and those who are marginalised. There are 125 self-help groups which benefit around 1,000 people.

(For more information on TLM’s work in Bangladesh, see pages 27 and 62)

Senior staff
Mr John Samaddar – Programme Leader
Mr Rajesh Mallick – Manager, Chittagong Sustainable Development project
Dr Saray Tripura – Manager, Chittagong Integrated Leprosy Services and Stigma Reduction project
Mr Parach Chakma – Manager, Chittagong Leprosy Control and Rehabilitation project

Prayer points

Mon: Pray for the Chittagong Sustainable Development project as it winds down this year. Pray for the end-of-phase evaluation as it looks at the achievements of the project.

Tue: Pray for the people affected by leprosy living in areas where neither TLM Bangladesh nor any other organisation is doing community-based rehabilitation work. Pray that the Lord will provide the resources to enable TLM to support them.

Wed: The Chittagong Hill Tracts area is vulnerable to communal conflict. In the past it has claimed lives and slowed down project activities. Pray for the safety of TLM staff and their families.

Thu: A new phase of the project in the Hill Tracts area started in 2012. Pray that appropriate training will be arranged for staff to give them the necessary skills and motivation to achieve new goals and objectives.

Fri: TLM has been working to enhance the leprosy management skills of doctors in government hospitals with the aim of integrating leprosy into the government health structure of Chittagong City Corporation area. Pray that the aims of the integration will be achieved in 2013.

Sat / Sun: TLM Bangladesh will hire around four part-time workers to spread information on nutrition, maternal and child health care, and HIV/AIDS in Chittagong. Pray that the right people will be found and that communities will get the correct message.

Quiz
The main focus of which TLM ‘supporting’ (donor) country is to support the work of TLM Bangladesh (answer on page 26)?

Top left: A World Leprosy Day rally
Top right: A photo exhibition organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts Leprosy Control and Rehabilitation project to raise awareness of leprosy
Country Focus: Ethiopia

‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.’
Philippians 4:6

Prayer points

Mon: Give thanks for the proposed new projects in the slums of Addis Ababa and two rural leprosy villages. These include the provision of water, sanitation, healthcare and nutrition, and low-cost housing for people affected by leprosy and disability.

Tue: Pray for effective communication with TLM Ethiopia and other disability organisations as they spearhead leprosy issues in Ethiopia.

Wed: Pray that leprosy and disability issues will be included in the work of national NGOs (non-governmental organisations), especially TLM partners such as Life in Abundance (LA) and Professional Alliance for Development (PADet).

Thu: Pray for effective communication with the Evangelical Fellowship of Churches in Ethiopia to ensure that leprosy issues are included in the work of churches.

Fri: Pray for the Lord’s favour on Mrs Wubitu Abere as she handles the multiple responsibilities of networking, developing programmes and representing TLM Ethiopia before the government and other organisations.

Sat / Sun: Pray for the Ministry of Health’s National Leprosy Taskforce / advisory group, of which TLM Ethiopia is a member. Pray that this will have a positive impact on people affected by leprosy and other disabilities.

Country Focus: France

France is a large country with a population of more than 60 million people. The percentage of Protestant Christians, including all the different denominations, accounts for approximately two per cent of the population. Evangelical churches have experienced encouraging growth in recent years, as have churches with congregations from overseas, mainly from Africa. According to recent statistics, a new church opens every 10 days. The majority of support for TLM France comes from this population. TLM France aims to establish strong partnerships with these new churches.

The TLM France Council is made up of nine members representing the various Protestant denominations. It appoints the Board including Théo Reiss as chairman, Claude Boussermart as vice-chairman and Jean Alvarez as treasurer.

In the staff team, Pierre Geiser has overall responsibility for TLM’s activity in France, team management and international contacts. Pascal Machefer is the communications officer. He deals with churches, events and is responsible for the quarterly magazine EN ACTION.

Key events in 2013

• TLM France is developing the concept of ‘Juste Cause’ concerts involving churches throughout the country. They promote the work of TLM and encourage support.

About TLM France

TLM France was established in July 2011. Until then, TLM’s work in Ethiopia had been done solely through partners: ENAPAL (The Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy) and ALERT (The All-Africa Leprosy, Tuberculosis, Rehabilitation and Research Training Centre).

ENAPAL works through over 63 local associations and regional branches. Over 15,000 people affected by leprosy are members of ENAPAL. ALERT is the main hospital in Ethiopia providing specialist medical care for leprosy, including reconstructive surgery, eye surgery and treatment of complex leprosy cases. It is also an international training centre.

Almost 5,000 new cases of leprosy are diagnosed in Ethiopia every year.

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