Welcome from the General Director

Joining with thousands around the world

Dear praying friends and colleagues,

I am writing this from Kimpese, a town in the Bas-Congo province of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Leprosy Mission has supported the church and government leprosy programme here for many years. This week Kimpese was the venue for our ‘annual country learning,’ a time when our team and key partners reflect on what has gone well and not so well in the past year, what we have learned, and what changes we should make.

Each day started with praise (20 Congolese people make a great worship choir!). Then, verses of Scripture introduced by one and commented on by others. Finally, prayer together for the needs of the programme, personal needs of team members, and the prayer focus for the day from DEMANDEZ, our French version of ASK.

The same thing is happening among Leprosy Mission teams in more than 30 countries, and in the homes of thousands of praying supporters. Thank you for being one of them. I love the fact that when you and I pause to pray for the people and the work of the Mission – as my colleagues and I do in our office, every morning – we are joining thousands around the world, lifting our voices in prayer, asking that God will bless, lead, correct, guide and prosper the work we are doing in his name.

Can I take you back to the Congolese team for a moment? DR Congo is one of the two or three poorest countries in the world. Yet here are our people planning together, agreeing on actions that will bring hope and healing to people affected by leprosy, and committing them together to the Lord. To me, the challenges seem immense! Without your prayers, I don’t know that anything of lasting value could be achieved. With your prayers, leprosy can be defeated here, and lives will be transformed.

We ask God that you will yourself experience the transforming power of the Spirit of God as you join with us in regular prayer for the needs of The Leprosy Mission. On behalf of the Congolese team and all others like them – THANK YOU.

Geoff Warne
CEO
The Leprosy Mission
International
TLM International

Our vision
Leprosy Defeated, Lives Transformed

Our mission
Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission strives to break the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness

Our values
Because we follow Jesus Christ, we value

Compassion     Justice     Integrity
Inclusion     Humility

Strategic focus
• Leprosy services
• Dignity and Empowerment
• Social Integration
• Research and Learning
• Resource Mobilisation

Quarterly Prayer Guide
The Leprosy Mission produces a quarterly prayer guide in January, April, July and October. It is intended to be used as an accompaniment to ASK – it provides up-to-date prayer points for our people, projects and events throughout the year. You can download a copy from our website: www.leprosymission.org/prayer-resources or call the office on 020 8326 6767.
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Where Leprosy is Found Today

TLM is committed to providing long-term quality care and support in the name of Jesus Christ as long as there are people affected by leprosy who need it.

Annual New Cases of Leprosy

- **10,000+**
- **100 – 9,999**
- **1–100**
- No new cases detected
- No data available

SOURCE: WHO 2012
For a map of the countries where TLM works, see pullout at the back.
As a teenager Min Min loved to swim in the stream near his village in Myanmar. During one visit he cut his leg on some broken glass. He didn’t feel any pain so he quickly forgot about it and carried on with his usual activities. Over time the wound in his leg became infected and showed no signs of improving. He’d also begun to discover numb, pale patches on his body. Finally his parents took him to a clinic in Dala Township not far from their village. Staff at the clinic referred him to a specialist skin department at Yangon general hospital. Here he was diagnosed with leprosy.

Min Min’s sister, Aye Mar, was also diagnosed with leprosy. When she was seven she accidently spilt hot water on her arm but she didn’t react – she couldn’t feel the burning sensation.

Both Min Min and Aye Mar took the medication they were prescribed and are completely cured. But leprosy is more than a physical disease – both said they felt ashamed when they were told they had it and both of them chose to stay indoors for long periods of time. The feelings of shame were exacerbated by villagers who were afraid to be near them and who would shout out names like ‘leper’ when they saw them.

When one of their younger brothers got married the girl’s parents were deeply disapproving; they didn’t want her to marry into a family with a history of leprosy. The marriage broke down soon after the birth of their little girl and Min Min’s brother and his daughter moved back to the family home.

TLM Myanmar has established community projects in the village where Min Min and Aye Mar live. At first, when the TLM Myanmar team visited Min Min’s home he would hide away. Gradually, as they made more and more visits, he began to tell them his story. They suggested that he go to Mawlamyine hospital for treatment of his ulcer. Now his wound is much better and he knows how to take care of his insensitive hands and feet.

Not only has his physical health improved, he has also found new hope and confidence. Min Min attends a TLM self-help group – he secured a loan from the group and is now raising pigs, providing an income for him and his family. The local villagers are much more accepting of Min Min and Aye Mar after TLM spent time raising awareness of leprosy with them, dispelling the myths and allaying their fears. Thanks to TLM they no longer feel the need to hide away.
About The Leprosy Mission International’s Board

This is the governing Board of TLM International, a charity (and company) registered in England. In the TLM Fellowship the International Board has two distinct sets of responsibilities. First, it has a number of defined roles that extend across the TLM Fellowship, as a service to the Members. These roles are assigned by the Members. Second, it is also the governing Board of TLM International. In that role it has legal responsibilities under English law, as well as being accountable to the Members. It is also has governance responsibility for all Members of the TLM Fellowship who do not have their own governing Board.

There are 10 members of TLM International’s Board. The members give their time voluntarily to the Mission and have to travel twice a year for Board meetings.

The Members are: Ken Martin, Chair (Australia), Dr Nalini Abraham, Vice-Chair (India), Gordon Brown, Treasurer (UK), Ashok Adhikari (Nepal), Paul Emans (Netherlands), Dr Susan Maiava (New Zealand), Dr Shem Nuhu (Nigeria), Colin Osborne (UK), Pam Packett (Australia), Malcolm Seath (Canada)

Prayer points

**Weds:** Pray for the conduct of the Board meetings (April and September), that prayer, devotions and worship will continue to be at the heart of each meeting.

**Thurs:** Pray for Ken Martin, who was appointed last September as Chair, taking over from David Parry. Pray too for new Board members, Shem Nuhu, Pam Packett and Paul Emans, that they will settle in quickly and feel able to contribute to discussions.

**Fri:** Remember those who help the meetings to run smoothly, including: Geoff Warne; colleagues who prepare the papers; Jade Phillips (Geoff’s PA) who makes all the administrative arrangements; and the TLM staff and offices that host the Board meetings.

**Sat:** Pray for a good relationship between the Board and the Members, including the Member Appointed Working Groups (which have responsibility for various tasks within the Mission). Pray for the Peer Review Working Group as they introduce a way to build mutual accountability by looking at ways TLM can improve efficiency and effectiveness. It will be new to many, so pray for grace, trust and understanding.

**Sun:** Pray for effective ways of monitoring the implementation and communication of the new TLM Fellowship strategy (see page 2 for more details).

‘I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago,’

Psalm 77:11
Country Focus: Nepal

‘He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just.’
Deuteronomy 32:4

About TLM Nepal
In order to eradicate the underlying causes and consequences of leprosy, the goal of TLM Nepal 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, TLM Nepal are focussing on: prevention of disability; a central tertiary referral hospital for leprosy; addressing environmental barriers (poverty, illiteracy and sanitation); and supporting research and training.

Projects include: Anandaban Hospital, including the Mycobacterial Research Laboratory and Training Unit; Socio-Economic Rehabilitation (SER) and Community Empowerment, Development, Disability and Rehabilitation (CEDAR) projects.

Other partners whose medical and community-based projects are supported by TLM in Nepal are International Nepal Fellowship (INF) and Nepal Leprosy Fellowship (NLF).

For more info on TLM Nepal, see page 56.

Prayer points

Mon: In 2013 the Board of Leprosy Mission Nepal took on responsibility for the governance of all TLM’s activities in Nepal. Pray for the chairman, Ashok Adhikari, and the Board members as they take up their expanded role.

Tues: Pray for God’s guidance and wisdom for Mr Shovakhar Kandel and his family, as he begins his new role as country leader of TLM Nepal.

Weds: Pray that the research team under the leadership of Dr Deanna Hagge would have innovative ideas, especially regarding leprosy reaction and nerve damage that leads to disability. Pray also that collaboration with other researchers would be strengthened and fruitful in improving leprosy care.

Thurs: Pray for the staff at Anandaban Hospital, that in all their contact with patients they will show the love of Jesus both in their interactions and in the excellence of their work.

Fri: Praise God for the many leprosy-affected families whose lives have been improved through the SER, CEDAR and partners’ projects. Pray for the on-going work and for expansion into new needy areas.

Sat/Sun: Give thanks for the expertise of staff at Anandaban to train others. Pray that the medical officers, government health workers and para-medical staff, who are trained at the Training Unit, will actively apply the expertise they have gained to improve care for leprosy patients throughout Nepal.

Key Staff

Mr Shovakhar Kandel – TLM Nepal Country Leader
Dr Indra B Napit – Medical Director of Anandaban Hospital
Dr Deanna Hagge – Head of Mycobacterial Research Laboratory
Mr Gopal Hari Pokhrel – Training Officer
Mr Bishnu Dhungana – Project Manager, SER and CEDAR projects
Country Focus: Angola and Tanzania

About TLM’s work in Tanzania
TLM’s association with Hombolo Leprosy Hospital goes back over 50 years. TLM Northern Ireland has been funding several small projects in recent years. In 2013 these small projects were joined together into one large project which covers community health and education, providing housing in the nearby leprosy village of Samaria, maintaining the work at Hombolo Hospital and extending that work into eight nearby villages.

About TLM’s work in Angola
In Angola there are about 1,000 new cases of leprosy detected each year. The Leprosy Mission works in Benguela and Huila Provinces. TLM supports a Prevention of Impairment and Disability (POID) project which aims to reduce leprosy-related disability and in 2014 will support ARPAL, an association for leprosy-affected people, through advocacy, health promotion and developing self-care groups in four provinces of Angola.

SOLE (Solidariedade Evangélica) is an Angolan-registered religious institution through which TLM- and church-related leprosy work is developed.

Prayer points

Angola
Mon: Last year, ARPAL trained 105 Community Agents about leprosy in six provinces for continuation of health education; created 11 self-care groups for prevention of disability in six provinces; and developed eight awareness campaigns through conferences, leaflet distribution, and theatre plays addressing stigma and discrimination. Pray for the six activists of the ARPAL team who will be visiting four endemic provinces this year.

Tues: Pray for the TLM Angola team as they seek to develop a new strategic plan in the context of a rapidly changing health and economic environment, and stimulate the government to contribute in the final push to eradicate leprosy.

Weds: Pray for Dr Eliane Mbounga new Medical Director for the project and deputy to the country leader Dr Jean-Pierre Brechet. Pray that the focus on people affected by leprosy and knowledge of the disease will be preserved.

Thurs: Pray for Natalia Marçal, President of ARPAL. Pray for the growth of the Association in its advocacy capacity and ability to manage its projects as well as the increasing number of active members.

Tanzania
Fri: Pray for safety of travel for the Northern Ireland team as they work at Samaria. Pray that the land ownership and village boundary problems will be solved amicably.

Sat/Sun: Pray for Gary Smith, leader of the house building team. Pray that the team will be given the strength and motivation they need to ensure that the work is finished.

Team

Tanzania
Mr Brian Atkins – TLM representative
Mr G Chibanhila – Project Director

Angola
Paulo Mandavela – President of Advisory Committee
Dr Jean-Pierre Bréchet – Project Manager Medical Consultant
Dr Eliane Mbounga – Director and Medical Doctor
Mrs Natalia Marçal – Advocacy and President of ARPAL

Top: Before and after: traditional housing in Samaria village, Tanzania, and the new style housing built by TLM Northern Ireland.
Country Focus: Ethiopia

‘... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.’
Isaiah 40:31

About TLMI Ethiopia

TLMI Ethiopia has been registered as a foreign charity in Ethiopia since July 2013 which means there are new opportunities to expand the work as the need is great. TLM’s work in Ethiopia is conducted through partners:

- **Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (ENAPAL)** with over 15,000 leprosy-affected members.
- **The All-Africa Leprosy, Tuberculosis, Rehabilitation and Research Training Centre (ALERT)**, the main referral hospital for leprosy, and an international training centre.
- **Addis Ababa City Administration Leprosy Victims and Disabled Rehabilitation Association** which runs a hostel.
- **Life in Abundance (LiA)**, a Christian development organisation with whom TLM is implementing a joint project in an urban slum development.

**Strategic priorities, 2013-2016:**

- Map the national leprosy situation and begin to implement a co-ordinated programme.
- Increase community awareness of and engagement in leprosy and its consequences.
- Increase the capacity of health professionals to manage leprosy.
- Improved socio-economic status and inclusion of people affected by leprosy and disabilities.

Prayer points

**Mon:** Praise God for the registration of TLMI-Ethiopia. Pray for proper alignment with the government rules for international NGOs working in the country.

**Tues:** Pray the Lord’s grace and favour for Wubitu Abere, country leader, as she handles the multiple responsibilities of networking, programme development, monitoring, evaluation and representing the office before the government and other organisations. Praise God for the good health of Wubitu in 2013.

**Wed:** Praise God for the start of Woreda 01 Urban Slum Development project in partnership with development organisation LiA and pray for a successful impact, especially the mainstreaming of leprosy and disability issues with LiA.

**Thurs:** Pray for effective partnerships in order to properly spearhead leprosy issues in Ethiopia. Pray for the process of guiding ENAPAL through the steps of developing their strategy for 2014-2018. Pray for wisdom as they consider expanding their support to leprosy-affected people in Kokossa area in Oromia region.

**Fri:** Pray that the Leprosy Expert Advisory Group of the Federal Ministry of Health will have a positive impact in serving people affected by leprosy and other disabilities.

**Sat/Sun:** Pray for the establishment of effective communication with the Evangelical Fellowship of Churches in Ethiopia to ensure mainstreaming of leprosy and disability issues in church and para-church programmes.

**Key events in 2014:**

- 27-28 January - World Leprosy Day Celebrations
- ENAPAL Strategic Plan Mid-Term Review

**Staff**

Wubitu Abere – TLM Country Leader
Country Focus: Sweden

‘Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord,’
Psalm 31:24

About TLM Sweden
TLM has been active in Sweden since the mid-1970s.

An important part of TLM Sweden’s job is to disseminate knowledge about TLM, to stimulate interest in the needs of people affected by leprosy and to raise awareness about how lives can be changed through supporting TLM.

TLM Sweden does this through: fundraising with individuals, organisations, churches and church groups; producing a monthly magazine Uppdrag Lepra; and giving lectures on leprosy and its consequences in schools, churches and colleges.

TLM Sweden supports work in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and South Sudan.

Prayer points

Mon: Pray for success in the information and fundraising activities using the new film One of Us about the work of TLM in DR Congo and Nigeria.

Tues: Pray for vision and innovative ideas for the development of new channels of communication with different target groups within Swedish society. Pray also that God will continue to bless the work with churches and church groups.

Weds: Pray for continued good co-operation between TLM Sweden and the Swedish Government through the Swedish Missions Council and that this will lead to increased funding for TLM’s programmes.

Thurs: Pray for the Board of TLM Sweden as they work towards a new strategic plan for 2015-2020.

Fri: Pray for good communication between TLM Sweden staff and the project staff in the implementing countries they support.

Sat/Sun: Pray for God’s blessing on Allan Ekstedt, TLM country leader, and the TLM Sweden team. Pray for encouragement, enthusiasm and inspiration for them in their work.

Senior Staff
Allan Ekstedt – TLM Country Director
Silje Majholm – Information and Fundraising
Karin Ranieli – Administration
Gjon-Marco Berisha – Information and Administration
Leif Agnestrand – Programme Co-ordinator

Top: Allan Ekstedt (far right), country leader for TLM Sweden, with his staff