TLM Fellowship and International meetings

What is the TLM Fellowship?
Around the world The Leprosy Mission has about 2,000 staff and implements or supports around 120 leprosy projects in 26 countries. TLM is present in over 40 countries. In more than 20, TLM works directly with people affected by leprosy through TLM country offices or through partners. In another 20 countries TLM’s main focus is on developing financial, prayer and project support.

In 2011, 31 TLM countries signed The Leprosy Mission Charter showing their commitment to one another as a global fellowship. Through their unity, Member countries of the TLM Fellowship are involved in decision-making and are accountable to each other as equally valued participants in the Fellowship.

Prayer points

Mon: Praise God for the new global mission statement ‘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.’ Pray for all TLM countries to embrace this mission and follow the Lord’s leading in implementing it.

Tues: In late September, country leaders and chairs of all TLM countries and TLM International will meet for fellowship, decision-making, and discussion on how to work together more effectively and efficiently. Ask God for a spirit of mutual trust and unity, and real joy in being together as a global family.

Weds: Pray for TLM countries as they embrace the Mission’s newly-adopted global values: compassion, justice, integrity, inclusion and humility. Pray that they will reflect on the way these values are applied in how they relate to donors, leprosy-affected people and their communities, and one another.

Thurs: The new global strategy emphasises the need to expand fundraising in all TLM countries. Pray for the success of various new initiatives by which TLM countries are ‘spurring one another on to do good’ in encouraging supporters to join in The Leprosy Mission’s vision.

Fri: Thank God for the nine ‘Member-Appointed Working Groups’, which are a way in which people all round the TLM world can participate in thinking through and making decisions about the bigger picture of the Mission’s work. Pray especially for the two newest groups, which are on the themes of Spiritual Ministry and Fundraising.

Sat/Sun: Working together as a Fellowship of 31 countries, each with its distinctive culture, is a joyful experience. But it can also lead to misunderstanding. Pray for grace, especially in the balance between serving one another Christ’s way, and the need for clear accountability to one another for the way resources are used.

‘Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ ... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.’
1 Corinthians 12: 12 and 27

Top: TLM country leaders meeting in England in 2013
Country Focus: Hungary

‘Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.’
Romans 5:1

About TLM Hungary
Support for TLM’s work started in Hungary in 1974. TLM Hungary seeks to inspire individuals, groups of all ages and churches of all denominations to have a heart for people affected by leprosy and poverty and to support TLM financially and through prayer.

The ASK prayer diary is translated into Hungarian and sent to individuals and church groups. TLM Hungary visits churches and other groups to share knowledge and visual material about TLM’s work. They raise funds through newsletters and campaigns in the media, through events such as concerts and poetry performances, and by selling handicrafts made by leprosy-affected people. Appeals include ‘One Portion Plus’ which encourages donors to symbolically invite a leprosy-affected person to their dining table at Christmas. TLM Hungary aims to inspire the public to regard leprosy-affected people as brothers and sisters to whom they have a responsibility.

Prayer points

Mon: TLM Hungary will be 40 in 2014. Give thanks for the 40 years, the humility of the late Rev Dobos, who founded TLM Hungary, and his understanding of God’s will in 1974, in spite of his age and the political and economic circumstances of the country at that time.

Tues: Give thanks for those who have faithfully served leprosy-affected people through these decades with their prayers, deeds and goods, and kept the flame alive.

Weds: Pray that TLM Hungary will continue to be good stewards in the future, spreading out the message of TLM and involving more and more dedicated people.

Thurs: Pray especially that TLM Hungary will recognise and begin to use wisely its hidden capacities. Pray that God will give a new perspective on what it is possible to achieve.

Fri: Give thanks for those ministers and priests of the different denominations who understand TLM’s enriching message and integrate it into the daily life of their churches - both by praying for TLM and encouraging financial support.

Sat/Sun: Pray that God will touch hearts through the main programmes of TLM Hungary in 2014, reaching out primarily to new Christian generations in Christian colleges, Christian student organisations and theological colleges.

Staff
Rev Márta Riskó – TLM Country Leader
A lack of water was affecting the community’s economic development and its health. ‘I have lived in Amanawa community for over 22 years,’ says Aisha Bales, 52. ‘One major challenge we the people face is where and how to get water.’

Finding a source of water became a daily quest – people would travel long distances but often could only find water full of waste. Sadly, they had no choice but to use it. Many people became ill and there was an increase in skin diseases.

TLM Nigeria heard about the plight of the community. With the help of TLM Sweden and the Swedish Mission Council they constructed a motorised borehole near the village, finally putting an end to the villagers’ daily water shortages and helping to improve the health of the community.

At the commissioning of the project, one resident, Mallam Idi Holai, said ‘I have seen so many works The Leprosy Mission has done in Amanawa but none can be compared to this water project. Water is life, so Mission you have given us life! Even when I’m gone my children and grandchildren will remember this gesture, thank you.’

‘Mission, you have given us life’

A community of leprosy affected people in Sokoto State, northern Nigeria, spent years struggling to meet one of the most basic human needs, until TLM stepped in.
Week 38: 15–21 September

Country Focus: Timor Leste

About TLM Timor Leste
TLM Timor Leste’s vision for the next five years is to see an improvement in the quality of life of people affected by leprosy and people with disabilities and their families.

TLM projects in Timor Leste include:

- **Community-Based Rehabilitation Enablement Project** - aims to integrate people affected by leprosy back into the community. Currently there are 24 self-help groups in six districts.

- **Capacity Building for Sustainability Project** - aims to build the capacity of the Ministry of Health’s National Leprosy Control programme in Timor Leste.

- **Disability Advocacy Project** in partnership with RHTO, the National Disabled People’s Organisation – aims to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are acknowledged. RHTO’s staff is made up of people with disabilities and those affected by leprosy.

- **Disability Working Group Project** - the umbrella co-ordinating body for the disability agencies in Timor Leste. Its role is to advocate and raise awareness about disability issues with the government and facilitate training and other opportunities for the disability agencies and their members.

Prayer points

**Mon:** Pray for Nona Lisnahan as she settles into her position as country leader after taking on this role in 2013. Pray for wisdom, strength and courage to lead the team and build relationships with government and other agencies.

**Tues:** Pray for the office staff in their supporting roles of administration, HR and finance.

**Wed:** Pray for the co-ordinators and the challenges they face as they lead their teams and work with community leaders, government agencies and other partners.

**Thurs:** Pray for the staff that focus on the five leprosy endemic areas but also cover another eight districts. Pray for safe journeys and good relationships with Ministry of Health staff and other community leaders.

**Fri:** Give thanks for the drivers in the project teams. Pray for their encouragement and commitment to the job and for safety in their duties.

**Sat/Sun:** Pray for successful advocacy to government ministries for accessibility and participation for people with disability. Pray also for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability by the Timor Leste government.

Key events in 2014

- **3 December** – International Disability Day
- **10 December** – Human Rights Day

Senior Staff

- Afliana Lisnahan Reis (Nona) – TLM Country Leader
- Laurentina Ximenes – Administration and Human Resources Manager
- Francisco da Costa – Capacity Building Project Co-ordinator
- Marcos Soares – Community-Based Rehabilitation Project Co-ordinator
- Joaozito dos Santos – Disability Advocacy Project Co-ordinator
- and RHTO National Disabled People’s Organisation Co-ordinator
- Joaozina da Concecao – Finance Officer
- Jonio Soares – Disability Working Group Co-ordinator
Country Focus: India – Southern Region

States: Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

‘And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.’
Philippians 4:19

About TLM’s work in Southern India
In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu TLM works through hospitals, Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), community development projects and with other NGO (non-government organisations) networks. The three community hospitals in this region are well known for their leprosy and dermatological services, and are recognised by the government for reconstructive surgeries and prevention of disability work.

Projects include:
- TLM Hospital, Vadathorasalur
- TLM Hospital, Dayapuram
- Vadathorasalur Vocational Training Centre
- Disability Rights through NGO Networking, Tiruvannamalai
- TLM Hospital, Salur
- Vizianagaram Vocational Training Centre

Above: Papathiama (seated), a beneficiary of a low-cost house, Tamil Nadu
Right: Veera Babu, 21, a former Vizianagaram VTC student, now a full-time computer operator

Prayer points

Mon: Pray that the Master Health Check-ups planned in local schools will raise knowledge and awareness of leprosy.
Tues: Pray for the sustainability of TLM’s Salur Hospital which is the only referral centre in the region for reconstructive surgery and leprosy ulcer management.
Weds: Pray for a good impact of the outreach programmes on local communities and for an effective government referral system for suspected leprosy cases.
Thurs: Pray for TLM Dayapuram hospital as it continues to focus on increasing its income locally through the variety of services it offers.
Fri: Pray for financial self-sufficiency to enable TLM to meet its programme needs in this region.
Sat/Sun: Pray that local government will approve a training contract for Youth 4 Jobs (a work force development organisation) for disabled candidates to participate in training programmes at Vizianagaram Vocational Training Centre.

Key Staff
Mr M Manaksha – Principal VTC Vadathorasalur
Dr Malarvizhi Edwin – Superintendent TLM Hospital, Vadathorasalur
Dr Suresh Verghese – Superintendent, Dayapuram Hospital
Mr Surjit Pal – Superintendent, Salur Hospital
Mr Gabriel Pani - Principal, VTC Vizianagaram
About TLM Trading

TLM Trading was formed in 1995 from small beginnings selling diaries and pens. It now operates with a small staff team from an office in Peterborough, UK. TLM Trading publishes three main catalogues each year which are mailed to customers in the UK and around the world. TLM Trading develops and sells a wide range of products including greeting cards, calendars and diaries, quality gifts and an ever expanding range of books. In recent years their range of virtual gifts, known as ‘Gifts for Life’ have seen a growth in sales. TLM Trading’s main aims are:

- To provide products and services that inspire and motivate people to support TLM.
- To assist TLM countries in raising funds and awareness of leprosy.
- To help provide livelihoods to leprosy-affected people.

Prayer points

**Mon:** Give thanks for TLM Trading’s loyal customers who are so generous in topping up their orders with donations. This makes a huge difference; donations amount to in excess of £100,000 a year. Also give thanks for the astounding success of the Gifts for Life range which raises about £150,000 to support programmes and initiatives in implementing countries.

**Tues:** TLM Trading holds a weekly team meeting on Tuesdays to review on-going projects but also to highlight blessings over the past week. Pray that their meetings today and in the future will be productive and blessed with God-given wisdom and inspiration.

**Weds:** Give thanks for the continued popularity of the TLM published books and exclusive greeting and Christmas card ranges which raise awareness of TLM’s work. Give special thanks for the on-going legacy of Eddie Askew whose books and paintings are still enormously popular and being discovered by new customers.

**Thurs:** Pray for Jo-Anne Thomson, director of TLM Trading, and the staff team as they continually explore new avenues for sales and also for the TLM Trading Board of directors who meet quarterly to provide valuable guidance on strategic direction under the leadership of Stephen Hammersley.

**Fri:** Pray for the small team of freelance sales representatives who visit many trade bookshops around the UK. Pray that sales will grow in this area and also that Christian bookshop managers and other outlets will continue to be enthusiastic about stocking goods from the TLM catalogue.

**Sat/Sun:** Give thanks for increasing co-operation and partnership between TLM Trading and supporting countries in the TLM Global Fellowship. Pray for these working relationships to grow and flourish to enhance both sales and awareness of TLM’s work.

Key Personnel

Jo-Anne Thomson – Chief Executive
Stephen Hammersley – Chairman of the Board

Top: TLM Trading staff team, with Jo-Anne Thomson, CEO, second from left
Above: A necklace produced by artisans in India and sold by TLM Trading