

# Country Focus: Spain and Portugal

*'Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.'*

1 Timothy 6:17



## FACTFILE:

- Spain is the second largest country in the European Union after France
- Portuguese is spoken by about 230 million people around the world and is the official language of nine countries



## About TLM Spain

TLM Spain has received support from around 500 donors during the last three years, and has had contact with almost 200 churches which have given donations to TLM. This year they are planning to sell 2,500 children's books about a young boy with leprosy to raise more funds. They are also planning to visit churches and schools to share the vision of TLM.

## About TLM Portugal

There has been a TLM support group in Portugal for 21 years. During this time, support has been received from churches and individuals interested in the work of The Leprosy Mission. TLM Portugal has also sought to raise up prayer support.

## Prayer points

- Pray that God will help members of TLM Spain to share the vision of the Mission. Pray that they will reach many churches and believers with the message that leprosy is still a problem and that many people need their help and prayers.
- Pray for wisdom for the new team in Spain. They are developing a website, planning to visit new churches and hoping to sell many copies of the children's book *Sama se Cura* (Sama is Cured).
- Pray for a new member of the team, Ms Inés Roca, who is working part-time for TLM Spain and helping with fundraising. Thank God for his faithfulness to TLM Spain.
- Portugal has been hit hard by the economic crises of recent years, and many churches are struggling to stay afloat. Fundraising in this climate has been particularly difficult for TLM Portugal. Pray that the financial situation will improve.
- Pray for Patricia Bento, the national director of TLM Portugal. Pray that God will inspire her with fresh vision for fundraising and for raising awareness of TLM's work among churches and individuals.

## Team

### Spain

Mr Miguel Torralba – President  
Mr José Manuel Carballo – Vice President  
Ms Inés Roca – Executive Secretary

### Portugal

Ms Patricia Bento – National Director

Top: A brochure in Spanish explaining the facts about leprosy

# Country Focus: Democratic Republic of Congo



### FACTFILE:

- Only 46% of the population of DR Congo has access to safe drinking water
- 70% of the population lives below the poverty line



### Prayer points

- There are several important elections in 2012. Pray for peace and stability and an end to the violence that has overshadowed DR Congo for many years.
- Give thanks for TLM Congo country leader Louis Sabuni. Pray for continued wisdom and discernment as he leads the Mission's work forward.
- Pray for the power of the living God to bring in many partners who will be interested in leprosy work in DR Congo.
- Pray for safety for DR Congo staff when travelling, especially when flying internally; it is becoming very risky as there are aircraft crashes every year.
- Pray for more effective partnerships with local and international organisations.

### Senior staff

#### DR Congo Co-ordination Office

- Louis Sabuni – TLM Country Leader
- Jean Felly Mukalay – Operations
- Angelika Piefer – Technical Adviser
- Christian Bulambo – Finances
- Didier Muhima – Human Resources
- Doris Ndombe – Secretary and Logistics

### About TLM DR Congo

TLM's work in DR Congo has been done in close partnership with the government's National Leprosy Programme for many years. TLM plays an advisory role nationally, and provides technical and financial support at provincial and project levels. Since 2010, TLM has started to shift its focus to community-based rehabilitation, including health centres and communities. The aim is: to detect leprosy cases early, prevent and manage disabilities, empower patients, families and communities to deal with the challenges of leprosy and poverty, and to encourage the inclusion and participation of leprosy-affected people in society. TLM assists the DR Congo government in four provinces: Bas Congo, Kasai Occidental West, Kasai Oriental North/Sankuru and South Kivu.

### Key events in 2012

- Community-based rehabilitation training on a large scale for all TLM Congo staff.
- National Leprosy Workshop for senior staff.

**Top:** Louis Sabuni (left), DR Congo Country Leader, with Angelika Piefer, technical adviser, on his right

**Below top:** Celebration: Mr Mpulumba, right, is happy that the ulcers on his feet have been cured through self-care taught by TLM Staff

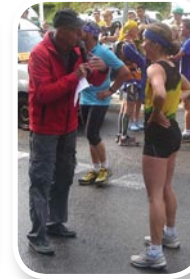
# Country Focus: France

*'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.'*

Romans 8:26

### FACTFILE:

- France is one of the oldest nations on Earth and the most ethnically diverse country in Europe
- Some 75 million people visit France every year, more than any other country in the world



### About TLM 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. The majority of the support TLM France receives comes from this population.

The executive team is supported by the Board, including Théo Reiss as chairman, Claude Boussemart as vice-chairman and Jean Alvarez as treasurer.

The Council, from which the Board is elected, is made up of nine members representing the various Protestant denominations. The general secretary, Pierre Geiser, is a retired Pastor. He works on a voluntary basis and is also the secretary of the Board.

Pastor Pascal Machefer is the communications officer. Pascal has started to visit summer youth camps and has made good contacts for the future. He takes part in promoting World Leprosy Day and supports TLM France's participation in events such as the Race of the 4,000 steps.

**Top left:** From left: Pierre Geiser, Pascal Machefer and Théo Reiss at Lognes, a large annual Christian event that takes place near Paris in November

**Top right:** Jana Mosteka-Lelut, runs and raises money for TLM France

### Prayer points

- Pray for Pascal Machefer, the communications officer, as he builds contacts and develops promotional material. Pray for a good response from supporters.
- Pray for unity of the executive team, especially as they live and work in different parts of France.
- Pray for a growth in interest from churches in the work of the Mission.
- Pray for the establishment of strong partnerships with individuals and churches through prayer and financial support.
- Pray for the appointment of motivated and qualified people for the various domains of responsibility on the Council.

### Staff

- Rev Pierre Geiser – TLM Country Leader
- Pascal Machefer – Communications Officer
- Delphine Blanchet – Secretary
- Severine Bobèche – Accountant

## Country Focus: Niger



### About TLM Niger

In the past TLM Niger worked only through a Mission Hospital (run by SIM, Serving in Mission) in Danja in the south of the country and was involved in health care development and rehabilitation activities in communities of people affected by leprosy in the Maradi region.

In 2011 TLM Niger was established as a separate organisation to expand support for leprosy services beyond the Maradi region. A new country office was opened in the capital city of Niamey and a strategic positioning paper was developed with a set of priorities to guide the work of TLM. TLM Niger's goal is to reduce the burden of leprosy by raising awareness; to provide high-quality and accessible services; and to improve the standards of living of people affected by leprosy.



### Key events in 2012

TLM Niger, in collaboration with TLM Nigeria, is developing a joint project with the aim of improving access to basic health services for communities affected by leprosy. The proposal is to be submitted to the Department for International Development (DFID) in the UK for funding.

**Top:** Bunmi Oluloto, Country Leader for TLM Niger  
**Above:** A ward at CSL Danja Hospital in Niger



### Prayer points

- TLM Niger is expanding its work in Niger through identifying and networking with other non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Pray for divine direction for Bunmi Oluloto, TLM country leader, as he develops plans for the work of TLM Niger.
- Pray for Thomas and Hauwa Shelwah who joined mission organisation SIM in early 2012 to take up the positions of director and administrator for CSL Danja Hospital.
- Pray that Dr Mark Griffith will have grace to cope with the challenges of an increased workload in Danja as he's the only medical doctor at the hospital.
- Thank God for the opportunity Yohanna Abdul, TLM Niger's rehabilitation officer, had to study a master's degree in Development at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He returned to Niger in July 2012.
- In Niamey many leprosy-affected people beg to survive and live on the street. Pray that TLM Niger will be able to advocate with the Niger government to provide land for a settlement for those in need.
- Continue to pray for peace in Niger as well as for good rain and good harvests.

### Key staff

Bunmi Oluloto – TLM Country Leader  
Abdul Yohanna – Rehabilitation and Development Officer  
Adamou Idi Kolly – Danja Leprosy Control Project Supervisor  
Dr Mark Griffith – CSL Danja Hospital Medical Officer

## Country Focus: The Netherlands

*'Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.'*

Romans 8:26



### 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, working for TLM in Chad, and Tanny Hagens working for TLM in Indonesia. They also facilitate the work of two staff members of TLM International: Piet Both (country development director) and Johan Velema (international research and development officer).

TLM Netherlands' vision is to see leprosy and rehabilitation services strengthened and to enable transformational change in the lives of people affected by leprosy in India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar and Chad.

### Key events and activities in 2012

- Encouraging use of the right terminology regarding leprosy in the media, particularly advocating for the word 'leper' not to be used.
- Making more use of social media to connect with a younger audience.
- Visiting schools to take lessons on leprosy and introduce TLM's work.

**Above:** TLM Netherlands' team. Henno Couprie, TLM Country Leader, is on the far left

### FACTFILE:

- The Netherlands is the most densely populated country in the European Union
- There are three times as many bicycles as there are cars in the Netherlands

### Prayer points

- Pray for TLM Netherlands' staff, that they will have guidance and wisdom as they work together to raise awareness among Dutch people of the work of TLM and the ongoing needs of leprosy-affected people around the world.
- Pray for new fundraising initiatives, particularly using social media to engage with younger donors. Pray that the fundraising efforts will bear fruit and generate more income for TLM.
- Pray for Henno Couprie, the country leader for TLM Netherlands. Ask that God will give him energy and discernment as he leads the team and juggles many responsibilities.
- Pray for continued good relationships with TLM Netherlands' target groups and stakeholders such as donors, churches, companies and schools.
- Pray that there will be good co-operation and understanding between TLM Netherlands staff and TLM staff working in the implementing countries that they support.

### Staff

Mr Henno Couprie – TLM Country Leader  
Mr Cor van Leeuwen – Fundraiser  
Ms Ingrid Peters – Administration  
Mr Wim Veenemans – Financial Administration  
Mr Jan Willem Klaver – IT  
Mr Nico Zwemstra – Head of Programme Co-ordination  
Ms Heidi Hoogvliet – Fund and Programme Monitoring Officer