

Disability

82 per cent of disabled people live below the poverty line and comprise one of the single largest groups of excluded and chronically poor people in the world (www.includeeverybody.org)



Nov-Dec Week 49

FACTFILE

98% OF DISABLED
CHILDREN IN
DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES ARE
NOT IN SCHOOL



Mon 29 Nov

Disability: If we diagnose leprosy early, we can prevent the impairments caused by nerve damage. Pray for early detection of leprosy and prompt treatment with MDT (Multi-Drug Therapy). Pray for people with disabilities caused by leprosy to learn to live and work safely. Pray for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December.

Tues 30 Nov

IDDC: The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) is a global consortium of 23 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and disabled people's organisations (DPOs) supporting disability and development work in more than 100 countries around the world to help bring equality and justice. Pray for Jannine Ebenso as she represents TLM at IDDC meetings.

December

Weds 1 Dec

DPOs: Disabled Peoples' Organisations (DPOs) aim to ensure the participation of people with disabilities in all areas of community life, helping them to achieve equality and social inclusion. Pray for the many DPOs TLM works with, that they will really make a difference.

Thurs 2 Dec

UN Convention: The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability**, which came into force in May 2008, aims to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities. Pray for the implementation of the convention worldwide, and the eradication of stigma.

Fri 3 Dec

Inclusive Development: The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Africa Network (AfriCAN) held its conference in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2010. The theme was 'Disability, Rehabilitation and CBR: Bridging Gaps to Build Partnerships'. Pray for good disability and CBR networks in all the countries we work in and for action to be taken on the issues raised at the conference.

Sat 4 / Sun 5 Dec

CBR Guidelines: The WHO/ILO/UNESCO Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Guidelines were launched this year. The guidelines are designed as a practical guide to strengthen the delivery of CBR. Now the challenge is to roll-out and implement these guidelines. Pray for TLM staff and partners globally who are involved in this.

Bangladesh

'And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,' Philippians 4:7



Village children watching a health education drama in Bangladesh

Mon 6 Dec

Networks: The Rural Health Programme ran a workshop this year to share research experiences. Many national and international delegates attended along with officials from the government Ministry of Health. Also a group of university students from Canada visited the programme at Nilphamari. Pray for strong relationships to be built nationally and internationally as a result of these activities.

Tues 7 Dec

Dignity: Leprosy is endemic in the slums in Dhaka city. The Dhaka Community Based Rehabilitation project supports the economic development of leprosy-affected people in these areas. Pray for the people receiving support that they will be transformed and find peace and dignity in their lives.

Weds 8 Dec

Health care: Dhaka Leprosy Control project provides medical services and other assistance to the many people diagnosed with leprosy in Dhaka each year, as well as to those with on-going leprosy-related health issues. Pray for all these patients, that their real needs will be understood and addressed by the project.

Thurs 9 Dec

Staff: Pray for the field staff of the Dhaka Leprosy Control project. Their workload is high, and the project has now extended into the districts of Gazipur and Narayangonj. Pray that they will remain firm in their commitment and faith and will have the capacity to handle people with complex needs.

Fri 10 Dec

Groups: TLM's Community Based Rehabilitation partner in North West Bangladesh works with over 190 groups to help improve their economic position. Thank God for the close relationship the group leaders have with the government social welfare department. Pray for Antoni Barikdar, the new programme manager.

Sat 11 / Sun 12 Dec

Needs: Due to its low lying position, Bangladesh is prone to flooding and cyclones. It is also one of the world's most densely populated countries. Pray that the government and aid agencies will be able to respond quickly when natural disasters threaten, and that vulnerable and marginalised groups of people will not be forgotten.

South India

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

'Now I am earning well and helping my family. I will be grateful to TLM VTC forever,' Ms Sudha, former tailoring student at Vadathorasalur VTC



Arumugam, a recipient of a low cost house in Viluppuram

December Week 51

Mon 13 Dec

Safety: The district of Karwar in Karnataka State has a number of tribal communities around the area. TLM has a project here, **Empowering Tribal Communities**. Pray for the safety of the staff who often make long journeys into the jungle to carry out project activities. Pray for the self-help groups operating here.

Tues 14 Dec

Strength: TLM's Integrated Disability Care and Community Based Rehabilitation project in Viluppuram is aiming to form its many self-help groups into federations; several groups will be part of one federation. This way they will be able to access more government resources. Pray for the successful implementation of this project and for strong leadership.

Weds 15 Dec

Surgery: CMC Vellore (Christian Medical College) was the first hospital in India to start corrective reconstructive surgery for leprosy-disabled patients. It is now the lead referral centre for leprosy in India. Pray for the patients who've had surgery, that they will be effectively integrated back into their communities, and that they will find fruitful employment.

Thurs 16 Dec

Community: TLM's Dayapuram Hospital is being developed into a community hospital, offering general medical services. Pray that this will happen without compromising leprosy care. Remember the superintendent here, Dr Suresh Verghese.

Fri 17 Dec

Confidence: The facilities at TLM's Vocational Training Centre in Vadathorasalur were adapted last year to better serve disabled students. Praise God for this. Pray for wisdom for the staff as they help to develop the self-confidence of students, many of whom come from very poor and disadvantaged backgrounds.

Sat 18 / Sun 19 Dec

Growth: Thank God for the work of Belgaum Hospital; there has been an increase in the number of general patients accessing the hospital's services which helps to decrease leprosy-related stigma. Pray for the staff and their families, that they will grow spiritually and that their dedication to leprosy work will be strengthened.



This husband and wife from Salur received a micro-credit loan to buy chickens



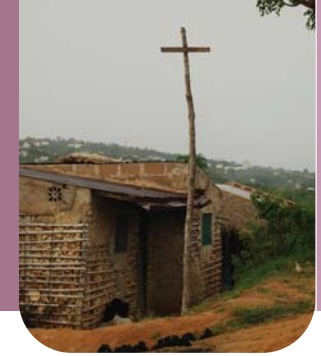
Advocacy and Human Rights

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



Faith and Mission

'Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples,' 1 Chronicles 16:24



December Week 52

Mon 20 Dec

Health: The Co-ordination for Advocacy and Networking project in Bangladesh is taking steps to see that the MBBS course (bachelor of medicine and surgery) includes education on leprosy and its care. The aim is to equip graduates to provide treatment to leprosy-affected people at general health institutions. Pray for Rev Martin Adhikary, the Director of Advocacy in Bangladesh, as he leads the team.

Tues 21 Dec

Laws: In Bangladesh, the **Coordination for Advocacy and Networking** team is working to get the ancient 'Lepers Act 1898' repealed by parliament. This Act was passed to prevent people with leprosy being employed in certain trades, to stop the spread of the disease. The Act needs to be repealed to promote the rights of leprosy-affected people. Pray for the success of this initiative.

Weds 22 Dec

IDEA is an international network of people that seeks to end the social isolation often associated with leprosy. Pray for IDEA's president for international relations, DR PK Gopal; ask that God will use him and this organisation to establish greater worldwide acceptance of people with leprosy.

Thurs 23 Dec

Rights: One of TLM's long-term goals is to support leprosy-affected people to speak out for their own needs and rights. This will help them gain an active role in society. Pray that individuals will have the confidence to make a stand for their rights.

Fri 24 Dec

Stigma: In June 2003 the United Nations adopted the resolution: 'Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members'. As a result, 24 governments have taken steps to eliminate discrimination towards leprosy-affected people. Meetings at the UN in 2009 developed strategies to tackle the worldwide problem of leprosy-related discrimination. Pray for the successful implementation of these strategies.

Sat 25 Christmas Day /

Sun 26 Dec

Rejoice: 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,' Luke 1:46-47. Give thanks for Jesus' willingness to 'become flesh' for us. Like us, he has experienced rejection and loneliness. These feelings are very common to those with leprosy. Pray that through TLM's work, many people will realise that God loves them.

December Week 53



Mon 27 Dec

Faith: Pray that God will be at work in the hearts and lives of all TLM staff wherever they are working. Pray for protection and refreshing and a strengthening of faith so that, whether on the field or in the office, whether in a supporting or implementing country, they will be living channels of God's mercy and compassion. Pray that they will touch the lives and hearts of the leprosy-affected people they serve.

Tues 28 Dec

Unity: Pray for good, honest and encouraging relationships: relationships between TLM staff and those affected by leprosy and between TLM and all agencies and organisations that it works with. Pray that as an organisation we will be blessed with a spirit of unity and a common vision that will truly glorify God.

Weds 29 Dec

Hope: Those affected by leprosy are often the most marginalised of people, but many, through contact with TLM projects and hospitals can look confidently to the future. Pray for all those individuals and communities affected by leprosy, that through the ministry of TLM, lives will be transformed as they experience fresh hope for the

future. Pray that God's love will be demonstrated through the compassion and dedication of those working with them.

Thurs 30 Dec

Change: As TLM progresses through many changes in working policies and practices, pray that the love of Christ will be demonstrated throughout the organisation, in thought, word and deed. Often, change brings with it a fear of the unknown. Pray for all those who are anxious and unsure, that they will be filled with the peace of God that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Fri 31 Dec

Renewal: As we stand ready to enter into a new year, give thanks and take time to reflect on the amazing ways God has acted in this past year. Praise him for his grace, his faithfulness and his constancy through times of difficulty and hardship and for his mercies that continue to be 'new every morning' (Lamentations 3:22-24). Let us dedicate ourselves afresh to his service, to becoming more like Jesus and cultivating the Father's heart, that we may truly be the hands and feet of Jesus to others in the year ahead.