Welcome

This is the Quarterly Prayer Guide for Jan-Mar 2019.

It is designed to be used as an accompaniment to the ASK 2019 Prayer Diary, providing updates and new prayer topics that have arisen since the ASK Diary’s publication.

Over the next three months please join us in prayer for The Leprosy Mission and partners in India, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Nepal, Switzerland, England and Wales, Mozambique, Chad and South Africa, as well as for TLM Trading and global World Leprosy Day commemorations.

Thank you for supporting the work of The Leprosy Mission in prayer.

Quarterly Prayer Guide
Jan, Feb, Mar 2019

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Cover photo and right: Uma Devi, at home at TLM Naini Snehalaya.

A Second Chance

Uma Devi got married at an early age in a village in Uttar Pradesh, India. Four years after her marriage, she started to develop rashes on her body and numbness in her foot and toes. She was eventually taken to a doctor and diagnosed with leprosy. Uma took medicine for a year, but it was already late by the time she got help and the disease had worsened, causing disability in her toes and hands.

Uma’s mother-in-law did not want her to stay with them and would often lie and complain about her to her son. One day, Uma’s husband beat her and threw her out of the house. She returned to her mother’s house for 2-3 months but had to leave because of ill behavior from her sister-in-law. Her mother then took her to Varanasi. ‘We used to get food from the Ashram in Varanasi and get money and clothing from foreigners. We lived on the ghats (flights of steps) and at night we could not sleep and were scared. Slowly we got used to it.’

In 2001, some foreigners took Uma to TLM Naini Hospital after seeing her ulcers and worsened physical condition. Uma was treated for ulcers and then returned to Varanasi. After her mother-in-law’s death, Uma’s husband came repeatedly to seek her back, but she refused. Uma lived in Varanasi for twenty years, initially with her mother and then alone.

The foreigners took Uma to TLM Naini several times more when her wounds would open again. Uma had reached a stage in her life when she no longer cared. In 2010, Dr Premal Das, Superintendent at TLM Naini, invited Uma to stay in the Snehalaya (care home) with 13 other cottage patients.

Today Uma Devi is happy and contented with her life. The Leprosy Mission has given her a second chance to live her life with grace and dignity.

‘I always longed for a home and today I have it. I yearned for affection and today I got it all from doctors, nurses, staff and patients. I am happy and contented here.’
People of TLM

New Year’s Day

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- a time to be born and a time to die,
- a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- a time to kill and a time to heal,
- a time to tear down and a time to build,
- a time to weep and a time to laugh,
- a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- a time to search and a time to give up,
- a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- a time to tear and a time to mend,
- a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- a time to love and a time to hate,
- a time for war and a time for peace.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Pray that, as we begin a new year, our eyes will be open and our hearts receptive to God’s leading, especially where we need to create or respond to change in our lives and in the world. Pray that God will grant us wisdom in all our actions and choices so that they may fit into his perfect timing.

India

Unfailing Love

2018 was a year when TLM India experienced God’s abundant blessings. His presence helped the organisation to serve people affected by leprosy in the midst of many challenges. Let’s thank God for His unfailing love.

Multi-Year Plan

Many of TLM India’s hospitals, vocational training centres and projects are working with a new multi-year plan from this year. Pray for God’s wisdom for the respective teams to understand the plan and implement it with God’s wisdom.

Hospital Staff Needed

TLM hospitals are in need of committed Christian doctors and other medical staff. Pray for God to provide the required staff.

Nigeria

Research Funding

The TLM Nigeria Fundraising team was part of a joint application titled “Transforming the Treatment and Prevention of Leprosy and Buruli Ulcers in Low and Middle-Income Countries”. The application, submitted to the Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) Call, has been shortlisted to proceed to stage two. Please pray that the proposal will find favour with the funding committee and the grant will be approved.

World Leprosy Day

TLM Nigeria’s 2019 World Leprosy Day celebrations will include events such as lectures, community case search appeals
to corporate organisations, advocacy visits, and visits to communities of persons affected by leprosy; all these will be done in collaboration with the Federal and State governments and partners from the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations. Please pray that the 2019 World Leprosy Day celebrations will be a good opportunity to engage with churches and other partners, that God will continue to raise people and organisations who will be willing to join the holistic fight against leprosy and its consequences.

21 - 27 January

**World Leprosy Day**

**Australia**

Dr Famkima Darlong from India and Kashi Aryal from Nepal are visiting to speak to Australian supporters as part of TLM Australia’s World Leprosy Day celebrations. Both will be travelling all around Australia. Pray for their safety and a good connection with Australian supporters.

**Northern Ireland**

TLM Northern Ireland are holding their annual World Leprosy Day service on Sunday, at which Jannine Ebenso from the International Office is speaking. This is a great opportunity to bring supporters together for encouragement and inspiration. They are also calling supporters to prayer on Wednesday for the work of TLM, either in their churches or through a prayer meeting in the TLM office on that date. Pray for fruitful results from these initiatives.

New Zealand

Give thanks for the faithful support from churches around New Zealand. Many have supported TLM for decades and collectively have transformed the lives of thousands of people affected by leprosy. Pray they always feel valued and inspired to continue to partner with and inspire others to partner with the Mission, that together we may bring an end to the transmission of leprosy by 2035. In support of World Leprosy Day, TLM NZ has created prayer cards for churches to give out to their congregations. Praise God for a good response and pray that New Zealanders will be encouraged to pray for and support people affected by leprosy.

28 January - 3 February

**Bangladesh**

**Ending Transmission**

There is a great possibility for new studies in Bangladesh in 2019. Please pray for these studies to find new ideas to stop leprosy transmission.

**Core Research**

Pray for a successful funding allocation for TLM Bangladesh’s core research project that should provide the facilities and human resources to ensure a stable base for leprosy research in Bangladesh.

**Community-Based Rehabilitation Funding**

Pray that TLM Bangladesh will be able to find sufficient funding support to continue their community-based rehabilitation work developing communities and reintegrating excluded people. Pray especially for the financial resources to support the work in Chittagong for another five years.

4 - 10 February

**TLM Trading**

**Spring Catalogues**

Pray that supporters will open their Spring catalogues (which landed recently), love what they see and place lots of orders that will benefit the leprosy-affected families and artisans we aim to support.

**New Ideas**

Pray that TLM Trading can find time to act on some of the ideas that they developed at their team days at the end of January.

**Gift for Life**

Pray that Gift For Life sales will be strong in the run up to Easter, and that people might even consider sending Gifts For Life as Easter gifts.

**Heal Nepal**

Pray that supporters will be inspired by the ‘Heal Nepal’ campaign and add generous donations to their orders.

11 - 17 February

**Nepal**

**New Nursing Superintendent**

Anandaban Hospital has appointed a new nursing superintendent, Ms Mahima Bantawa, to replace Ms Niru Shrestha, who demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serving the most vulnerable individuals for over 37 years at Anandaban. Please give thanks for the life of sister Niru who served the leprosy-affected individuals for almost four decades and pray that...
she would be able to live a fruitful life with satisfaction during her retirement period. Please also pray for the new incumbent, Ms Mahima Bantawa, that she will be able to demonstrate relentless service to develop and lead the nursing department to a new level as new services continue to be added at Anandaban Hospital.

**Resilient Inclusive Livelihood**

TLM Nepal has newly launched ‘Resilient Inclusive Livelihood (RIL) 2019-2020’, a comprehensive project in Kewalpur, Dhading district of Nepal from January 2019 with support from EO Metterdad and TLM Netherlands. This project aims to build the capacity of cooperative members by diversifying their agricultural production and supporting towards greater market access, which would ultimately be expected to increase individual and cooperative income, with surplus funds to cope with any kind of crisis including climate change. Furthermore, the cooperative and the community members in the vicinity of the cooperative will also be trained in practical ways to manage disaster and cope with the effect caused by a disaster. Please pray for the success of this project.

**18 - 24 February**

**Switzerland**

**Trip to India**

TLM Switzerland’s tour to visit projects of TLM India has aroused great interest in Switzerland. We are thankful that it is fully booked. Pray for the 15 participants who will have the opportunity to meet leprosy-affected people and TLM staff in India.

**Goodwill Ambassador**

Give thanks for Ruedi Josuran, TV presenter in Switzerland and Goodwill Ambassador for TLM Switzerland. He continues to promote the work of the Mission.

**New Staff**

TLM Switzerland are happy to have employed Annatina Jonah in their office in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. Annatina will assist her mother Anne-Claude in running the office and getting engaged with donors.

**Lottery Fund**

The team in Switzerland received a very large amount from the Lottery Fund for projects in Bangladesh. Give thanks that TLM Switzerland is a valued partner for this Government controlled Swiss institution.

**ZeroLepra**

Please pray that the team in Switzerland can find a good partner, with the necessary know-how, who can help them to put the ZeroLepra campaign together and run it successfully.

**25 February - 3 March**

**TLM England and Wales**

**Match Funding**

TLM England and Wales are very excited that they have been blessed with Department for International Development (DFID) match funding for the work in Nepal. All donations received from the end of January through to the end of April will be doubled. Give thanks for this opportunity and please pray that this integrated campaign to all sources of potential funding will be a great success and for the additional workload that the various teams will have. Pray that supporters will be generous and that the work in Nepal will benefit from the potential extra funding that might be committed through this three month period.

**New Database**

The user testing of the new data management system is in full flow so please continue to pray for the data team and that each individual team at TLM England and Wales will quickly get to grips with a different customer database system. Give thanks for all the hard work and many hours of preparation by the data team, led by Pragna Patel, and pray that everything will go smoothly in the transition, particularly with the extra busy period due to the match funding for Nepal.

**Website Updates**

TLM England and Wales are planning to update their website after several years with the current one. Please pray for Hannah Mudge as she leads this project and pray for creativity, wisdom and a website that will engage with new audiences as well as their current supporters.

**4 - 10 March**

**Mozambique**

**Training Materials**

The team in Mozambique are developing new training materials using electronic media such as video to help train new district supervisors or healthpost nurses. It will be their first time using these
kinds of media: pray that the new training materials would be well used and effective in sharing information and knowledge on leprosy.

**ALEMO/UMOJA**

TLM Mozambique is in the process of remodelling their ALEMO/UMOJA project to better incorporate the lessons learned after the first two years. This will probably include the introduction of resource centres in some pilot villages where TLM facilitates self-care/ALEMO groups. Please pray that they will integrate these initiatives well in this important partnership with churches and the community.

**Livelihoods**

The DFID-funded livelihoods project in Mozambique has now come to an end. Give thanks for good results and many lives touched. Pray that the team in Mozambique would be able to find new partners and opportunities to build on the lessons learned and capacity created.

**Friday 8 March**

**International Women’s Day**

Give thanks for all those working to enable women’s empowerment around the world, and especially for those women who have stepped up and become champions in their communities, standing up for their rights and the rights of others.

**11 - 17 March**

**India**

**Leprosy Champions**

TLM India has so far developed over 420 Champions (persons affected by leprosy) from across the country. They are in the forefront in the fight against leprosy, to eradicate leprosy from India, end leprosy stigma, promote social inclusion of people affected by leprosy, and get laws discriminating against people affected by leprosy repealed. Please pray for the success of their initiatives.

**Affirmative Action**

The Supreme Court of India has directed the central and state governments to implement a set of affirmative actions for ending stigma and promoting inclusion of people affected by leprosy. Pray for God’s guidance and wisdom to the concerned ministries and departments for implementing these actions.

**18 - 24 March**

**Chad**

**Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been discussed in the Chadian parliament and is ready for ratification. Let us pray that the convention will be signed and that the Chadian community will start to put into practice its principles and obligations so as to work towards inclusion and active participation of persons living with disabilities in the Republic of Chad.

**Friday 22 March**

**World Water Day**

Easy access to clean water can make a huge difference to a whole community. Give thanks for projects around the world that help to transform the health and livelihoods of communities by improving their access to clean water.

**25 - 31 March**

**South Africa**

**WHO Meeting**

Join us in giving thanks for a meeting hosted in Botswana by the World Health Organization to discuss ways to accelerate the battle against leprosy in Africa. Most countries in Southern Africa were represented at the meeting, including stakeholders like The Leprosy Mission.

**Health Workshops**

Give thanks to the Lord for a series of provincial, consultative workshops arranged by the South African Department of Health that took place recently. The series of workshops will lead to the drawing up of a masterplan for the improved control and management of neglected tropical diseases in South Africa, including leprosy.

**RampUp**

The general disability awareness project, RampUp, received a major boost with the recent publication of a long-awaited book by Prof Louise Kretzschmar, titled ‘The Church and Disability’. Please pray for the wide distribution of this book and for its fruitful use in awareness-raising and training.