Welcome

This is the Quarterly Prayer Guide for Jan-Mar 2017.

It is designed to be used as an accompaniment to the ASK 2017 Prayer Diary, exploring similar themes but with more specific daily prayers. The Quarterly Prayer Guide can also be used on its own.

Over the next three months please join us in prayer for TLM and partners in Sudan, South Sudan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Chad, England and Wales, Angola, Tanzania, Nigeria, France, Switzerland and our work in research.

Thank you for supporting the work of TLM in prayer.

Quarterly Prayer Guide
Jan, Feb, Mar 2017
Produced by The Leprosy Mission International (TLMI)
80 Windmill Road
Brentford
Middlesex TW8 0QH
UK
+ 44 (0)20 8326 6767
friends@leprosymission.org
www.leprosymission.org

Editor: Heather Warne
heather.warne@leprosymission.org

Cover photo: Binod Kumar Rai training in tailoring at TLM’s Vocational Training Centre in Bankura.

Right: Binod Kumar Rai.

An Iron Will

Binod Kumar Rai is married and has two children. He lives about 140 km from Bankura, where he is training as a tailor at TLM’s Vocational Training Centre so that he can provide for his family.

In 2008 Binod Kumar was diagnosed with leprosy after he felt pain in his hands and legs. He had to travel 10 hours to a hospital to get the proper diagnosis and treatment. Then, he had to stay in hospital for 21 days because he had an ulcer on his foot. His feet and hands are numb because of leprosy, putting him at higher risk of injury.

Binod Kumar’s hands had begun to claw due to the nerve damage. The doctor advised him to have an operation to correct and restore his hands – reconstructive surgery. There was a wait time of two years. In the meantime, he dutifully carried out his massage exercises daily, rubbing his hands with oil. When it came time for the surgery, the doctors found that no surgery was required anymore! It shows Binod Kumar’s iron will. He is determined to really make something of his life and is investing time and money.

Though he hid his illness from other people, Binod Kumar’s parents accept and encourage him despite it. “When I got leprosy, I lost all hope. But my parents encouraged me. So I started to run and keep moving constantly. That keeps me fit and reasonably flexible. Still, I’m no longer as strong as previously.” Though Binod Kumar remains positive and active, leprosy has had a strong physical effect on him. He has trouble walking.

But this doesn’t stop Binod Kumar planning for a better future. “After the tailoring training I want to build a job and then my own business so I can provide for my family.”
**Week 1: 1-8 Jan**

**Research**

**Sun 1 Jan**

‘But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.’ Micah 7:7

Happy New Year! Pray that as TLM embarks on the next year of our work we will keep the Lord foremost in our hearts and minds, that we will trust in Him through our challenges and for our blessings boast only in Christ.

**Mon 2 Jan**

Research needs resources (money, time and people), and although its benefits are not always immediate, its results improve the lives of many across the world, giving better methods of treating and supporting people affected by leprosy. Please pray for funding for research projects, and wisdom to know which are most crucial to pursue.

**Tue 3 Jan**

There are many challenges in testing the new leprosy vaccines, not least the financial challenge. In 2016, TLM applied for funds from the EU for the next phase of human trials. Sadly the application was not successful. Pray for open doors for funds to ensure that this essential part of stopping transmission can go ahead. Pray for sensitivity and wisdom for those carrying out the human trials and for clear results that will enable forward progress in this area.

**Wed 4 Jan**

Give thanks for the Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI), through which leprosy organisations pool their resources to enable important research. Praise God for the research this initiative has funded and pray that we will incorporate it into our work so that people affected by leprosy experience the benefits. Thank God for the learning from LRI to date. Pray for TLM’s representative on the scientific committee, Pim Kuipers.

**Thu 5 Jan**

TLM has been involved in research about leprosy reaction and neuritis for many years and this continues. Pray for our centres in Bangladesh, India and Nepal as they take part in the LRI funded ENLIST project which is looking at better ways to manage erythema nodosum leprosum (ENL).

**Fri 6 Jan**

Give thanks for the papers presented by TLM staff and partners at the International Leprosy Congress in Beijing last September. Pray as they work on papers to submit to peer-reviewed journals so that the learning can be shared.

**Sat 7 - Sun 8 Jan**

More and more, people affected by leprosy are involved in the design and implementation of research. This is a change from some years ago, when they would only be ‘subjects’ in trials. Pray for more research led by people affected by leprosy taking part in research trials. Pray for those who are still involved in drug and vaccine trials. Thanks to them, we are learning more and more about leprosy.

**Week 2: 9-15 Jan**

**Sudan and South Sudan**

**Mon 9 Jan**

Pray for God to help TLM find a Christian staff member to fill the post of Program Coordinator in Sudan. Pray that Elvis and Yousif will receive the necessary Visas in time and be able to travel to Sudan this month for the interview process.

**Tue 10 Jan**

The Sudan government has devaluated its currency which has led to a rise of local commodities and fuel costs, affecting our staff and the eye outreach activities they run. Please pray for a good solution to this issue and for God’s favour to grant TLM a good working relationship with government.

**Wed 11 Jan**

As TLM Sudan are in the process of developing new projects in Khartoum, please pray for wisdom, grace and innovation to come up with projects that will benefit people affected by leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases.

**Thu 12 Jan**

Please continue to pray for peace and safety and security for our staff, offices and vehicles in Juba, South Sudan.

**Fri 13 Jan**

Please pray for people affected by leprosy and those with physical disability as they are enrolled in vocational training programmes during the beginning of this year.

**Sat 14 - Sun 15 Jan**

TLM is developing a leprosy control project in Jonglei state of South Sudan. Please pray for the right local partners to be involved in implementing it. We have started the process of developing a memorandum of understanding with the Government in Jonglei - please pray for good understanding so that this can be completed this month.
**Week 3: 16 - 22 Jan**

**India**

**Mon 16 Jan**

All TLM India units and projects across the country are diligently implementing the new country strategy. This is being done in partnership with people affected by leprosy, media houses, policy makers and like-minded persons and organisations. Please pray for effective participation of all involved and successful implementation of activities to bring healing, inclusion and dignity in the lives of people affected by leprosy.

**Tue 17 Jan**

TLM India’s annual review of all domains, units and projects is planned for this quarter of 2017. Please pray for all the preparations and for the review to go well so that TLM India, as an organisation, can assess its impact and make course correction wherever necessary.

**Wed 18 Jan**

TLM India’s Annual Leadership Consultations are planned to be held during the first quarter (date TBC). Please pray for the senior management team and unit leaders to be guided by God’s wisdom as they take part in the consultations.

**Thu 19 Jan**

TLM India is putting all efforts at the national and unit levels to raise funds for leprosy work. Please pray for the continued support of individuals, corporates and churches to partner with the organisation in this work.

**Fri 20 Jan**

Pray for the success of TLM India’s support to the Government of India’s National Leprosy Eradication Programme, at the national and state levels in three states. Pray that TLM will be able to strengthen the government’s healthcare system and will be able to influence the government for the benefit of people affected by leprosy.

**Sat 21 - Sun 22 Jan**

Pray for the success of leadership development programmes so that the organisation will be able to develop more Christ-like leaders to take forward the work with people affected by leprosy. Pray for the TLM India board as they select a successor for Dr Sunil Anand, TLM India’s country leader.

**Week 4: 23 - 29 Jan**

**World Leprosy Day**

**Mon 23 Jan**

Give thanks for people in countries where there is very little incidence of leprosy, who, though far from any personal experience of it, take an eager interest in the rights of people affected by leprosy and show the compassion of Christ.

**Tue 24 Jan**

Pray for people affected by leprosy taking part in World Leprosy Day events, that they will feel strengthened and encouraged by the solidarity of the occasion and that their voices will be heard and understood.

**Wed 25 Jan**

Pray for advocacy activities on World Leprosy Day to have a positive impact on perceptions of people affected by leprosy and of public awareness of the issues they face. Pray especially that governments will sit up and take note, and take action!

**Thu 26 Jan**

Give thanks for churches around the world who show Christ-like love and respect for people affected by leprosy, by upholding their rights and dignity in countries where leprosy is prevalent, and by spreading awareness and support in countries where leprosy is less recognised.

**Fri 27 Jan**

Pray for TLM staff and partners finalising plans and facilitating World Leprosy Day activities, that God will lend them strength and wisdom and keep things running smoothly, especially in countries where widespread and varied activities bring particular logistical challenges.

**Sat 28 - Sun 29 Jan**

Sunday is World Leprosy Day! Give thanks for Christ’s love and for the great privilege of being able to continue his work of healing and restoring people affected by leprosy to fullness of life. ‘Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!’ Matt 10:8’

**Bangladesh**

**Mon 30 Jan**

TLM Bangladesh needs to appoint a new Field Medical Officer for their Rural Health Program by February as Dr Tasnuva, formerly in this role, has resigned for higher study. Please pray for her and for her replacement, that they will settle in well, take to the work and learn quickly from leprosy training.

**Tue 31 Jan**

Pray for positive results from the Annual General Meeting
of Sub-District Associations facilitated by TLM Bangladesh, held in January and February.

Wed 1 Feb
Pray for a positive ‘phase out’ experience for 10 Area Management Committees who have successfully registered with the Government Cooperative sector and will continue their group functions and activities independently in future.

Thu 2 Feb
Pray for Area Management Committee leaders, especially women leaders, who are working to introduce their vulnerable members or those with disabilities into their local government ‘safety net’ support programme.

Fri 3 Feb
TLM Bangladesh’s Training Centre provided leprosy orientation for 206 new Government Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Assistants in late 2015, followed by refresher courses from November 2016 to January 2017. Please pray for positive results from the courses and that those trained will successfully integrate the learning into their daily work.

Sat 4 - Sun 5 Feb
TLM Bangladesh’s DBLM Hospital has been providing tertiary care for leprosy complications, ulcer management, surgery, assisted devices, physiotherapy and counselling in the service of people affected by leprosy for many years, bringing smiles to people neglected by family and community. DBLM Hospital is facing a severe funding crisis. Please pray that God will shower His blessing upon DBLM Hospital so that this good work may continue.

Week 6: 6 - 12 Feb

Myanmar
Mon 6 Feb
Pray for all TLM Myanmar’s 2017 projects and also for new funding resources and strategic partnerships to help move our mission forward.

Tue 7 Feb
Praise God for the funding approval from the Australian Embassy to set up an Orthopaedic Shoes workshop at the Taungoo Disability Resource Center. Pray for successful implementation of the workshop and that the community makes use of this service that has not been available in Myanmar until now.

Wed 8 Feb
Pray that newly recruited staff in Myanmar will adapt well to their new working environments and be able to catch up with the work.

Thu 9 Feb
From the last week of January, Wim Theuvenet and his team, together with Hands Across Borders (HAB), have been conducting reconstructive surgery and hand therapy trainings for Myanmar professionals at Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital and Orthopaedic Hospital in Mandalay. Please pray for high enthusiasm and continued inclusion of people affected by leprosy into the practices of those trained.

Fri 10 Feb
Pray for the field teams and community volunteers in Myanmar conducting thorough baseline data collection using the new mobile application survey. Pray for wisdom in the use of this data for the planning and implementation of all 2017 projects, especially livelihood projects with a focus on income generation activities.

Sat 11 - Sun 12 Feb
Pray for timely completion of annual reports prepared by TLM Myanmar’s programmes team. In order to produce reports, it is important to receive qualitative and quantitative data from different operation hubs (Disability Resource Centres) and partners in different parts of the country. Also pray for the field teams to contribute effectively to produce comprehensive reports.

Week 7: 13 - 19 Feb

Chad
Mon 13 Feb
Leprosy reaction is still a serious threat to leprosy-affected persons in the Guéra region of Chad and its surrounding health delegations. Please pray that the health staff take this matter seriously and treat or refer patients correctly.

Tue 14 Feb
The local association of the blind in Mongo is sorting itself out after a training in good governance by TLM Chad. Good and clear decisions are being taken so as to move forwards. Pray that this very positive development will continue and start producing its fruits in the life of so many persons living with a visual impairment in and around Mongo town.

Wed 15 Feb
A national celebration of World Disability Day on 7 February included training and exchange visits over seven days. We
hope and pray that this day will have a very positive and lasting impact in the lives of disabled persons in the Guéra region and stimulate partners to develop themselves and to integrate in normal social life.

**Thu 16 Feb**
Malaria is a serious health problem in Chad and equally to the TLM Chad staff. Pray for God’s protection and quick recover for those affected.

**Fri 17 Feb**
Striking has become a habit in Chad during the last half year of 2016 and has affected individual lives and families but especially school children and students. Please pray that all will be resolved in 2017 and that the strikes won’t have an impact on the results of the children and students, and the latter will take new courage so as to proceed in their studies.

**Sat 18 - Sun 19 Feb**
Pray for the Church to be equipped to share the Good News of Christ among an increasing Muslim majority in Chad.

**Week 9: 27 Feb - 5 Mar**

**England and Wales**

**Mon 20 Feb**
Pray that the whole team at TLM England and Wales will remain rooted and grounded in God; that He would continue to challenge and inspire them and that everything they do will start and end with God and glorify His name.

**Tue 21 Feb**
Pray for members of the TLM England and Wales team who travel overseas to support and empower colleagues and people affected by leprosy in the countries it supports. Pray for their protection and safety as they travel, for wisdom and knowledge and for good working relationships to continue.

**Wed 22 Feb**
Give thanks for the team of regional managers who frequently travel to all corners of England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, raising awareness about leprosy and how it affects people’s lives. Pray for their safety and protection in travel and for inspiration to convey the needs of people affected by leprosy in a stimulating and effective way, so that the hearts of those who hear their message will be stirred into action and support.

**Thu 23 Feb**
Please pray that the appeals and mailings sent out by TLM England and Wales will be powerful and stirring in their messages and that they will engage new supporters who are keen to find out more about The Leprosy Mission and its work with leprosy-affected people. Pray for God-inspired new ideas for the team who write the appeals.

**Fri 24 Feb**
Give thanks for the hard work that has gone into the Customer Relationship Management review, led by Pragna, and pray that the right decision, led by the Holy Spirit, will be made on which system to implement. Pray also, that when it is implemented, the process of migrating data will go smoothly and that there will be no obstacles in the way.

**Sat 25 - Sun 26 Feb**
Please continue to pray for World Leprosy Sunday fundraising, which builds on the success of last year when raising awareness and funds was extended to any Sunday up until April. Pray for an increased interest in the cause of leprosy.

**Angola and Tanzania**

**Mon 27 Feb**
ARPAL, the Angolan association of persons affected by leprosy, is working hard to end discrimination and ensure equal rights for access to identity, civil rights, education, health, work, and shelter. The voice of ARPAL is heard on the media and people affected by leprosy speak out on these issues. Give thanks for ARPAL activists and pray for further opportunities for them to share their message with the broader public.

**Tue 28 Feb**
SOLE Angola’s Health Awareness and Advocacy Project with ARPAL leprosy association visited 8 Provinces in the last two years, and 16 Municipalities with the highest incidence of leprosy. Awareness campaigns in schools reached 25,000 children and 74 community agents were trained to continue health promotion in leprosy, examine contacts and follow up those on treatment. Give thanks for the reach of this project and pray that all those people impacted will remember and share what they have learned.

**Wed 1 Mar**
Castelho Filipe directs the Prevention of Disability Project in Benguela and Huila, Angola, contributing to treatment of leprosy and its complications, providing physical rehabilitation, protective
footwear and developing self-care groups, visiting isolated groups of patients, bringing hope and making real the love of Christ. Give thanks for Castelho and pray for God’s blessing on his work.

**Thu 2 Mar**
The new Assistant Doctor at Hombolo Hospital in Tanzania has been doing well but is at risk due to the budget deficit of 2017. Please ask God to enable Hombolo Hospital to find a new donor or source of income who can cover the cost of this important role.

**Fri 3 Mar**
Thank God home-based self-care services around Hombolo are doing well, and have shown good results for people affected by leprosy, for example improved personal hygiene practices.

**Sat 4 - Sun 5 Mar**
Pray for the Ministry of Health of Tanzania to swiftly put five staff members on the government payroll, because this process has been taking a long period of time.

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**Week 10: 6 - 12 Mar**

**India**

**Mon 6 Mar**
TLM India is in the process of conducting a national-level mass media campaign for awareness raising on leprosy. Thank God for the success of all the preparations done so far. Please pray for God’s guidance and buy-in from all involved.

**Tue 7 Mar**
Please pray for all the efforts of TLM India and other organisations working in the field of leprosy to get the EDPAL (Eliminating Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy) Bill 2015, to repeal discriminatory laws, passed by the Parliament of India.

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**Nigeria**

**Mon 13 Mar**
Thank God for the successful first year of TLM Nigeria’s fundraising plan, and the new churches and individual supporters recruited. Pray for the recently recruited staff member Ms Grace Nwojo as she takes on the challenges of fundraising in Nigeria, that God will support her and bring her every success in her work.

**Tue 14 Mar**
Most of the states where TLM Nigeria works have faced continued security challenges due to clashes between the nomadic Fulani herdsmen and farmers, leading to hundreds of deaths and total destruction of villages. Reprisal attacks are frequent and innocent people have lost their lives in the process. Pray that God will reduce the security challenges due to the activities of Fulani herdsmen.

**Wed 15 Mar**
Pray for an ongoing positive impact from the events that marked World Leprosy Day 2017 in Nigeria - TLM Nigeria’s activities included a road walk, visits to leprosy communities and a press briefing for public enlightenment and stigma reduction.

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**Thu 16 Mar**
The new ultra-modern theatre at Chanchaga Leprosy Referral Hospital is now completed and awaiting official commissioning by the Government and to meet the desired output in terms of disability management for leprosy and general disabilities. Pray for God’s blessings and guidance for developing partnerships with more journalists and media houses so that the issue of leprosy will become more visible in the public domain.
Week 13: 27 Mar - 2 Apr

Switzerland

Mon 27 Mar
TLM Switzerland has planned some new activities for 2017. Pray that they will hear God’s voice and be open to following His will day after day.

Tue 28 Mar
TLM Switzerland’s Assembly will be held on 22 April. Pray that it will be a good opportunity for them to have positive contact and build relationships with members and donors.

Wed 29 Mar
Two of TLM Switzerland’s board members are stepping down at the end of April. We thank God for the commitment of Andreas and Eugen over many years. Pray that two or three suitable new board members will be found that complement the team.

Thu 30 Mar
TLM Switzerland is thankful that they receive every year several legacies. Give thanks for the donors who choose to give in this way and pray for a special blessing in 2017.

Fri 31 Mar
Pray that the Swiss team and board can build personal relationships with valued donors and that it will result in strong commitments.

Sat 1 - Sun 2 Apr
TLM Switzerland produces each year four magazines in German (“Lepra Heute”) and in French (“En Action”). Pray for good collaboration within the team despite the different languages. Pray too for good collaboration with other members of the Fellowship with which we share information.

Week 12: 20 - 26 Mar

France

Mon 20 Mar
The first round of the French presidential election will be held just over a month from now. Pray for transparency and truth from candidates and the media, and for wisdom and clarity for the people of France as they decide who best to lead their country in turbulent times where many feel under threat due to recent terrorist attacks.

Tue 21 Mar
Give thanks for the French churches that invite TLM France to visit and share their work with Christian congregations. Pray that these congregations will be engaged and inspired by what the team have to say and that God will place it on their hearts to support people affected by leprosy through prayer and fundraising.

Week 12: 20 - 26 Mar

France

Fri 24 Mar
TLM France are exhibiting their work at Protestants en Fête in Strasbourg, October this year. Pray for the small team as they plan for this event, that their presence will be greater than their numbers and that many who encounter them at the event will be intrigued and impacted by what they see.

Sat 25 - Sun 26 Mar
TLM France’s finances are extremely limited, but with a consolidated team, they hope to increase their fundraising by becoming more efficient. Give thanks for the dedication of the team and pray that through God’s blessings their efforts will be multiplied!

Sat 18 - Sun 19 Mar
Pray for boosted sales and leprosy awareness from the TLM Nigeria-sponsored movie ‘Don’t Cry For Barbara’. Pray that the film will help to bring the issues faced by people affected by leprosy home to the public in a unique way and result in lasting change in public perceptions of leprosy.

Fri 17 Mar
TLM Nigeria staff conference and board meeting usually takes place in April. Pray that this year’s conference will make a unique impact in the lives of staff, board and volunteers so that everyone will be inspired by God’s love and filled with renewed strength to work effectively and efficiently.

Sat 18 - Sun 19 Mar
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that this process proceeds smoothly and the targets are swiftly met, bringing life-altering change in the lives of people affected by leprosy.