



An Urgent Prayer for Sudan

With so much uncertainty in Sudan your prayer is urgently needed. As our prayer partner your faithful, prayerful response is a blessing to those in desperate situations. Thank you.

Things in Sudan are very uncertain. There have been months of conflict between forces within the military and there are limited signs of this changing. By the time you read this, we can pray that this may have changed, but we cannot know.

During peacetime, our operations in Sudan were based around the Aburoff clinic in Khartoum state, where we treat people affected by leprosy. This work includes seeing patients for the first time, diagnosing them, and starting them on their treatment. This also includes support for patients who need follow-up for complications caused by late diagnosis, such as reactions, wounds, and other complications. Sadly, there are many patients who struggle to access healthcare elsewhere in the country because of a lack of services and stigma surrounding leprosy and they are referred to our clinics in Khartoum instead.

The conflict is so severe that it has brought our operations to a complete halt. It is no longer possible for us to reach patients and the clinic has been closed since hostilities began.

Prayers

MONDAY We pray for peace. We pray that any peace in Sudan is lasting and leads to security for all Sudanese people.

TUESDAY We pray for people who need treatment for leprosy in Sudan. Supplies of multi drug therapy (the antibiotics that cure leprosy)

in Sudan stopped when the conflict started. Stopping treatment like this can lead to complications and preventable impairments. Please pray for all these patients. Please pray they will receive the treatment they need soon.

WEDNESDAY Leprosy reaction is a complication of leprosy that shows itself through acute inflammation and can result in impairments to the eyes, hands and feet. It is the most common cause of disability in leprosy. When in reaction, patients are very ill, and need urgent medical care. Due to the conflict in Sudan, it is hard for our project staff to go to the patients and for the patients to come to the clinics for assessment and treatment. Pray for safe routes for them to come to the health centres.

THURSDAY Please pray for our team in Sudan, some of whom have escaped Khartoum and fled to other countries and others have sheltered in the city. May God protect them and their families, wherever they are.

FRIDAY Today we pray for people in Khartoum, particularly our teams and persons affected by leprosy. It is very hard to come by food and other daily essentials in the city. We pray they will be able to find what they need to get through each day.

SATURDAY We pray for the people who have been displaced because of the conflict. We pray for peace in the hearts people who have said goodbye to their homes and who do not know where their next steps take them. May God keep them safe, may they find medicine when they need it, may their children find education, and may they one day find home again.

SUNDAY We pray that, in whatever the post-conflict future may look like in Sudan, the nation will receive the support it needs from other countries to rebuild and that the country will leave no one behind in its efforts to create that brighter future.

202310



"I was afraid..."
—Siti, age 13, Indonesia

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"I am the only child in my family.

My parents must work in Jakarta, far away. They can return home only every two months.

I live with my Grandma. She is very nice and kind.

When I was in Grade 6, I noticed some patches on my arm. I did not know at that time it was leprosy.

My father took me to the hospital.

I cried when the doctor said I was infected by leprosy. I was afraid of people noticing me. I told people the patches were from hot water hitting my skin.

I am afraid it is a very dangerous disease.

Once I was told I had this disease, I at once became depressed and gloomy and quiet.

I kept on thinking how it could be cured.

It was tiring taking medicine every day for one year. I was accompanied by my relatives to the treatment.

Even though my mother is far away, she still made contact with the health workers to ask about my situation.

Now I am relieved. I have completed the medication for leprosy, and do not need to take any more. I am at school, and I love the Natural Science subject, and also swimming.

I am thankful to the people of Australia because of their help and assistance, so I can get proper treatment and medicine."

"I want to be a Doctor, so I can help people."



If you look carefully at the photos, you'll see Siti's hand has started to 'claw'. Leprosy has left her ring finger and pinkie weak.

Because Siti was blessed to be found and treated early, she will suffer no lifelong disability. However, too many children in remote villages in Indonesia remain in danger from leprosy.

READ MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP INSIDE KEEPING IN TOUCH...

Siti cried when the doctor told her the news... she had leprosy.

That is why your faithful, compassionate prayers are so important.

You raise awareness of leprosy, and take away fears, to create Leprosy Friendly Villages - where leprosy can be detected early, and treated, to protect against needless lifelong disability!

Pray for Siti as she continues her recovery. Pray that the clawing and weakness in her hand will heal. Pray that Siti's education will not be delayed due to the effects of leprosy, and that she will be able to live out her dream of becoming a doctor so that she can help other people.

Pray for the villages involved in the Leprosy Friendly Village project to cultivate supportive, inclusive communities, free of discrimination and fear of leprosy. Pray for the staff working closely with the local government and influential community members to increase knowledge of leprosy and combat misinformation amongst health workers and the community.

Find out more and give 5:1 to Indonesia with the link or QR code.
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/LeprosyFriendlyVillageDesaku>



You can show love and care and help create Leprosy Friendly Villages for children in Indonesia like Siti!

THE VILLAGES YOU BLESS IN INDONESIA



Your action through The Leprosy Mission goes to work in Kuningan West Java Province — one of 7 Provinces and 113 districts in Indonesia where leprosy is not yet eliminated. And your kindness is now being matched 5:1 by the Australian Government!

The 5:1 Grant enables The Leprosy Mission Australia to reach 20 villages in Kuningan, 10 villages in Bekasi, and 10 slum communities in high-risk areas. **Our aim is to make each of these communities a Leprosy Friendly Village!**

I just can't play!



**By Andrew Newmarch,
International Programs Manager
The Leprosy Mission Australia**

"I'm so frustrated. I just can't play with my friends. And it hurts".

Jaanu is 12 and he is at a Leprosy Mission Hospital getting ready to have surgery on his hands. About a year ago he started having pains in his wrist and that made it difficult for him to do things and play with his friends. He went to the local hospital, and they just gave him medication for pain. That didn't really help as the pain persisted.

His family was not familiar with leprosy initially but a couple of years ago Jaanu's brother had a skin issue and he was tested for leprosy. That alerted his father to signs of leprosy even though his brother did not test positive. Jaanu's aunt knew a little about leprosy as she had a skin issue as well and was referred to Naini hospital. Thankfully she did not have leprosy but when she saw what was happening to Jaanu's hands, she suspected leprosy. As Jaanu's father was sick at the time, she took him along to Naini for tests. He tested positive and was immediately put on MDT (multi-drug therapy).

As doctors examined Jaanu, they found that not only did he have pain in his wrist and fingers out of shape, but he also had small nodules on his feet and the back of his knee. While he is waiting for surgery Jaanu is hanging out in the physio department.

There they are preparing him for surgery by giving him exercises to make his hands more supple before surgery. He is also becoming familiar with others who have had surgery and are doing exercises as part of their recovery. That will help him understand the value of doing exercises post-surgery. He is a little sad and a little bit shocked because he doesn't know how he got leprosy. But he is not frightened and is looking forward to the day when he can play again.

Pray for continued peace and acceptance for Jaanu as he undergoes surgery. Pray for the surgeons, nurses, physios, and other staff who work hard to give Jaanu a positive outcome. Pray that he will soon be back playing with his friends.

Give thanks for Jaanu's family who were proactive in seeking the right treatment. Pray they will continue to support him as he takes his medication and to do his exercises so that he will make a full recovery.

Pray for the hospitals in India to continue to meet the needs of people affected by leprosy. Pray for the resources to maintain the services, love and care patients need.

You can continue to show your compassion and help cure a child like Jaanu through a monthly gift of tlc (total loving cure). Together we can defeat leprosy.
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/tlc-children>

