



**Your kind-  
hearted support  
is sweeter than  
honey!**

Give someone like  
Bel the opportunity to  
become a beekeeper!  
<https://leprosymission.org.au/kit-beekeeper>



**Leprosy  
Mission**  
Australia



Issue 5, 2025  
**Keeping  
In Touch**

**When you partner  
with people like  
Pratima, you  
change lives forever.**



**Did you know that a hive of bees  
will need to fly over 44,000  
kilometres to make 20 kg of  
honey in a year?**

On World Bee Day we remember the incredible contribution these tiny creatures make to our daily lives. From pollinating crops to producing delicious honey, the bee has earned its place in our modern foodie culture. But people have been keeping bees for thousands of years. Today, this is more important than you can imagine.

When Bel, from Nepal, got leprosy, it attacked his body. This gave him physical disabilities, making it hard for him to take care of his family. So he needed a way to earn money without doing all of the work. “I have very little arable land,” Bel says. “The production is not enough for the whole year. I was having difficulty managing my financial situation.”

Bel was talking about his

problems with a friend, who had a suggestion. What if Bel took up beekeeping? It would take him less physical exertion to produce the same value. Bel was inspired!

Bel proposed the business idea to his local cooperative, that he had been encouraged to join. They loved it! They approved his proposal and loaned him money to buy his beehive and bees.

Luckily for us, these efficient little workers produce 2-3 times more honey than they need, so Bel can use that extra to earn an income!

Bel produced over 20kg of honey in that first year! He was able to repay the loan and increase the number of hives. Bee-utiful! Now Bel is producing more than 3 times as much. Since starting his new business, Bel has been able to save 5 times more money each month! “This business has helped me with household expenses as well as my treatment,” he says.

After seeing Bel’s success, the cooperative wanted to expand this idea to other people. The local government has provided subsidies for the program. Twenty beehives have already been provided!

Now Bel is one of five people enjoying sweet success by supporting themselves with a honey business — and that number can keep growing! All they need is a little help from you — and some bees!

**Pray for Bel as he continues to grow his business and provide for his family. Pray for more people to be able to support themselves through beekeeping. Pray that through pollination other farmers affected by leprosy will benefit from these beekeepers.**

**Give thanks for God’s provision of bees as a support for human life. Pray for improved farming practices, and habitat protection to reverse the decline in bee numbers and diversity.**

**Pratima was 25 when her husband signed her up to become a Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV).**

**“I had no idea what that meant or how it would end up changing my life forever.”**

That was 35 years ago, when Nepal’s health system was in a dire state. There were no local health posts, and people relied on ash to wash their hands. Visiting doctors would rent buildings to function as temporary health clinics.

Pratima was responsible for promoting hygiene and healthy habits in her community. She faced many challenges in those early days. Despite this, she remained determined to make a difference. “It was tough. When I visited people in the community to join the vaccination programs, they would run inside the house and shut their doors. But through it all, I never felt that the work of the FCHV wasn’t worth doing.”

Over the years, Pratima has seen significant changes in her community. She’s taken part in key health campaigns and taught people about important health issues. “In the past, when people got bitten by snakes or dogs, they would go to traditional healers. Pregnant women refused to visit doctors for delivery. There was this one guy who was bitten by a snake and was using cow

dung to treat it. I found out about it and convinced him to go to the hospital. Luckily, he survived.”

Her work has not only improved the health of her community but also changed her own life. When Pratima’s husband got strange wounds, she used her skills to diagnose him with leprosy. Now he is taking Multi-Drug Therapy to cure him.

As Pratima gets closer to retirement, she feels proud of what she’s done. She also wants to keep helping her community. “I will always try to help my community and encourage people to join health programs... after all, it’s for us.”

**Give thanks for the difference Pratima has made for the people in her community. Pray for Pratima to continue being a change-maker, even as she nears retirement.**

**Pray more women will be included in community roles which help educate and promote better health care practices. Pray more people will be diagnosed with leprosy and other diseases early to avoid long-term health issues.**

You can walk alongside women like  
Pratima in Nepal, with a gift to the  
SPROUTS program.  
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/projects/sprouts-kit05>







# Global Day of Prayer

“He has shown you,  
O mortal, what is  
good. And what does  
the Lord require of  
you? To act justly  
and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly  
with your God.”

**Micah 6:8**

Be part of our Global Day of Prayer on May 7th at 2pm AEST. People from around the Global Fellowship will gather together for this special occasion. Take this opportunity to wait upon God. Let the amazing things He is accomplishing inspire you.

The Zoom link can be found online here  
<https://leprosymission.org.au/global-day-of-prayer-2025>

## INDIA

Dear God, we pray for our hospitals. May they become self-sustaining and keep providing vital services. We seek your guidance on the Co-creating Inclusive Development project. Help us strengthen local relationships and increase awareness of leprosy. Finally, may the Vocational Training Centre inspire both students and staff. May they find purpose and secure funding for key courses and equipment. Amen.

## NEPAL

Gracious God, help us overcome the stigma preventing participation in Self-Help Groups. Bless our project activities ahead. Inspire our team as we work with local government on a leprosy control plan. Guide the Nepal Leprosy Fellowship in ending unfair laws. Bless the team preparing for their presentation at the International Leprosy Congress. Grant us wisdom to navigate challenges after the Anandaban landslide. Amen.

## TIMOR LESTE

Dear Lord, we thank You for the launch of the Technical Handbook on Leprosy. May it serve as a valuable resource for

all engaged in leprosy efforts. We ask for Your guidance over the Health Camp in May. Bring together specialist doctors and the community. Grant success in the screenings and foster collaboration for healing and hope. Amen.

## NIGERIA

Dear God, we pray for our staff and communities. They are facing tough times with money and rising crime. Please bless the new dermatologist and program officers in the Enhanced Care for Integrated Skin-NTDs project in Benue, Nasawara, and Zamfara. May the MDT supplies reach those in need without delay. May the Integrated Health Workers Training Manual enhance our clinics' efforts. Amen.

## INDONESIA

Dear Lord, we seek Your guidance as we evaluate our projects on leprosy. Give us wisdom to see their effectiveness and to motivate our partners in what they do next. May the government's work on supportive policies thrive. Inspire the Australian Embassy to focus on leprosy in their health programs. Bless our work and lead us towards healing and hope for all affected. Amen.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Gracious Lord, we are so thankful for new projects and funding, particularly TLM's 6-year strategy. We seek your blessings for our team of 25 staff in PNG's high-endemic

provinces. Protect them during their travels as they carry out community projects. Guide the Senior Leadership Team in enhancing their leadership skills. May their efforts bring transformation and healing. Amen.

Each year, Christians around the world join to pray for a world without leprosy. This year we invite you to pray with us on Wednesday May 7th.

These international prayer services are a wonderful opportunity to meet and pray with supporters from various parts of the Global Fellowship. Meeting time and Zoom link will be available here soon:

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/global-day-of-prayer-2025>

