



## **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

**—Philippians 4:13**

**My children needed about six sets of grommets between them when they were little. They, and we, dealt with constant ear infections, lack of sleep, and concerns for longer term effects on hearing, speech, and learning that can occur if not treated early and effectively.**

The operations to have grommets inserted into the eardrum were quick and straightforward. But a lot of care was needed afterward to avoid getting water in the ear, plus lots of hearing tests to make sure there was no lasting damage.

You can't always tell just by looking at someone how their health is. Not for my children, not even for someone like Eli. To see her, Eli looks very well. A young person with hopes and dreams – plans for her life that are exciting and ambitious.

Look closer and you can see how leprosy has impacted her body. Nerve damage in her right foot has damaged her toes and left her with limited movement and will need to be amputated. This is heartbreaking!

And even if you can see the physical toll leprosy has taken on Eli, what you may not see is the fear and stigma she has had to face for most of her life.

Rejection. Exclusion. Children refusing to play with her. Relatives keeping their distance.

Since she was 4 years old.

Imagine the toll this has taken on her young life. Heartbroken and lonely, Eli, one of our closest neighbours in Papua New Guinea, has had to cope with so much sadness. Her mother died when she was young and was raised by her aunt. The financial stress on her aunt's already large family means Eli's medical needs have been impossible to meet, and she has had to stop going to school, further isolating her from the community.

Yet Eli knows the truth of verses like this. She trusts that God will give her strength, even when



she feels weak. She believes that she has a future, if only she can keep going. She knows she has a sure and strong foundation in Christ, even when things around her are crumbling.

“Even when life is really hard, don't give up,” Eli says. “Your dreams still matter. If you keep trying and trust God, anything is possible.”

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Eli still dreams of returning to school and building a brighter future despite everything she



Your support means that Leprosy Mission PNG workers can help more children like Eli gain healing and dignity

has faced.  
What a courageous young lady!  
In the lead up to this verse Paul speaks of looking to Jesus for direction, understanding and strength,

trusting that He who is bringing everything under His control, can transform lives, transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body. What a promise to hold on to for us, and for Eli and all who are affected by leprosy, disability, discrimination.

If we can trust Christ to give us strength for whatever lies before us, we can also trust Him to show us where His love is needed most. Today, He is drawing our attention to children like Eli—children who need healing, acceptance, opportunity, and hope.

#### **Will you pray for Eli, and children like her?**

Your faithful prayers are a precious gift and have the power to ignite our ministry in Papua New Guinea as together we follow the command of Jesus to 'love your neighbour'. Children like Eli need you to stand beside them before God's throne and ask for healing, protection, dignity and hope.

#### **Pray for:**

- Effective health care, especially for children like Eli.
- Our new deworming project (see below) to help strengthen immune systems.
- The Leprosy Mission PNG team to have the resources to bring care and support where it is needed.
- Young people like Eli to know they are loved by God and valued by their communities.

You can share your prayers for people like Eli, and for all God is doing, by emailing [engage@leprosymission.org.au](mailto:engage@leprosymission.org.au) or using the enclosed form.

As you pray, please consider how God may be calling you to become part of the answer to those prayers.

Children like Eli deserve the chance to grow up healthy, strong and free from leprosy. One of the most effective ways to help protect vulnerable children is through integrated screening and deworming programs. Intestinal worms weaken the immune system, making it harder for children to fight disease. By deworming we can:

- strengthen immune systems.
- improve growth and cognitive development.
- reduce days off from school.

Over 94% of annual new leprosy cases originate from areas co-endemic for intestinal worms.

**That's why we are launching our Giving Day campaign to help end leprosy in Papua New Guinea.**

On September 15, we have an opportunity to show God's love in a practical way. Together, we can help children access screening, treatment, disability care and preventative health programs that can change the course of their lives.

As you pray for Eli and others like her, please consider making a Giving Day gift. Your support will help bring healing, hope and dignity to some of our closest neighbours.

Call us on 1800 537 767 or go to [endleprosy.org](http://endleprosy.org) on September 15 and be part of the generation to end leprosy.



Together, through prayer and compassion, we can help ensure that more children in Papua New Guinea grow up with healthy bodies, renewed hope and the opportunity to fulfil the dreams God has placed in their hearts.

**Yours in Prayer,**



**Glen Coleman**  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Leprosy Mission Australia