



The Leprosy  
Mission  
Australia

KEEPING IN TOUCH

**KIT03**

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# Thank you for helping Saru raise a dozen kids AND transform a community!



By **TIM COLLISON**  
Engagement Coordinator  
The Leprosy Mission Australia

I met Saru, a 35-year-old a mum of 3, on the recent supporter trip to Nepal. Saru and her son were both diagnosed with leprosy and have each received treatment. **Thanks to you!**

Although now cured, diagnosis came too late to prevent deformity in Saru's hand. But this has not stopped her from thriving. She is part of a Leprosy Mission funded Self-Help Group, and has become the group's facilitator.

**Thanks to supporters like you**, the group received a grant. Saru was able to set up a small business and buy 3 goats to breed. She has since taken a loan from the group and has bought 2 buffaloes, and also used her increased income to invest in pigs and has 10 pigs in her sty!

With each new blessing, Saru's confidence has grown. Both she and her son have been able to access provisions from the government. Her daughters are attending school regularly. And recently, she was nominated as a member of a district level Disability Coordination Committee and elected Chairperson. What a woman! **Praise God!**

Her group now has 200 members and the rate of completing leprosy treatment in the area is around 100%.

This is due to the group members caring for and supporting each other.

*"One of the benefits [of being in the group] is being able to share ideas, experiences and problems," Saru told me, "It's helped group members find their own way to solve problems."*

The group is active in case finding and contact tracing. Thirty-one people have also received assistive devices.

Saru and the group acknowledge their success wouldn't have been possible without people like you!

Saru's message to you:

*"I'd like to say to the people of Australia that I'm very happy. I'm excited. I'm feeling well. But there are still people in need. I've been helped from this project but there are other people who are really in need. So please continue with the support for people in need." — Saru*

To help another person affected by leprosy, like Saru please call 1800 537 767 or go to [leprosymission.org.au](http://leprosymission.org.au) to make a donation.

**Thank you for your support.**



**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY**  
SUNDAY MARCH 8, 2020

# MARCH 2020 — Your Daily Prayers

## **Sunday, March 1**

**AUSTRALIA** Please pray for all those affected by the bushfires, including firefighters and other emergency services personnel. And please pray for the restoration of God's creation and wildlife.

## **Monday, March 2**

**INDIA** The Leprosy Mission Trust India is in the second year of its seven-year strategy. Pray for God's continued guidance to implement the strategy and realise its objectives.

## **Tuesday, March 3**

**TIMOR LESTE** Please pray for the continued success of the Community Based Rehabilitation team which aims to remove barriers to full social inclusion in communities.

## **Wednesday, March 4**

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** Give thanks for the successful speaking trip across Australia by John Oa and Winnie Lalai. Give thanks for the awareness they raised, and the people they've helped.

## **Thursday, March 5**

**NEPAL** Please pray for the daily interactions staff have with patients at Anandaban hospital. Pray they would be thoughtful, fun, insightful, and helpful — as required.

## **Friday, March 6**

**THAILAND** In recent years the McKean centre has been pioneering the development of multi-tiered aged care for elderly people in Thailand. Please pray this continues to be a success.

## **Saturday, March 7**

**THAILAND** Trevor and Heather Smith have served in Thailand for 50 years now! Praise God for their dedication and pray for their continued wellbeing.

## **Sunday, March 8**

**GLOBAL** Today is International Women's Day. Give thanks for the many social, economic, cultural and political achievements women continue to make in the world. Pray that everyone will renew efforts to ensure full gender parity.

## **Monday, March 9**

**INDIA** The Leprosy Mission Trust India works in many different areas with people affected by leprosy. Pray through this work people will realise God's love and care.

## **Tuesday, March 10**

**TIMOR LESTE** The Rights for People with Disabilities works with seven different Disabled People's

Organisations to strengthen their advocacy. Please pray this activity would bring sustained change for people impacted by disability in Timor Leste.

## **Wednesday, March 11**

**GLOBAL** Today is the IDEA International Day of Dignity and Respect. Please pray people affected by leprosy will receive their human rights, and more people will be aware of leprosy and want to make a difference.

## **Thursday, March 12**

**NIGERIA** Please pray for The Leprosy Mission Nigeria's continued access to existing and prospective individual donors, corporate sponsors and institutional funders. Pray they would be blessed with generous financial support.

## **Friday, March 13**

**NEPAL** Give thanks for local politicians who are supportive of The Leprosy Mission Nepal's work. Please pray more and more would realise how they can contribute to helping people affected by leprosy in Nepal.

## **Saturday, March 14**

**THAILAND** The Leprosy Mission provides for support workers who help people affected by leprosy access treatment. Please pray those interactions will be a blessing to the people affected by leprosy using that service.

## **Sunday, March 15**

**AUSTRALIA** Give thanks for all the volunteers who helped organise the speaking tours for Dr Mary Verghese, John Oa and Winnie Lalai. Please pray they would get some good rest too!

## **Monday, March 16**

**INDIA** Praise God for the creativity of The Leprosy Mission Trust India's Community Intervention Unit. They raise awareness for children in especially thoughtful ways, like games.

## **Tuesday, March 17**

**AUSTRALIA** Give thanks for everyone who has made purchases from The Leprosy Mission Shop. Please pray this would continue to be a successful source of income to ensure treatment for people affected by leprosy.

## **Wednesday, March 18**

**INDIA** Give thanks for Dr Mary's successful trip speaking to people about leprosy in India. Please pray people would continue to be influenced by what she shared.

## **Thursday, March 19**

**INDONESIA** Please pray that the project in Indonesia would have great success at finding people at risk of leprosy and will be successful in prevention.

## **Friday, March 20**

**GLOBAL** Today is the International Day of Happiness. Please pray people affected by leprosy will know the joy of the Lord in their lives.

## **Saturday, March 21**

**AUSTRALIA** Give thanks to God for all the Australian supporters who have continued to provide for people affected by leprosy, even while fire has ravaged our country. Pray also for those affected by the fires, that recovery and rebuilding will be swift.

## **Sunday, March 22**

**GLOBAL** Today is World Water Day, an opportunity to reflect on how we can reduce and reuse water. Pray that we will prioritise the sustainable management of our water resources, so that everyone can have free access to safe water.

## **Monday, March 23**

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** Access to Multi-Drug Therapy can be difficult in Papua New Guinea. Please pray that all those who need it will receive it regularly for as long as is necessary for them to be cured.

## **Tuesday, March 24**

**GLOBAL** Today is the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. Please pray for the Human Rights for people affected by leprosy, and that advocacy groups like IDEA would be successful in their work to reduce stigma, and discriminatory laws.

## **Wednesday, March 25**

**GLOBAL** The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship has learnt a lot about how to defeat leprosy. Give thanks for all the researchers and staff who contribute to this. Praise God for all the opportunities they have to share this knowledge with partner organisations.

## **Thursday, March 26**

**NEPAL** Up to 20% of people who have leprosy are at risk of developing an ulcer. If not treated they can even lead to amputations. Please pray for the continued success of Dr Indra's work in developing a new ulcer treatment for people affected by leprosy.

# Regional Round-up

## Partnering in Prayer

– by Tim Collison

*"The Leprosy Mission was born and cradled in prayer, it has been brought up in prayer, it has been nourished in prayer, and prayer has been at the bottom of its success since the first moments of its life."* said Wellesley Bailey, one of the founders of The Leprosy Mission.

For over a hundred years it has continued to be proved true. God is the one doing the vital work of connecting with people affected by leprosy. Prayer is still a vital part of ensuring people affected by leprosy can attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Prayer is a way you are taking part in this ministry. A form of volunteering, you can pray for people affected by leprosy in your home, your church - anywhere! And it is deeply appreciated by all those who benefit from your service.

This monthly Keeping In Touch (KIT) newsletter aims to equip you with regular updates on the current prayer needs of people affected by leprosy and this healing ministry. It is also a way you can communicate your praise and prayer points to us so we can join with you, supporting you in prayer too. Is this helpful?

**We'd love to hear what you think about KIT. Do you like the content? How do you feel about the new streamlined design? Is this helping you to be better equipped to pray and support? How can we improve?**

Please contact us with feedback: [engage@leprosymission.org.au](mailto:engage@leprosymission.org.au) or 1800 537 767.

**if you would like to commit to partnering regularly in prayer or would like more prayer resources – please contact Tim Collison via email: [engage@leprosymission.org.au](mailto:engage@leprosymission.org.au) or call 1800 537 767.**

**Friday, March 27**

**AUSTRALIA** Praise our Lord Jesus Christ for the hope He gave the world at Easter. Ask God how you may be able to provide hope for those affected by leprosy as we prepare ourselves for Lent and Easter time.

**Saturday, March 28**

**INDIA** Give thanks for The Leprosy Mission Kothara hospital's new wellness space. Over 50% of people affected by leprosy experience depression. Pray this room would be a helpful resource for their mental strength.

**Sunday, March 29**

**TIMOR** Thank God that The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste has formed a local board and are ready to be registered as a local organisation in the near future.

**Monday, March 30**

**TIMOR** Give thanks for the commitments from the new board members to support The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste. Pray they would be wise in their decisions.

**Tuesday, March 31**

**GLOBAL** Give thanks for those who have held World Leprosy Day events across the globe to raise awareness about those affected by leprosy. Pray for those who are holding World Leprosy Sunday events in Australia and that they would be successful.



## 28 Years of Service

At the end of last year The West Tamar Auxiliary of The Leprosy Mission held its final event in Beauty Point, Tasmania. During the past 28 years together, members from local churches raised thousands of dollars in support of those affected by leprosy, who were treated, cured and helped back into independence.

During its twenty-eight-year history there were fashion parades; morning and afternoon teas with Leprosy Mission Speakers; evening dinners, and operating stalls at local events, including elections.

*[Pictured] Celia and Dianna - two local members of The West Tamar Group in Tasmania. Celia contributed this piece to Regional Roundup.*

*The Leprosy Mission is incredibly thankful for the fruitful years of service for people affected by leprosy by The West Tamar Auxiliary. Thank you so very much! God bless you!*



# Thank you for enabling Nigerian people affected by tropical diseases!



By **ANDREW HARDING**  
Programs Assessor  
The Leprosy Mission

In Africa, 600 million people are affected by Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), including leprosy. These diseases affect the poorest, most vulnerable people who live in hard to reach locations. These diseases disfigure and disable. They keep children out of school and parents out of work – limiting their potential and leaving communities stuck in poverty. And Nigeria carries the highest burden of NTDs in Africa.

**Praise God that through The Leprosy Mission you are tackling this issue – to see these diseases defeated and lives transformed. Thank you.**

I recently travelled to Nigeria for the first time to review and report on the Integrated Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) and Disability project. Conducted in the state of Zamfara, it aims to help people affected by these diseases access quality leprosy, lymphatic filariasis (LF) and disability services, within an integrated health system.

The team works closely with the Nigerian Government's Department of Health to improve health services, train health workers, and increase access to health clinics at the local level. And also with communities to help ensure people with disabilities are included in society.

It was pleasing to learn some of achievements of the last year. **Thanks to you:**

- 15,750 people have been reached with health promotion activities
- 493 people have participated in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities
- 100 health workers have been trained in NTD diagnosis and management
- 162 assistive devices fitted to people with disabilities

It was my privilege to meet many of those involved participating in changing and empowering their own lives through your help. To see for myself how they can learn their own self-care and how receiving walking aids, a wheelchair or a hand-powered tricycle can dramatically increase their quality of life. Their renewed hope and optimism was visible by the smiles on their faces.

Thank you for bringing healing and help to people affected by diseases the world would rather forget.

**Please continue to pray for people affected by NTDs and disability in Nigeria. And for peace and safety for project staff and participants as they travel the region.**

Thank you again for your support. To God be the Glory. Amen.

If you would like to provide ongoing financial support to your Nigeria project, please contact Georgie or Lisa at The Leprosy Mission Australia office to organise a regular monthly gift arrangement on 1800 537 767 or go to: [leprosymission.org.au/get-involved/monthly-donation-to-leprosy-programs-in-nigeria/](https://leprosymission.org.au/get-involved/monthly-donation-to-leprosy-programs-in-nigeria/)