



The Leprosy  
Mission  
Australia

KEEPING IN TOUCH

**KIT02**

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# Thank you for your compassionate heart for families in PNG — like mine.



By JOHN OA, Volunteer  
The Leprosy Mission  
Papua New Guinea

You may have read about my niece, Claire. She was diagnosed with leprosy at the same time as my brother Eddie (Claire's father) when the Government's Department of Health were conducting screening activities in our village.

She had developed light skin patches on her arms, which had no sensation (an early indication of leprosy). She was only nine years old at the time, which shows that leprosy is still being transmitted in our village.

**In Papua New Guinea, up to 30% of new cases diagnosed each year are children like Claire.**

Thankfully, Claire only needed to take six months of treatment, which she completed successfully. She has not developed any other symptoms. **Praise God!**

Unfortunately, Eddie needed treatment for leprosy reaction.

As a family, we all agreed that although the community knew about Eddie, we would keep Claire's diagnosis and treatment a secret. She worried what her friends would say and do. She feared being teased. To this day she hasn't told her friends. Stigma and

discrimination around the disease is still strong here and in surrounding areas.

**But thanks to your support we are working to detect cases early and change community perceptions through education. And helping families with income generating activities.**

Claire is hoping to help others in the future too. *"One day I hope to become a teacher or a nurse,"* she says. She wants to keep going to school, so she can get a good education. The challenge in our village is that the teachers will often not turn up to teach lessons. So we are uncertain whether she will be able to realise her dream.

**Please continue to pray for Claire, our family, our village, and families just like ours in PNG. Pray also for The Leprosy Mission Papua New Guinea staff and volunteers as we work to stop leprosy transmission and transform lives in PNG.**

**Thank you for your support.**



Come and meet John as he is traveling around Australia speaking at World Leprosy Day events throughout February. Turn the page to see where he will be speaking or go to [leprosymission.org.au/](http://leprosymission.org.au/) events for the latest updates.

# FEBRUARY 2020 — Your Daily Prayers

## Saturday, February 1

**AUSTRALIA** The Leprosy Mission Shop continues to inspire new people to support people affected by leprosy. Pray their hearts will grow in love for people affected by leprosy.

## Sunday, February 2

**INDIA** Dr Mary Verghese continues to travel around Australia sharing with supporters. Please pray for sustained energy and God inspired words for her to share.

## Monday, February 3

**INDONESIA** The Leprosy Mission now supports a project in Indonesia. This is done in partnership with other organisations. Please pray for effective relationships and activities that will help end leprosy transmission there.

## Tuesday, February 4

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)** As John Oa and Winnie Lalai move around Australia sharing about the need for people affected by leprosy in PNG, pray God blesses them with travel mercies.

## Wednesday, February 5

**GLOBAL** In 2019 The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship grew as it welcomed Finland. Praise our Lord Jesus Christ for raising up another country desiring to see leprosy defeated! Please pray for the Finland team and for their success!

## Thursday, February 6

**NIGERIA** The activities of herdsmen, bandits and kidnappers have led to increased security concerns. Thank God for the progress made to curb this issue. Pray God will give the Government wisdom and ability to bring about peace.

## Friday, February 7

**INDONESIA** Indonesia has the third highest prevalence of leprosy in the world. The new project there is focused on reducing the transmission of leprosy from person to person. Please pray these activities are successful.

## Saturday, February 8

**AUSTRALIA** Many churches and groups have been hosting World Leprosy Sunday events. Pray these events continue to inspire new supporters for people affected by leprosy.

## Sunday, February 9

**INDIA** Pray for God's blessings on The Leprosy Mission Trust India's partnerships with many different types of organisations. Pray they will bring increased help to people affected by leprosy.

## Monday, February 10

**INDIA** Today Dr Mary Verghese returns to India. Give thanks for how God has used her to share with Australians about the stigma people affected by leprosy in India still face and pray for safe travel.

## Tuesday, February 11

**GLOBAL** Today is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Science and gender equality are important for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. Please pray women and girls, especially those affected by leprosy and disability, would not be excluded from science.

## Wednesday, February 12

**NIGERIA** Give thanks for all the organisations which partnered with The Leprosy Mission Nigeria to run events for World Leprosy Sunday. Pray these would bring increased awareness about leprosy in Nigeria.

## Thursday, February 13

**GLOBAL** Today is World Radio Day. Many people affected by leprosy first hear about The Leprosy Mission through radio. Many people also hear the gospel on World Radio. Praise God for the medium of radio.

## Friday, February 14

**THAILAND** Give thanks for all the Australian supporters who help provide a year's accommodation for someone affected by leprosy who cannot return home.

## Saturday, February 15

**AUSTRALIA** The Leprosy Mission Shop sources many goods from people affected by leprosy and disability. Please pray these relationships would prosper them, and for secure supply chains to ensure the goods arrive in Australia safely.

## Sunday, February 16

**NEPAL** Many leprosy patients' mental health is impacted as they recover and live with the effects of leprosy. Please pray for wisdom for the Leprosy Mission team members who help support people affected by leprosy wrestling with this issue.

## Monday, February 17

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** Give thanks for the opportunity John and Winnie had to share about PNG in Australia. Please pray for people's hearts to be opened and safe travel home for them today.

## Tuesday, February 18

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)** Give thanks for all The Leprosy Mission PNG's

volunteers and their hearts to help people affected by leprosy. Pray they would be blessed in their work.

## Wednesday, February 19

**NEPAL** The team in Nepal have put together a new strategy for the next five years. Please pray the successful rolling out of this strategy would immensely benefit people affected by leprosy.

## Thursday, February 20

**GLOBAL** Today is World Day of Social Justice. Pray for a fair, peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. Pray for the removal of the many barriers that people face because of their gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

## Friday, February 21

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** Give thanks for Claire's cure from leprosy [see cover story] and no further complications. Pray she will have a full and abundant life.

## Saturday, February 22

**AUSTRALIA** Give thanks for all Australian supporters who pray for people affected by leprosy. Pray God will raise up more prayer supporters for people affected by leprosy.

## Sunday, February 23

**TIMOR LESTE** In September and October many people heard from Joel and Nona from Timor Leste. Pray they would not forget about what they shared, and that God would move them to action for people affected by leprosy in Timor Leste.

## Monday, February 24

**NEPAL** Give thanks for the research team at The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital who are continually looking for better ways to help people affected by leprosy. Pray God would continue to inspire them.

## Tuesday, February 25

**TIMOR LESTE** Give thanks for the training which took place across Timor enabling better leprosy diagnosis in pathology labs across the country.

## Wednesday, February 26

**GLOBAL** Today is Ash Wednesday. For many Christians this means the start of Lent and preparing hearts and minds to remember what Jesus accomplished on the cross for humanity. Please pray more people will experience the love of Jesus.

## Thursday, February 27

**GLOBAL** Today is World Non-Government Organisations (NGO) Day. Give thanks for Organisations and their supporters that help provide people in need with dignity through education, health care and opportunities.

# World Leprosy Sunday Events throughout February and beyond

**World Leprosy Sunday 2020**  
Let's finish what Jesus started!

## with John Oa

Imagine having to stop your medical treatment to work and educate your children. This was what John's brother Eddie faced in Papua New Guinea (PNG). This is why **John Oa** [see cover story] is passionate to help support people affected by leprosy. John's family have experienced what it is like to live with leprosy and have no good choices. John works hard to support them, and other people affected by leprosy – a disease which is back on the rise in PNG. John's passion, like yours, is to make sure no one else has to face what his brother experienced. **Come meet John as he visits around Australia. He'll update you on the situation people affected by leprosy still face in PNG. You'll hear what The Leprosy Mission is doing about it—and how you can help!**

## with Mary Verghese

In India, over 100 laws discriminate people affected by leprosy. Dr Mary Verghese is Executive Director of The Leprosy Mission Trust India. She is well aware of the suffering these laws cause. Like you, she wants them overturned. **Come meet Dr Mary Verghese as she also visits around Australia. She'll update you on the situation in India, the plans to end discrimination and the denial of rights for people affected by leprosy — and how you can help!**

There will be more events added! Keep an eye out for your invitation in your box and at:  
[www.leprosymission.org.au/events/](http://www.leprosymission.org.au/events/)

## Friday, February 28

**TIMOR LESTE** Give thanks for the Australian government's support for people affected by leprosy in Timor. Pray that their support would be well stewarded.

## Saturday, February 29

**INDIA** Please pray for children affected by leprosy in India, like Diyan [back cover story]. Give thanks for the doctors and nurses in The Leprosy Mission hospitals who tend and care for their physical and mental wellbeing.

When?	Where?	Details/RSVP
Sat 1/2 2PM	Ann Street Gospel Chapel 12-14 Anne St, Gulliver, QLD	No Cost, bring a friend!*
Sat 1/2 2-4:30PM	St Peter & Emmaus Church 56 Green St, Joondanna, WA	Anne: 08 9454 6973**
Sun 2/2 9:30AM	Community Hall, Ray Owens Sport Ground, Gladys Rd, Lesmurdie, WA	No RSVP. John will be sharing during a PNG church service.**
Wed 5/2 2PM	Southside Uniting Church, Cnr Springwood & Hicks St, Mt Gravatt, QLD	No Cost, bring a friend!*
Thu 6/2 10AM	St David's Presbyterian, Cnr Mary St & Alfred St, Toowoomba, QLD	Denise: denisescott17@bigpond.com 0456 782 998
Fri 7/2 9:30 — 11:30AM	Coral Coast Christian Church 596 Windmere Rd, Bargara, QLD	Admission by donation.* Penny: 0436 407 553
Fri 7/2 11AM	Holy Trinity Anglican Church 19 Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh, VIC	Glenys: 07 4159 6386*
Fri 7/2 3PM	Club Rooms, Portarlington Lifestyle Village, 23-31 Mercer St, Portarlington VIC	No Cost, bring a friend!** Leprosy Mission Office: 1800 537 767 Joy Davis: 03 8594 2333
Sat 8/2 3 — 5PM	Ballarat Central Church, 37-39 Peel St South, Ballarat, VIC	No Cost, bring a friend!** Leprosy Mission Office: 1800 537 767
Sun 9/2 9:30AM	Gympie Baptist Church 133 Corella Rd, Araluen, QLD	Derek: 07 5488 4069* derekhume@skymesh.com.au
Sun 9/2 10AM	Brown Hill Uniting Church, Cnr Humffray St Nth & Thompson St, Brown Hill, VIC	Church Service**
Sun 9/2 12PM	Gympie Baptist Church 133 Corella Rd, Araluen, QLD	Derek: 07 5488 4069* derekhume@skymesh.com.au
Mon 10/2 11AM	The Leprosy Mission Office, 37-39 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill VIC	No Cost, bring a friend!** Leprosy Mission Office: 1800 537 767
Tue 11/2 2:15PM	Holy Trinity Anglican Church 65 Victoria St, Hastings, VIC	Followed by Devonshire tea** Pam 0468451210 or alexpamp@y7mail.com or Elaine at 03 5978 6251
Thu 13/2 10AM	Nowra Church of Christ, Cnr Illaroo Rd & Yurunga Dr, North Nowra, NSW	No Cost, bring a friend!** Roy & Jennifer 02 4421 2454
Fri 14/2 8:30 — 9:30AM	YWAM 280 Power St, Plumpton, NSW	Followed by morning tea.** Leprosy Mission Office: 1800 537 767
Fri 14/2 7:30PM	All Saints Church Woollahra 85 Ocean St, Woollahra, NSW	Admission by donation. Additional speaker Dr Warwick Britton.** Leprosy Mission Office: 1800 537 767
16/2 9:30AM	Church of Christ Penrith 156/160 Stafford St, Penrith NSW	Church Service.** NO RSVP needed

\*Dr Mary Verghese will be speaking at these events

\*\*John Oa will be speaking at these events.



# NO CHILD WITH LEPROSY 2035

**Will you reach out and pray to heal the heartache of leprosy-affected children around the world?**



Imagine you're a child... and you just want to hug your mummy. But she's died... and people avoid you because you have leprosy. You can't hide the signs of the disease. People see the skin patches and your clawed hand. They're afraid to be near you.

That's what the world is like for 7-year-old Diyan from India. Last year, when he was just six, he burned his hand very badly. But he didn't cry. He didn't even feel it. His hands were numb. He had leprosy.

Although he may not feel the physical pain of leprosy, a child like Diyan DOES feel the heartache of being called names. Of being pushed away. Of rejection.

People are afraid to be near him, let alone embrace him with the warm, loving hugs he so desperately misses from his mother. His father goes far away to work.

The stigma of leprosy has made it a very lonely world for Diyan.

Jesus touched people affected by leprosy. That's exactly what a sensitive boy like Diyan needs right now. Jesus cured people of leprosy in His earthly lifetime.

Please continue to pray for a world without leprosy. Pray for early detection and treatment for children affected by leprosy.

Diyan misses his mother's hugs so much. While we can't replace his mother, we CAN show him God's love through The Leprosy Mission doctors and nurses who look after him. They're not afraid to touch him... the nurses bathe his skin patches and treat his clawed fingers. One nurse talks to him and gives him cuddles... like his mummy used to... healing his heartache inside.

**A gentle touch makes all the difference. Please pray for the doctors and nurses who tend and care for the physical and mental needs of these children.**

Although Diyan is physically affected by leprosy, thank God, it's not too late to turn his life around.

**Pray each child affected by leprosy will be cured with no long-term or further effects.**

Holistic healing does not end there. The Leprosy Mission community education activities promote love and acceptance. So Diyan and others like him can grow up in a loving and encouraging environment.... instead of being excluded and called horrible names.

**Pray the stigma of leprosy will be overturned in communities around the world. Pray love and acceptance will rule. Thy Kingdom Come!**

Thank you for your faithful support.  
**To God be the Glory forever and ever. Amen.**