



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia

KEEPING IN TOUCH

KIT10

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Thank you for helping put the “PEP” in communities affected by leprosy in Indonesia!



By Andrew Newmarch
International Programs Manager

Thank you for your prayers and support for people affected by leprosy. Thank you for those already supporting our latest project Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Community (PEPCOM) in Indonesia.

Implemented by No Leprosy Remains (NLR) Indonesia, this project is a partnership between NLR Indonesia, Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR) and the Indramayu District Health Office, supported by The Leprosy Missions New Zealand, the Netherlands and Australia.

This project marks our first time directly supporting a promising tool in the mission to eradicate leprosy: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). PEP involves administering a dose of an antibiotic called Rifampicin, to the contacts of people who are newly diagnosed with leprosy. Studies show that this may reduce the likelihood of contacts developing leprosy by up to 60%, making this the first viable prevention method for leprosy. The district of Indramayu is one of the most endemic areas in West Java for leprosy, making it an important site for the rollout of PEP.

How this helps us work towards our Zero Leprosy Transmission Goal: The project has trained local leprosy health workers on leprosy control and the PEP approach.

Extensive data on the status of leprosy in Indramayu is being gathered, so the project can identify the contacts who are at risk. In the next two years, PEP will be rolled out.

Research on PEP points to an unintended, but very positive by-product of this approach as being the 'revitalisation' of leprosy control programs. Health workers have spent years trying to contain leprosy, often to find that resources are reduced due to funding cuts. Other programme limiting issues are far less tangible. One of those is superstition about leprosy and its causes. A second is the stigma that many people face, partly based on the superstition but also due to higher levels of stigma towards women. And so cases of leprosy continue to emerge. Having a new tool like PEP encourages people that leprosy can be defeated and may inspire people to change their attitudes, and governments to allocate more funding and set new goals to that end.

Please pray for the successful roll out of PEP in Indramayu, Indonesia. Pray for the covering and protection of Indonesians that they will not contract leprosy or transmit it to others. Particularly pray for those in endemic areas. Your generous heart and prayers make all of this possible. Thank you and God bless you!

If you would like to financially support people affected by leprosy in Indonesia, please contact 1800 537 767 to make a one-time gift or go to: www.leprosymission.org.au/indonesia



From left to right: Cindy Norfor, TLM International HR Advisor; Natalie Smith, TLM Papua New Guinea Country Leader; Jim and Robyn Nottingham, dedicated supporters, and employees of TLM Indonesia for over a decade.

International Guests

COVID-19 means we are unable to bring over speakers from our overseas projects. This is disappointing to us all. Natalie Smith (The Leprosy Mission Papua New Guinea) and Lilibeth Evarestus (IDEA Nigeria) were set to come to Australia in September/October. Many of you know Natalie and her many years of service for people affected by leprosy. Lilibeth is a person affected by leprosy, a lawyer, and a member of IDEA Nigeria.

These events usually provide two things. The opportunity for Australians to hear first-hand how they can, and are, making a difference for people affected by leprosy. And they also are an effective means of raising money for people affected by leprosy.

If you are connected to us via email, we will be sharing a brief video from both Natalie and Lilibeth in the next few weeks. Keep an eye out for them! If we don't have an email for you, please contact us at hello@leprosymission.org.au and we can make sure you don't miss out.

Online Church Service

While some of us have become used to being at home for church these days, we know some churches have been unable to provide an online service. So we have created an online service, with hymns, prayers and a message for you. It can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/LeprosyVirtualChurch>

OR contact us at 1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767) or engage@leprosymission.org.au and we will post you it on a USB.



OCTOBER 2020 — Your Daily Prayers

Thursday, October 1

INDIA COVID-19 cases continue to climb in India. There are now millions of cases, and thousands of deaths. Please be praying for all those who have lost loved ones to this disease.

Friday, October 2

TIMOR LESTE COVID-19 case numbers have stayed low in Timor Leste. Please pray they will continue that way.

Saturday, October 3

PAPUA NEW GUINEA COVID-19 cases were low in PNG but have risen sharply in the last couple of months. Please pray that this outbreak would be controlled quickly.

Sunday, October 4

NEPAL After a brief drop, cases of COVID-19 have continued to climb. Please pray for the government as they seek to control and contain it.

Monday, October 5

GLOBAL Today is World Teachers Day. Give thanks for teachers and their contributions to poverty reduction, gender parity and sustainable development.

Tuesday, October 6

THAILAND Thailand has done a good job of containing the coronavirus. Praise God for the smart interventions by health professionals, leaders, and citizens.

Wednesday, October 7

AUSTRALIA Lockdown has meant The Leprosy Mission Customer Service team have, for a long time, been the only ones in the office. Give thanks for their perseverance and pray for their safety.

Thursday, October 8

INDIA The impacts of COVID-19 have meant Leprosy Mission Hospitals have had to cope with new administrative and logistical issues. Please pray for wisdom for the whole staff team as they work to manage this and caring for people affected by leprosy.

Friday, October 9

AUSTRALIA The Leprosy Mission AGM is tomorrow. Please pray for wisdom as National Council Members and the Board meet via technology. And for no technical issues!

Saturday, October 10

GLOBAL Today is World Mental Health Day. Pray for people experiencing stigma and depression as a result of leprosy. Pray that they would be able to reconnect socially, avoid self-stigmatisation, challenge discrimination and find hope.

Sunday, October 11

NIGERIA Pray for God's protection, blessing and safety on all Nigeria staff members who travel to remote places to minister love to people affected by leprosy and disabilities.

Monday, October 12

NEPAL Some estimates suggest the economic impacts of COVID-19 will push a 1/3 of the population back into poverty. Please pray for God's provision for Nepal's population.

Tuesday, October 13

THAILAND Pray for staff and others at McKean providing pastoral care, and special awareness of God's love for patients and families facing end of life care or permanent disability.

Wednesday, October 14

INDONESIA Pray that transmission would be able to be stopped in the project through the distribution of the preventative antibiotics, improved leprosy control, and strong community support.

Thursday, October 15

GLOBAL Today is Global Handwashing Day. Give thanks for the critical role that hygiene and the community education you support plays in preventing the spread of diseases.

Friday, October 16

GLOBAL Today is World Food Day. Pray that world leaders would be inspired to commit to eradicating hunger in our lifetime. Give thanks for the provision of God for those who don't go without, and the generous capacity that God's earth has to feed all of humankind.

Saturday, October 17

GLOBAL Today is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Leprosy is a disease of poverty. Please ask God to show you how you can help 'end poverty in all its forms and dimensions'.

Sunday, October 18

NIGERIA Give thanks for the many churches that have enthusiastically and generously supported the work of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria for many years.

Monday, October 19

RESEARCH Praise God for the universities worldwide that partner with The Leprosy Mission in order to conduct research studies. Pray for the strengthening of these partnerships and for new partnerships.

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Tuesday, October 20

AUSTRALIA Give thanks for all the Australian supporters who have left a Gift in Will to The Leprosy Mission Australia. Pray that more supporters will dream of a leprosy-free tomorrow and will leave a lasting legacy to people affected by leprosy in their Will too.

Wednesday, October 21

GLOBAL This month Leprosy Mission country leaders and chairpersons from around the world are gathering remotely via technology for several days of meetings. Pray for a spirit of unity as decisions are made, and that they will be blessed with the Spirit's wisdom.

Thursday, October 22

TIMOR LESTE Pray for the team's plan to implement the National Leprosy Review for the country. Pray they will have the right expertise, coordination, commitment and financial support.

Friday, October 23

PAPUA NEW GUINEA The team in PNG have worked hard to equip people affected by leprosy to better understand how to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. Please pray for the safety of those with leprosy and the team members.

Saturday, October 24

NIGERIA Pray that more churches and volunteers will embrace our vision and open their hearts and doors to join the fight against leprosy.

Sunday, October 25

NEPAL Please pray for wisdom for the team as they grapple with the challenges COVID-19 has imposed on their usual services for people affected by leprosy.

Monday, October 26

TIMOR LESTE Pray for the end term review and development of the new country strategy that comes to an end in December 2020.

Tuesday, October 27

GLOBAL Pray for the success of the Global Petition Campaign 2019-2023. This campaign seeks to raise awareness amongst the 47 member countries of the UN human Rights Council about the human rights of people affected by leprosy.

Wednesday, October 28

AUSTRALIA Pray for Leprosy Mission supporter families in Australia who have been affected by COVID-19 or had their lives affected by lockdowns and job losses. Pray they will feel comfort that God is with them.

Thursday, October 29

NIGERIA has lower than predicted cases of COVID-19. Please pray this continues to be the trend.

Friday, October 30

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Pray for all the various training courses that will be going on, pray for the energy as they roll out these trainings, especially as they have faced disruption due to COVID-19 lockdowns in PNG.

Saturday, October 31

GLOBAL Please pray for the successful implementation of the global advocacy strategy for 2019-2023 so it becomes a tool in transforming the lives of persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

—Philippians 4:6

Important KIT announcement

One of our commitments, which we are sure you share, is to ensure as much money as possible is passed onto implementing partners, particularly at this unprecedented time. In line with this we are seeing where we can make adjustments in our communications. As such we will be trialling KIT as a bi-monthly production from November 2020 to June 2021. You will still receive a set of prayer requests for each month — two months at a time. We welcome feedback on this at 1800 537 767 or engage@leprosymission.org.au