



The Leprosy  
Mission  
Australia

KEEPING IN TOUCH

**KIT04**

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# Hope and joy in PNG because of people like you. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who prays for and supports people affected by leprosy in Papua New Guinea (PNG). It has some of the most remote places on earth, however with support from people like you we can reach people to share your love and generosity with them.

In PNG village health workers and community members are trained to detect leprosy. They visit leprosy-affected patients regularly to encourage them not only to seek diagnosis but to make sure they complete their treatment.

***Thanks to your incredible support, many people in PNG are receiving help from village health workers and members of their community and are now cured of leprosy. What a wonderful thing to be part of, thank you!***

Children like Augustine are being cured because of people like you. He has a partially clawed right hand but is working with a physiotherapist to learn exercises for his hand and fingers. If he can regularly exercise this way, it may prevent further clawing and mean that he won't require surgery in the future. He will be able to live a fuller life.

Augustine has a loving grandmother who takes care of him and makes sure he does his treatment every day.

***"My hand is feeling so much better now!" Augustine told us.***

Augustine likes to play soccer and he is the goalkeeper for his team. His partially clawed hand isn't holding him back from doing what he loves.

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***"The joy of The Lord is your strength!"***

***—Nehemiah 8:10***

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*"My friends love to play soccer with me, they said I am a good goalkeeper!" he declared with joy.*

***Thank you for bringing healing and hope to children like Augustine in PNG this Easter.***

***Please pray Augustine will continue to be diligent with his exercises and that he will continue to experience life in all its fullness. Pray for the village health volunteers and for their work in detecting leprosy, and that they can reach everyone currently with the disease that has not yet been diagnosed.***

To provide monthly financial support to people affected by leprosy in PNG, please call Georgie or Lisa on 1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767) or email: [sponsorships@leprosymission.org.au](mailto:sponsorships@leprosymission.org.au)



# What a blessing this Esther — thanks to you!



By TIM COLLISON  
Engagement Coordinator  
The Leprosy Mission Australia

Let me introduce you to Esther! She's a volunteer with The Leprosy Mission Papua New Guinea (TLMPNG).

*"I first heard about The Leprosy Mission from my dad. He was a volunteer."*

*"My dad became an advocate because his mother was a leprosy patient. My grandmother's sister was killed by leprosy but my grandmother only suffered from drop foot."*

*"When my dad resigned, a TLMPNG staff member called me and asked me to join."*

*"My cousin Rose is also affected by leprosy. Others would discriminate against her and laugh at her. She is only 12 years old. She was not going to school because of how others were treating her. She was feeling very shy in front of her friends."*

*"The people in my community should understand those who are suffering in the village. They should agree not to discriminate against people with leprosy."*

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**"I have the heart of my family for those affected by leprosy."**

**—Esther**

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- Please join with us and pray that Esther and her family will defeat leprosy and continue to transform lives in their community.
- Pray for strength, confidence and wisdom for Esther as she approaches and speaks with others in her village and beyond.
- Give thanks to God for Country Leader Natalie Smith and The Leprosy Mission PNG team.

May God be with the team as they train and equip other volunteers like Esther to defeat leprosy across PNG.

Thank you for your support.

You can donate today to train a volunteer in PNG, please call 1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767) or email: [hello@leprosymission.org.au](mailto:hello@leprosymission.org.au)



# Regional Round-up

## March 2020

### Small project, Big impact

In this month's KIT, you've read about Rose {pictured, left of Esther} from Papua New Guinea (PNG). Because Rose was diagnosed relatively early, she will have fewer challenges. One of the biggest challenges in PNG is the difficult terrain, and few roads. To combat this the team in PNG is training health workers in Western District (where 30% of leprosy cases in PNG occur) how to use LEARNs – The Leprosy Alert and Response Network System. This is a mobile phone tool which will allow earlier diagnosis by sharing photos with healthcare professionals.

To fund the training of health workers in Western District to use LEARNs costs \$1,710. This smaller project is a great way to ensure more children like Rose receive treatment early and helps prevent disability. The earlier someone is diagnosed with leprosy, the less likely they are to have a long-term impairment.

**Would you and some friends like to prevent disability caused by leprosy by funding a smaller project?**

Below are five small projects which have a big impact, for your consideration...



**Please pray for these projects and that they will be funded by generous supporters like you. Pray the workers as they are challenged by difficult terrain and that they can be effective in preventing leprosy caused disability. Pray for each patient that makes contact with each program.**

For more projects or if you and some friends want to fund one of the projects below, please contact The Leprosy Mission Australia office on 1800 537 767 or [hello@leprosymission.org.au](mailto:hello@leprosymission.org.au)

Country	Project Name	Cost	The Impact You Will Have
Papua New Guinea (PNG)	LEARNs System	\$1,710	Early diagnosis, which prevents long term impairment!
Timor Leste	Public Building modified to allow access for people affected by disability	\$1,450	Allow people affected by disability to participate in their community!
Thailand	Accommodation and care for elderly leprosy patients for 1 year	\$445 (per patient)	People affected by leprosy who cannot return to their communities can live with dignity!
India	Eye surgery for one person affected by leprosy	\$300 (per patient)	Improved eyesight for people affected by leprosy!
India	Training a health worker in management of leprosy	\$66 (per health worker)	People affected by leprosy can receive better treatment and care!

## Wednesday, April 1

**NIGERIA** Many of you have been regularly praying for the security situation in Nigeria. Give thanks it has improved, especially in Zamfara state, where the Australian Government and The Leprosy Mission Australia's funds are invested. This means villages which were previously inaccessible can be reached.

## Thursday, April 2

**GLOBAL** Today is International Children's Book Day. Give thanks for supporters who purchase books like 'Bela' through The Leprosy Mission Shop to help children learn about inclusion and how they can help people affected by leprosy.

## Friday, April 3

**TIMOR LESTE** Give thanks that staff from The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste were included in the development of The Timor Leste National Disability Strategy 2020 – 24.

## Saturday, April 4

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** Approximately one in five of all new leprosy cases in Papua New Guinea are in the Western District. Please pray for the success of the program there, as success here will have a significant impact for people affected by leprosy.

## Sunday, April 5

**GLOBAL** Today people around the world celebrate Palm Sunday. It marks the start of Christian remembrance of what Jesus accomplished for us. Please continue to pray for people to have Jesus arrive in their lives.

## Monday, April 6

**THAILAND** This month marks 50 years since Heather and Trevor Smith started working for the benefit of people affected by leprosy in Thailand. Praise God for how He has sustained them.

## Tuesday, April 7

**GLOBAL** Today is World Health Day and the theme is "Nurses and Midwives". Give thanks for the significant work of nurses and midwives in the medical field. We are especially thankful for all the nurses who care and work for people affected by leprosy.

## Wednesday, April 8

**NIGERIA** Give thanks for women affected by leprosy like Karima who have been reintegrated into their communities thanks to the work of The Leprosy Mission Nigeria.

## Thursday, April 9

**RESEARCH** The Leprosy Mission Fellowship has three research laboratories, one in Delhi, one in Dhaka, and one at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. Pray for the staff to be able to prioritise what is important, that their discoveries will have positive outcomes for people affected by leprosy.

## Friday, April 10

**GLOBAL** Today is Good Friday. We are sorrowful for Jesus' death on our behalf, thankful for Jesus' sacrifice for us, and praising God for His ability to bring His people back to Him.

## Saturday, April 11

**GLOBAL** As we remember Jesus in the tomb, we can reflect on when we have failed to act for justice or acted against justice and be thankful for God's forgiveness.

## Sunday, April 12

**GLOBAL** Jesus is Risen indeed! Give thanks and ask that the Risen Christ will be known around the world through The Leprosy Mission.

## Monday, April 13

**NEPAL** Many people affected by leprosy experience depression due to the conditions of the disease and the stigma they often face. Give thanks for the counselling people can access at Anandaban Hospital. Please pray it will bless those with leprosy.

## Tuesday, April 14

**THAILAND** Continue to pray for the elderly people affected by leprosy who live at the McKean Centre. Pray they would continue to enjoy life with dignity.

## Wednesday, April 15

**AUSTRALIA** Give thanks for all Australian supporters who commit to speaking to God for people affected by leprosy.

## Thursday, April 16

**INDIA** Leprosy is a leading cause of disabilities among communicable diseases. Please continue to pray for the team in India as they work to provide early diagnosis, helping prevent impairment.

## Friday, April 17

**TIMOR LESTE** The team in Timor Leste have a plan to implement a National Leprosy review. Please pray this goes well.

## Saturday, April 18

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** Volunteers are critical to the success of The Leprosy Mission Papua New Guinea. Give thanks for their many volunteers and pray they would be a blessing to their community.

## Sunday, April 19

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** Give God thanks for TLM PNG volunteer Esther and her heart 'for those affected by leprosy'.

## Monday, April 20

**NEPAL** Please pray for New SADLE. They are an organisation of people affected by leprosy who provide products for The Leprosy Mission Shop. Pray for successful sales of these products, that the income it provides will bring dignity to those who work at New SADLE.

## Tuesday, April 21

**AUSTRALIA** Please continue to pray for people to make decisions to volunteer for people affected by leprosy here in Australia. Maybe God is calling you to this ministry.

## Wednesday, April 22

**INDIA** Along with other Leprosy Mission teams, The Leprosy Mission in India is starting to use a single dose of an antibiotic with family members and friends of leprosy patients to reduce their risk of contracting the disease by 60%. Please pray this would be successful in helping eliminate leprosy.

## Thursday, April 23

**TIMOR LESTE** Continue to pray for strong diagnostic practices in Timor, that people with leprosy would be diagnosed early.

## Friday, April 24

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** TLM PNG Volunteer Esther's cousin Rose experienced leprosy. Give thanks that Rose has been treated successfully. Please pray for her continued health.

## Saturday, April 25

**NIGERIA** Now there is improved security in Zamfara, please pray there will be a strengthening of services for people affected by leprosy.

## Sunday, April 26

**NEPAL** Give thanks to God for Dr Indra and his work to develop revolutionary wound healing techniques. Pray he will continue to find new ways of helping heal and treat people affected by leprosy.

## Monday, April 27

**AUSTRALIA** Give thanks for all the Australian supporters who have given to support people affected by leprosy this Easter.

## Tuesday, April 28

**INDIA** In India, every four minutes one person is diagnosed with leprosy. Please be praying for people as they receive the diagnosis for the first time.

## Wednesday, April 29

**AUSTRALIA** Give thanks to God for all those Australians who have served others overseas. Pray we may continue to be a nation who cares and assists our brothers and sisters across the globe — especially those affected by leprosy, disability and poverty.

## Thursday, April 30

**INDIA** Give thanks for Dr Mary Verghese and her award-winning team at The Leprosy Mission Trust India. Pray the Indian government will continue to recognise their valuable work for people affected by leprosy and that they will continue to work together to defeat leprosy in India.