



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia

KEEPING IN TOUCH

KIT09

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Thank you for remembering Nigerians affected by leprosy living in lockdown. God bless you!

You are wonderful. Really. You are.

The Leprosy Mission distributed Australian Aid palliatives packages to people affected by leprosy and disability across Zamfara state. All made possible with your help. Thank you!

Your prayers and support for people affected by leprosy is inspiring. Shehu, Mallama, Karima and other self-help group members in Nigeria thank you so much.

Shehu is an IDEA (International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement) member, and has this heartfelt message for you:

*"Thank you so much The Leprosy Mission Australia for your support with foods items and social amenities. Armed bandit kidnappers and cattle rustlers had driven our members from their houses and from the leprosy settlement in Moriki. These people suffer from cattle rustlers and kidnappers still now. They are stranded. We are now advocating to the government in Zamfara to help us find a place for them to live. **May the almighty God reward you and God blessing be with you all. Thank you.**"*

Mallama, a Member of IDEA Yangoji, speaks of her current predicament:

"When The Leprosy Mission collaborated to get us some cartons of palliatives, the whole community shared. It was very helpful and thoughtful of them to do that. The Leprosy Mission also carried out a mobile outreach enlightening the whole community about COVID-19, its symptoms, and how to protect ourselves against it." Thank you for your prayers and support.

"We do not have face masks, hand sanitisers or enough money to buy food, let alone antibacterial soap. A person with disability suffers 10 times more than a person without disability. Our major challenge is watching our children go to bed without dinner and no hope of getting any the next day.

Please Leprosy Mission Supporters, continue to come to our aid just like you have always done, we need you more now than ever."

"Before the lockdown, we gather in our groups to carry out self-care, discuss our problems and collectively make decisions. We support one another emotionally and psychologically. But since COVID-19, we have not been able to enjoy that support. This makes life very difficult to live."

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"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

— 2 Timothy 1:7

Please pray for The Leprosy Mission team in Nigeria. Pray that they can reach these communities with aid through mobile clinics. Pray that they can provide emotional support during these unprecedented times.

Karima is the Dakwa Women's Self-Help Group leader. She told us how she's been coping with the local government restrictions:

Thanks to compassionate people like you, "Last year, The Leprosy Mission empowered me with a grinding machine. It has been very helpful in sustaining my family because the surrounding community members used to get their vegetables grinded for a token. But since the lockdown, they do not come any more. Our savings are fast dwindling, my children and husband are also at home all the time and they need to eat. We are so scared because if this continues for another week, we are doomed!"

"It has not been very easy since the government enforced the 'stay at home policy'. I cannot go anywhere for fear of been arrested and this new disease is not making things easy for me also as I and my family live in fear. All we now do at home is sleep and sleep some more."

"No one is telling us anything. Except for our

officer from The Leprosy Mission who has visited a few times."

"When one of us gets sick, we self-medicate and pray for speedy recovery. This is because the hospitals do not attend to patients with other medical conditions for fear of COVID-19. This has put us in a constant fear for our lives. It is like the world has forgotten that we exist."

Thank you that you have not forgotten people affected by leprosy and disability. Your prayers and support mean so much right now — more than ever.

Please pray that medical facilities will be open to people affected by leprosy and disability. Pray for safety and protection for Leprosy Mission workers as they travel to care for those in remote and dangerous places.

Thank you and God bless you!

If you would like to financially support people affected by leprosy in Nigeria, please contact **1800 537 767** to make a one-time gift or become a Nigeria Country Supporter for \$45 a month. Details also at: www.leprosymission.org.au/nigeria

SEPTEMBER 2020 — Your Daily Prayers

Tuesday, September 1

AUSTRALIA Give thanks for all the people who took time over the National Prayer Weekend in August to pray for people affected by leprosy. Praise God for His greatness in being able to hear and receive all those prayer requests.

Wednesday, September 2

INDIA India has more than one million confirmed cases of COVID-19. Their health system is struggling to cope. This means people with other issues, like leprosy, have found it difficult to get treatment. Please pray for all affected.

Thursday, September 3

AUSTRALIA We are thankful for all the supporters who have been praying for people affected by leprosy during these challenging times. Praise God for all those He has inspired to do this.

Friday, September 4

PAPUA NEW GUINEA There have been a low number of cases of COVID-19 in PNG. Please pray for no more cases.

Saturday, September 5

NIGERIA COVID-19 continues to be a strain on Nigeria's health resources, with over 32,000 cases. Please pray for all affected, and for wisdom for government, NGOs, and community leaders as they try and resolve it.

Sunday, September 6

THAILAND The strong early response to COVID-19 meant Thailand has had a relatively low amount of coronavirus cases. Praise God for this, and pray it remains this way.

Monday, September 7

THAILAND Pray for elderly people affected by leprosy living at the McKean Senior Centre. Give thanks for the way they meet with primary students weekly and share their stories about overcoming the challenges of leprosy and stigma.

Tuesday, September 8

GLOBAL Today is International Literacy Day. Give thanks for the advances of literacy worldwide

and the educational projects you support. Please pray for all children whose schooling has been affected by COVID-19.

Wednesday, September 9

INDIA Pray for the strengthening of The Leprosy Mission Trust India's partnerships with government and local organisations.

Thursday, September 10

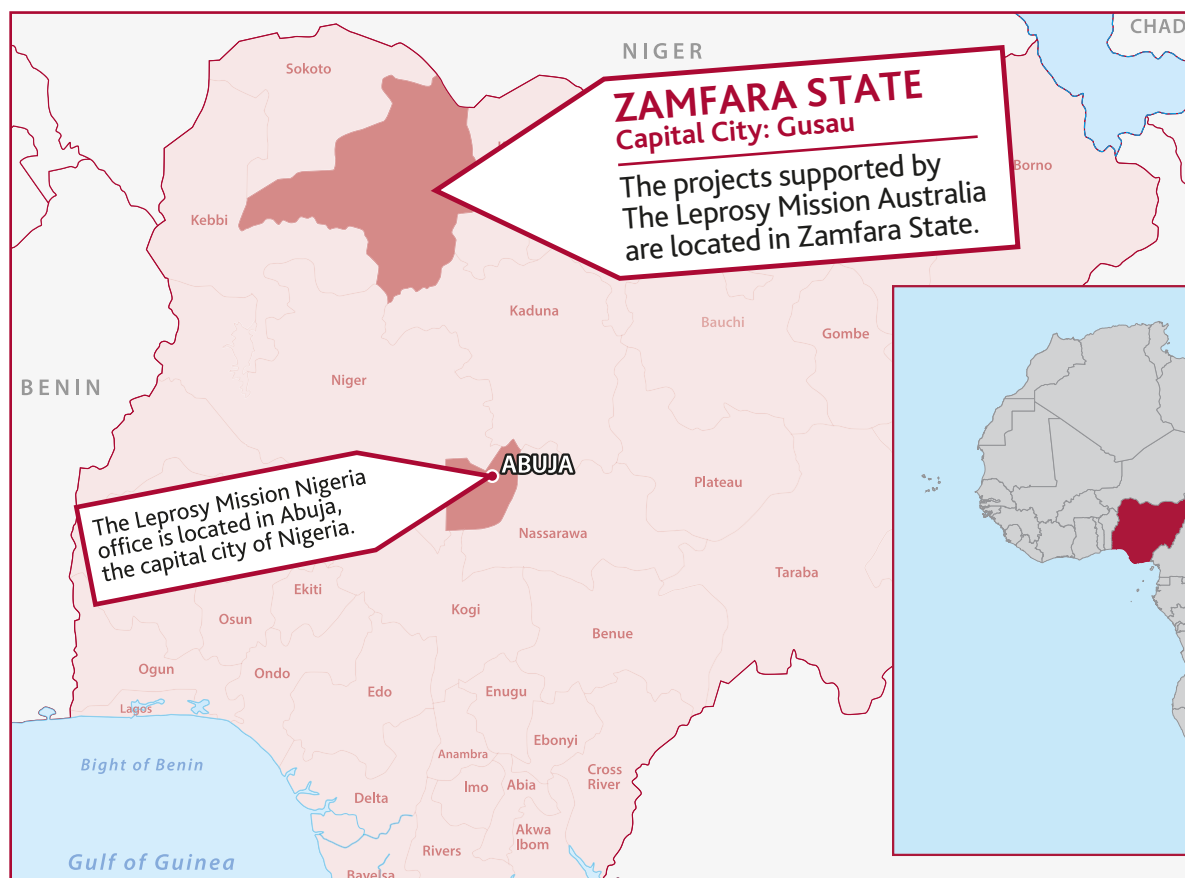
GLOBAL Today is World Suicide Prevention Day. 50% of people affected by leprosy face depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide. Please pray people affected by leprosy will receive the support they need as they live through these difficulties.

Friday, September 11

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Sustainable Livelihood Development project has 50 targeted leprosy affected communities. Please pray for the people in these areas as they participate in livelihood training and basic financial management.

» PRAYERS CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



Saturday, September 12

NIGERIA Give thanks that supporters were able to help IDEA Nigeria provide food to people affected by leprosy in Nigeria.

Sunday, September 13

NEPAL Nepal's cases of COVID-19 have increased to over 16,000. They are predicted to increase even further. Please pray for all affected, and for wisdom for government, NGOs, and community leaders as they try and resolve it.

Monday, September 14

GLOBAL In an era of increased regulation and scrutiny around fundraising, pray that as always, The Leprosy Mission will maintain its integrity and continue to hold itself to the highest standards.

Tuesday, September 15

AUSTRALIA There are still a number of COVID-19 cases in Australia. Please pray for all affected, and for wisdom for government and community leaders as they try and resolve the situation.

Wednesday, September 16

INDIA The Vocational Training Centres have trained many people affected by leprosy to run small businesses. Pray for God's hand of protection to be over all those business during these challenging times.

Thursday, September 17

INDONESIA Indonesia has over 75,000 cases of COVID-19. Please pray for all affected, and for wisdom for government, NGOs, and community leaders as they try and resolve it.

Friday, September 18

TIMOR LESTE Praise God that Timor Leste has low numbers of people suffering from COVID-19. However, there is a fear that once the border with Indonesia reopens,

this number will go up. Please pray this will not be the case.

Saturday, September 19

NIGERIA Security is still an issue for people affected by leprosy in Zamfara state. Some have lost their homes to violence. Please pray for protection, and for the security situation to become more stable.

Sunday, September 20

NEPAL As the lockdown has lifted, some Self-Help Groups have been able to meet again. Give thanks they can support each other again.

Monday, September 21

AUSTRALIA Across Australia speaking in churches has been a great way to help people know how they can love people with leprosy, like Jesus did. Please pray churches and groups would be interested in having speakers over the internet, or recorded videos during this time.

Tuesday, September 22

INDIA Please pray for the staff in The Leprosy Mission hospitals in India. They work long hours in difficult conditions. Please pray they will feel God's support for them.

Wednesday, September 23

TIMOR LESTE Give thanks that during these challenging times The Leprosy Mission has been able to continue to encourage people to come forward for treatment if they have leprosy.

Thursday, September 24

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Pray for the continued safety and security of the team and its participants as they move around PNG.

Friday, September 25

NIGERIA Please pray for Karima and her husband as they seek to survive COVID-19. Please pray for resilience and safety for their community.

Saturday, September 26

NEPAL Give thanks that The Leprosy Mission Nepal has provided training on how to stay safe during COVID-19 to Self-Help Groups of people affected by leprosy. Pray these training activities would ensure people affected by leprosy are protected.

Sunday, September 27

AUSTRALIA Give thanks for the 'skeleton staff' working tirelessly in The Leprosy Mission Box Hill office processing donations and shop orders. Pray for their health and safety. Give thanks that some staff can work successfully from home at this time.

Monday, September 28

INDONESIA The project in Indonesia is a combined partnership between The Leprosy Mission, NLR-I and the Indonesian government. Please pray this would be a fruitful partnership with benefits for people affected by leprosy.

Tuesday, September 29

GLOBAL The 'End COVID for All' campaign seeks to bring attention to the fact that while Australia has suffered from COVID-19 many other people around the world also need help. Please pray this campaign would reach the right people, so those who need help will receive it.

Wednesday, September 30

GLOBAL Please especially pray that the 'End COVID for All' campaign would make a real difference for people affected by leprosy. Around the world people affected by leprosy have found it hard to access treatment and medication as a result of COVID-19 cases overwhelming hospitals and clinics.