



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia



KEEPING IN TOUCH

KIT05

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Chandramma's a Leprosy Champion — thanks to people like you!

Chandramma never went to school. But today she stands tall with her fellow Civil Society Organisation (CSO) members, inspiring them and actively enabling them to access their rights and entitlements as people affected by leprosy and disability.

Thirty-two year old Chandramma is from a village in India. Growing up, her father spent all his money on alcohol, so he never sent her or her siblings to school. Her childhood was spent grazing buffaloes.

When Chandramma was diagnosed with leprosy at age 15, a septic wound meant that her right leg could not be saved and it was amputated. She spent two years in hospital and eventually learnt to walk with an artificial limb. She also attended The Leprosy Mission Vocational Training Centre (VTC) and learned to make bags. This meant she could then join a tailor in the village and work with him.

Thanks to people like you, Chandramma has also received training through The Leprosy Mission to become a 'Champion'. She is now Joint Secretary of the CSO, which includes 12 members affected by leprosy and 11 members with general disability. In one year, the CSO managed to provide 5 bus passes and 3 disability certificates. In the following year, Chandramma herself organised 5 toilets, including one for her home.

"I had lost hope. I thought that I had become a burden for my parents in their old age. The trainings have built my confidence and help me gain perspective in life. Today I do not think of my disability. I feel proud that I am earning, taking responsibility of the house and also helping others like me. It gives me satisfaction", says Chandramma with a gleam in her eyes.

Chandramma is a champion because she has made it a mission to help others who are affected by leprosy and/or living with disability too.

Pray that we can continue to train more Leprosy Champions like Chandramma in India to help others affected by leprosy and disability.

Thank you for your prayers and support for The Leprosy Mission's work in India. You are a Champion too!

For more stories of impact, please visit the blog:

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/your-impact/blog/>
or sign up to the KIT e-newsletter:

<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/your-impact/kit-newsletters/>

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



Brother let me be your servant...let me be as Christ to you. Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too...



By **STEVE MEREDITH**
The Leprosy Mission Australia
Board Chair

Are you passionate about transforming lives? Feel called to serve those affected by leprosy across the world? Or perhaps you know of someone looking to get involved in making leprosy a disease of the past!

The Leprosy Mission in Australia has been operating for over 100 years and as a registered charity we have a very committed and enthusiastic team of supporters, which includes an important group who are Members of The Leprosy Mission Australia National Council. This group continues to be a vital and integral part of the ongoing work of the organisation and is a valuable source of knowledge, wisdom and relationships that reflect our long and successful history.

The key roles of this group are to:

1. Own and work towards the vision of The Leprosy Mission Australia
2. Own and support the mission of The Leprosy Mission Australia
3. Share the history and learnings of The Leprosy Mission Australia
4. Elect the board members, hold them to account and encourage them in their work
5. Ultimately, when in God's providence the work and mission is completed, decide the future of the organisation

The National Council comprises a maximum of 40 members, made up of no more than 22 General Representatives and 18 State Representatives from six States.

We currently have vacancies for both General and State Representatives and are seeking nominations and expressions of interest from people who are eager to contribute to the work of the mission in this way. Having an active, involved and supportive National Council is a critical 'cornerstone' for our organisation as it seeks to expand its work to achieve a world without leprosy.

Our existing National Council Members make a large contribution to the momentum behind the mission and play an integral part in activating a valuable group of volunteers, donors and churches through local events and prayer support.

To find out how to get involved go to:
<https://www.leprosymission.org.au/national-council-members/> for more information.

Thank you for your faithful support. At a time when we are facing an unprecedented global health crisis due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), your heart for people affected by leprosy is a blessing now more than ever. I do hope you are keeping and feeling safe at this difficult time. Thank you and God bless!

Regional Round-up

March 2020

Welcome to the TLMA family, Andrew!

We are pleased to welcome Andrew Newmarch as your new International Programs Manager at The Leprosy Mission Australia.

Andrew comes to us from a long career in World Vision Australia.

And we asked him to share a little about himself with you...

"I am married to Ruth, the Associate Minister at St Thomas Anglican church in Burwood, Victoria. Ruth and I are both 'missionary kids'. Ruth growing up in south India and I growing up in Sabah (North Borneo) and then in Sydney. We have four sons, 3 of whom are married and have 5 grandchildren, all living in Melbourne and active in their various churches.

My earlier working life was in the federal public service in Canberra where most of that time was spent as a Parliamentary Officer in the House of Representatives. Interesting fact: I worked in both the old House and the new House on the hill.

Going to uni in the late 70s meant that social change and social justice were important issues. My background living overseas had given me a taste of and interest in other peoples. Thus when I moved to Canberra and started leading a youth group I linked up with TEAR Australia as they seemed to be grappling with these issues and doing it from a Biblical perspective. That led to an opportunity to work full-time doing this with another NGO. I've been blessed to see a lot and learn a lot from that time.

I am interested in promoting the flourishing of people, discerning ways in which people can realise at least some of their potential and view more life to the full. I want to capture the stories and share how we can understand what leads to people being marginalized but also how people emerge from that. It makes such a difference when we know people's circumstances with more depth.



Your new International Programs Manager, Andrew Newmarch.

Coming to The Leprosy Mission provides an opportunity to have another shot at doing that. I hope our team can share some stories that illustrate God's grace in people's lives and help you pray in a more informed way."

Praise God for His perfect timing and the provision of an International Programs Manager. Pray He will continue to walk along side Andrew and guide him in all his ways.

Please note: Due to precautionary COVID-19 health measures, The Leprosy Mission Australia will not be running the monthly prayer meeting at the Box Hill office, or anywhere else, until further notice.

We encourage you to still set time aside to pray wherever you are located. Our team is also happy to pray with or for you, please contact 1800 537 767 during office hours or email: engage@leprosymission.org.au

MAY 2020 — Your Daily Prayers

Friday, May 1

GLOBAL The World Health Organisation's Global Leprosy Strategy 2016-20 is in its fourth year. Praise God for successes to date and pray this strategy will continue to influence governments.

Saturday, May 2

INDIA Among communicable diseases leprosy is a leading cause of disabilities. Please pray for early diagnosis and prompt treatment.

Sunday, May 3

TIMOR LESTE Give thanks for The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste's Board. Pray for wisdom for them all (which includes Australia's Dr Colin Martin).

Monday, May 4

AUSTRALIA Give thanks for the work the National Council has done maintaining the vision of Australians to help people affected by leprosy.

Tuesday, May 5

AUSTRALIA As you read the article in this month's KIT about National Council nominations please pray and ask God if you, or someone you know, might be called to nomination.

Wednesday, May 6

GLOBAL Give thanks for the openness and generosity of spirit amongst The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship to share resources, as it saves money and utilises resources more effectively.

Thursday, May 7

AUSTRALIA Usually on the first Thursday of every month between 10 and 11 am is a time of prayer for supporters and staff in the Box Hill office in Victoria. Please pray that although we cannot meet today – we are united in hearts, prayers and spirits.

Friday, May 8

GLOBAL Today is a day of *Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War*. We also remember in prayerful sadness the 39 people murdered on 11 July 1943 off the island of Nauru because they had leprosy.

Saturday, May 9

INDIA Give thanks for how God has worked in Chandramma's life [*KIT cover story*], enabling her to help others affected by leprosy.

Sunday, May 10

AUSTRALIA Mother's Day. Please remember all the mother's worried for their children affected by leprosy.

Monday, May 11

RESEARCH Give thanks for the research work in Bangladesh. Pray the plans to increase capacity will bring great insights into leprosy, and its treatment.

Tuesday, May 12

NIGERIA Give thanks for the work of the Integrated Neglected Tropical Diseases project which saw the rates of people affected by leprosy who already had a disability fall.

Wednesday, May 13

NEPAL Give thanks for the World class research into early diagnostic tests, leprosy drug resistance and new drugs taking place at the lab in Anandaban hospital.

Thursday, May 14

GLOBAL Pray for all health workers and policy makers as they continue to deal with the consequences of COVID-19. Pray for wisdom, energy and skill.

Friday, May 15

GLOBAL Today is *International Day of Families*. Give thanks for family members, and their role in contributing to each other's lives.

Saturday, May 16

THAILAND Please pray for the non-Thai leprosy patients who had to leave McKean last year. Pray they have been able to complete their Multi-Drug Therapy and receive non-judgemental care.

Sunday, May 17

TIMOR LESTE Pray for the wellbeing of the team who support Self Help Groups through the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) project.

Monday, May 18

AUSTRALIA From the 18-24th of May is National Volunteer Week. We are thankful for the many volunteers who give their time serving people affected by leprosy.

Tuesday, May 19

NIGERIA Pray for the successful training for volunteers to recognise Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) so that more cases of leprosy are diagnosed early.

Wednesday, May 20

NEPAL Give thanks for Self Help Group training that develops skills and has deep community impact.

Thursday, May 21

GLOBAL Today many celebrate Jesus' ascension into Heaven, and His promise in Acts 1:8 that the power of the

Holy Spirit will come upon His disciples. Pray the power of the Holy Spirit will be working through field staff, prayer supporters, and donors of The Leprosy Mission to be bringing about Jesus' kingdom.

Friday, May 22

INDIA Pray that Leprosy Mission hospitals would be able to purchase medication for people affected by leprosy at cost effective prices.

Saturday, May 23

INDONESIA Please pray for the team's safety as they conduct contact tracing of those affected by leprosy.

Sunday, May 24

AUSTRALIA Give thanks for the many faithful volunteers who have served on the National Council and Board. Pray for continued wisdom for current members.

Monday, May 25

GLOBAL Pray for a time in the coming months where we can begin to implement of The Leprosy Mission Global Advocacy strategy.

Tuesday, May 26

NEPAL Pray for Dr Deanna Hagge (who heads up the research lab and the team who do research) and for good funding opportunities.

Wednesday, May 27

AUSTRALIA Give thanks for God's provision of Andrew Newmarch to serve in the international programs team.

Thursday, May 28

INDIA Praise God! He has helped The Leprosy Mission Hospitals be a blessing to patients and people from marginalised communities.

Friday, May 29

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Give thanks for everyone who gave generously to the Easter appeal to ensure children like Heizen in Papua New Guinea will receive healing, care and restoration in the name of Jesus.

Saturday, May 30

INDIA There is a need for more medical professionals and others to work in The Leprosy Mission Hospitals. Pray God will provide doctors and staff.

Sunday, May 31

GLOBAL Praise God! It's Pentecost Sunday when many celebrate God's sending of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name to empower Christians to take the Good News to the ends of the Earth.