

# Nepal

'Following the operation on her foot 21-year-old Sangita can now walk without limping. She looks confident in her appearance and stature. She says that now she will be able to carry out the responsibilities of her household,' story from Anadaban Hospital, Nepal



Two children of leprosy-affected parents received 'muda' training (making traditional stools) so they can earn money to support their family

to travel long distances to reach remote villages. Add to this, the fuel shortages in Nepal and the social and political unrest, and travelling can become quite dangerous. Pray for God's peace and protection on these teams.

### Friday 28

**Relationships:** One of the challenges for LMN is to develop services closer to where patients and those in need live, providing them with better access to health care. LMN needs the support of the Nepali government in order to achieve this. Pray for a strong relationship between LMN and the government.

### Saturday 29 / Sunday 30

**Peace:** Nepal continues to face many challenges – although democracy has been restored, the Prime Minister has a massive task ahead of him. There are growing ethnic divisions, fuel shortages and high inflation. These tensions can make it difficult for TLM and its partners to carry out their work safely and effectively. Pray for peace and stability to be re-established.

# Promotional Work

'O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvellous things, things planned long ago,' Isaiah 25:1



## Aug-Sep Week 36

### Monday 31

**TLM Nigeria** is continuing its promotional initiative across churches in Nigeria to recruit Christian supporters who will pray and donate finances. Pray for God's strength and wisdom for the team as they extend the recruitment outside Niger State and the Federal Capital Territory into Kogi and Kwara States.



A World Leprosy Day march in Mozambique 2008

### September

#### Tuesday 1

**TLM Zimbabwe:** Pray for strength and encouragement for National Director

Dan Izzett and his wife Babs as they keep trusting God to supply their needs for the work to continue. Please pray that people affected by leprosy will not be forgotten in a land that is so troubled.

#### Wednesday 2

Thank God for support groups in **Spain, Portugal and Singapore** who raise much-needed awareness, prayer and donations in their countries for TLM's leprosy work. Ask that God will encourage them today and raise up new Board members and volunteers to carry the work forward.

### Thursday 3

**American Leprosy Missions:** In view of economic factors in the US, pray for ALM as they seek to increase financial resources for leprosy programmes and projects. May God grant increasing success to their fundraising appeals, and 'Deliver the Cure' campaign, through direct mail, TV and internet.

### Friday 4

**Uphold TLM South Africa's** church outreach on Sunday 13 September: letters are sent to remind church leaders of the reality of leprosy. Ask for prayer support and donations, and for opportunities to present an update on leprosy work. Pray for a warm and generous response from many churches and individuals.

### Saturday 5 / Sunday 6

**TLM India** seeks to combat the false news that leprosy is completely eradicated in India by conducting awareness campaigns in schools, churches and local communities. Pray for all events planned from September to November, as well as mailing campaigns through corporate partners – may God bless their efforts and all who take part.

## August Week 35

### FACTFILE

ONLY 39% OF THE POPULATION OF NEPAL HAVE ADEQUATE SANITARY FACILITIES

### Monday 24

**Services: Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre (LLSC)** aims to improve basic services for leprosy-affected and marginalised people. Pray for the health centre staff as they look at broadening the scope of their work so that they can better address priority health needs of the population, and attempt to become more self-sustaining.

### Tuesday 25

**Disability:** About 30,000 leprosy-affected people in Nepal have some kind of disability. Pray for **Leprosy Mission Nepal (LMN)** as it looks at developing better strategies to equip and empower people with disabilities for more independent living.

### Wednesday 26

**Groups:** Praise God that, during 2008, many self-help groups were established in and around the districts where LMN works. These groups are made of leprosy- and disability-affected and marginalised people; together they save money to support individual or group business ventures. Pray for the continued success of these groups.

### Thursday 27

**Travel:** The community outreach teams from LLSC have



A young patient at Anadaban Hospital, Nepal

# Countries in crisis

*'Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns,"* Revelation 19:6

## September Week 37

**FACTFILE**  
SOME 2.5 BILLION PEOPLE, ALMOST HALF THE DEVELOPING WORLD'S POPULATION, LIVE WITHOUT IMPROVED SANITATION (UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL'S REPORT, 2008)

### Monday 7

**Strength:** Political struggle and unrest can mean that people who need medical or economic help don't receive it. Pray that all those connected to TLM – whether patients, beneficiaries or staff – will know God's protection throughout times of upheaval.

### Tuesday 8

**Bangladesh:** Due to its low-lying position, this country is prone to severe flooding every year. This can affect thousands of people, destroying harvests and homes. Pray that government improvements in health and education will continue. And ask that God will protect people from the worst of the flooding.

### Wednesday 9

**Zimbabwe:** Ask God for greater political, social and economic stability in this country. Pray that Christians will provide a strong witness here and that many lives will be transformed through TLM and through God's Word.

### Thursday 10

**India:** Although the economy is growing fast, there are still some underlying political and religious tensions. Last year, several bomb blasts caused death and



Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis, May 2008

injury. And there were reports of violence in some parts of the country against Christians. Pray for Christians here to be strong in their faith and ask that God will bring peace.

### Friday 11

**Niger** is the world's poorest and one of the world's least developed countries. It has an arid climate and drought is common. Pray for TLM staff and cross-cultural workers living in this environment. Pray that they will have wisdom about how to make a lasting difference to the poorest of the poor.

### Saturday 12 / Sunday 13

**Help:** 'I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth,' Psalm 121:1-2. Pray for a specific country on your heart. Ask that God will reveal himself to people there as the one they can turn to in all their troubles.

# Breaking the cycle of stigma

- The opportunity of a good education is one young girl's path to freedom from years of discrimination

**L**i Yuqing is a bright 12-year-old girl with an engaging smile. Until recently, she had never been to school.

She was born and brought up in a leprosy colony in a village in Diqing, China. Neither she nor her parents have had leprosy. And yet, because her grandparents had the disease, Li Yuqing's family's life has been tied to the colony, and to the stigma of leprosy.

When the schools close to her village found out about Li Yuqing's background, they refused to take her. And so, like the other children in the colony, Li Yuqing had no chance of an education, and no opportunity to break this cycle of poverty and stigma which has oppressed her family.

A school was built in the village, specifically for children from the colony. But those trying to help underestimated the power of stigma; no teacher was willing to come. The building remains unused.

Then, thanks to a TLM-supported project, Li Yuqing was invited to attend a school in the provincial capital which welcomes disadvantaged children. All her living expenses and transportation fees are covered. Though the school is many miles from her home, she is able, thanks to the project, to visit her parents and her younger sister during the holidays and so the family tie remains strong.

Li Yuqing is about to enter grade four – she can read and write and speaks standard Mandarin fluently. She is growing up in a stigma-free environment, with children from all kinds of backgrounds, where she is accepted and loved and taught good moral values.

Not only that, she has the prospect of continuing her studies to a high level. She can be hopeful about the future and the kind of life she will be able to lead. More opportunities will now open up for her. And she is helping, not only to break the cycle of poverty that has ensnared her family for three generations, but to break the vicious cycle of stigma.

Li Yuqing on her way to her new school



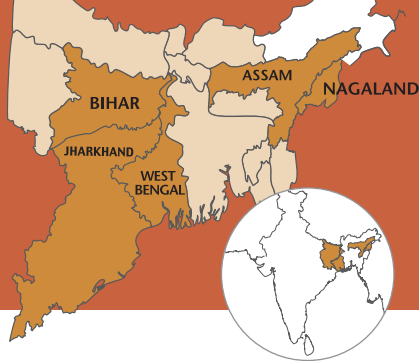
Li Yuqing (second from left) with her family in the leprosy village



# North East India

Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Nagaland, West Bengal

'Soma completed her one year training in knitting and tailoring at Bankura VTC. Then she was selected to go to Russia to work in a garment factory. She has a dream to make her mother happy and to send her money so that she never has to beg again'



# Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste

'The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace,' Psalm 29:11



Tribal dancers in Papua New Guinea

## September Week 38

### FACTFILE

AGRICULTURE  
ACCOUNTS FOR  
MORE THAN A  
THIRD OF ASSAM'S  
INCOME AND  
EMPLOYS 69% OF  
THE WORKFORCE

### Monday 14

**Healing:** In Purulia, West Bengal, the prevalence of leprosy is still high – two cases per 10,000 population. TLM's hospital here is a specialist centre for leprosy and the complications associated with it such as reaction, neuritis and ulcers. Pray that in-patients, who have lengthy stays in hospital, will respond well to treatment.

### Tuesday 15

**Training:** The Bill Edgar Memorial Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Bankura, West Bengal, trained 175 students last year in eight different trades. This year the VTC will offer an Office Assistant course for the first time. Pray for students to excel in their studies. Remember Mr Shailesh Nathaniel, the Principal, as he oversees staff and pupils.

### Wednesday 16

**Elderly:** The Snehalaya (care home) at Purulia Hospital cares for 15 residents with disabilities. Some have lost their sight due to leprosy. Pray for the ophthalmologist and nurses who look after the blind patients; ask that they will know how best to care for these elderly leprosy-affected people.

### Thursday 17

**Awareness: Saldoha Community Health Project,** based at Saldoha Hospital, Jharkhand, raises awareness about communicable diseases, including leprosy. Praise God that the number of malarial deaths in this region has been reduced. Pray for the success of the HIV/Aids awareness programme that has started this year.

### Friday 18

**Flooding:** Each year Muzaffarpur in Bihar is badly affected by flooding. TLM's Empowering Women Project is setting up a Flood Disaster Rehabilitation project this year – pray that it will be effective and that it will help to prevent loss of life, livelihoods and homes.

### Saturday 19 / Sunday 20

**Health: Makunda Christian Leprosy Hospital** in Assam, a partner project of TLM, is starting new community health projects in towns and villages where there are currently no medical facilities. Pray for the success of this endeavour and for more medical staff to join the team.

## September Week 39



TLM Staff in Timor Leste travelling to remote villages

### Monday 21

**Families: Through the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR)** project in Timor Leste, there has been improvement in mobility for disabled individuals through regular exercises and advice to families. Give thanks for the willingness of families to contribute to the healing and rehabilitation of their loved ones.

### Tuesday 22

**Training:** Give thanks that, for the first time, a national review of leprosy and refresher training was conducted in the Oecusse district of Timor Leste where there is still much leprosy. Field visits and surveys resulted in 13 new cases detected during the two weeks.

### Wednesday 23

**Links: The TLM Timor Leste Community-based Rehabilitation Enablement Project** operates in three districts: Baucau, Suai and Oecusse. As well as treating people with leprosy, the project treats people with disabilities and mental health problems. Give thanks for the links with the Capacity Building Project and pray that they will continue to benefit each other.

### FACTFILE

ONLY HALF OF ALL  
WOMEN AND TWO-  
THIRDS OF ALL MEN  
AGED 15 YEARS AND  
OLDER IN PNG HAVE  
EVER ATTENDED  
SCHOOL

### Thursday 24

**Health:** Pray for the staff and patients at the Bougainville Healthy Communities Project in Papua New Guinea. The project assists people in the Bougainville province to identify and take action on health issues in their families and villages in order to develop a healthier community.

### Friday 25

**Attitudes:** In Timor Leste, the Capacity Building Project plans to carry out a health survey of community attitudes towards leprosy and disability. Pray for the implementation of the survey and that responses will be honest and useful to help with the development of appropriate materials and activities.

### Saturday 26 / Sunday 27

**Peace:** Timor Leste, especially Dili, experienced considerable political and social unrest in 2007, with Christians in particular facing hostilities. Pray that our brothers and sisters in Christ will know God's presence and peace. Pray for staff as they travel throughout the district. Give thanks for the improving security situation.

# Bangladesh

*'I have benefited in many ways – I am cured from the disease, I have a new leg, I am able to walk and I am doing my own business – this is great!'* Aslam, a leprosy-affected beneficiary of the TLM-supported Salvation Army Urban Health and Development project in Dhaka



# Cross-Cultural Staff

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength ... Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these,'* Mark 12:30-32



Helen Nixon plastering a patient's leg in Niger

## Sep-Oct Week 40

### Monday 28

**Growth:** Pray for the staff of TLM's **Chittagong Community Based Rehabilitation** project as they take on more responsibilities – the scope of this project will expand during 2009 to include more leprosy-affected people in this south-east region of Bangladesh.

### Tuesday 29

**Dignity: The Extreme Poverty Initiative Project's** goal is that people disabled by leprosy in four districts will live above the extreme poverty line. Remember people who are severely disabled, and ask that the project can assist them in regaining their dignity.

### Wednesday 30

**Infrastructure:** Pray for the various building projects in the planning stages or being carried out in Bangladesh over the next year. Pray for **DBLM Hospital's** new administration building under construction. In the **Urban Health and Development Unit** in Mirpur, pray for the construction of adequate water and sanitation facilities.

### FACTFILE

45% OF THE POPULATION LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE



Self-care at TLM's DBLM Hospital, Nilphamari

Photo by Georgina Cranston

### October

#### Thursday 1

**Self-sufficient:** Praise God for his support of the **Dhaka Programme** of TLM Bangladesh. Pray for the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) groups and the capacity-building work they are doing – in particular for the training, orientations and workshops they are running to enable individuals and groups to become self-sufficient.

#### Friday 2

**Students:** Pray for the staff member responsible for **CREAD** (Children's Rehabilitation through Education and Development) in Dhaka. Since 2002, the project has provided educational support to leprosy-affected children. Lift up the 196 students currently supported by the project and pray for their futures.

#### Saturday 3 / Sunday 4

**Partnership:** Give thanks for the effective relationships that the **Dhaka Leprosy Control Project** has with the government of Bangladesh and with various NGOs and CBR groups. Pray that over the next year these relationships will deepen and increase in effectiveness.

## October Week 41

### Monday 5

**UK:** Jannine Ebenso, Physiotherapist, is based in the UK while her husband, Dr Bassej Ebenso, former Nigeria Country Leader, studies for his PhD at Leeds University. Pray for protection for Jannine as she travels extensively in her role as Prevention of Disability and Rehabilitation Officer, as part of TLM's Global Support Network.

### Tuesday 6

**DR Congo:** Pray for Angelika Piefer, occupational therapist, working in DR Congo as Advisor for Disability with TLM and Government staff. Give thanks for the many years Angelika has worked for TLM in the East Asia Pacific region and in Africa and pray for her protection as she travels within DR Congo.

### Wednesday 7

**Chad:** Give thanks for Geeske Zijp who has worked for TLM in Africa for many years both in DR Congo and in Chad where she currently works in prevention of disability and leprosy control. Pray for Geeske as she lives and works with the local people in Mongo and ask the Lord for his protection at times of political upheaval in Chad.



Bunmi and Loveth with their children Blessing and God's Favour, Niger

### Thursday 8

**Thailand:** We rejoice with Trevor and Heather Smith as they celebrate 40 years of working with TLM in Thailand. We give thanks for their continuing service at McKean Rehabilitation Centre and pray that they will know the Lord's leading and guiding as they look to him for their future.

### Friday 9

**Niger:** Pray for Helen Nixon, occupational therapist from Australia, working in the area of prevention of disability in Niger. Pray for the Lord's strength and protection for Helen as she works with her colleagues in Danja. Pray too for Dr Tony Mwenyemali, from DR Congo, a doctor in the hospital. Give thanks for his skills and willingness to serve in Niger.

### Saturday 10 / Sunday 11

**Niger:** Bunmi Oluloto is the Director at the CSL hospital in Danja, Niger, and has the responsibility of running the CSL hospital. Please pray for wisdom for Bunmi and pray too for Loveth, his wife, and their children as they spend this time away from their home in Nigeria.