

South & South East India

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu

'I and all my family are very grateful to CROSS/TLM for initiating and changing our life in ways we never expected,' Mrs Gopabai, a leprosy-affected woman who received a loan from the CROSS Leprosy, Disability, Awareness and Advocacy programme to open a small shop



Aug-Sep Week 35

Top right: A patient at Philadelphia Leprosy Hospital, Salur



Students at Platinum Vocational Training Centre, Vizianagaram

Mon 29 August

Community: St Paul's Trust a partner project of TLM, works in the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. This year the staff are planning to build more houses for leprosy-affected families. Pray for the smooth running of this initiative. Pray too that the patients with HIV/Aids that St Paul's Trust cares for will receive healing and be comforted by the Lord.

Tues 30 August

Education: Give thanks for the work of **Platinum Vocational Training Centre (VTC)** in Vizianagaram as it enables young adults from a leprosy background to learn a trade and skills for life. Pray for Mr Gabriel Pani, the principal. Ask that God will direct him and give him clear vision. Also pray that the students will adjust well to their new environment.

Weds 31 August

Health: Philadelphia Leprosy Mission Hospital in Salur, Andhra Pradesh, provides care for leprosy patients along with general health care, particularly for disadvantaged people in tribal villages and the slums of Salur. Pray that the hospital will have all the finances it needs to provide its services. Pray that staff will have success in motivating leprosy patients to stick to their prescribed treatment.

September

Thurs 1 September

Care: Pray for Samson Yama, project co-ordinator of **The Leprosy Colony Community Development Project**, Raichur, which aims to bring transformation to the lives of leprosy-affected people. Pray for government funds to be released so that the infrastructure of the leprosy colony can be improved.

Fri 2 September

Stigma: The **CROSS Leprosy, Disability, Awareness and Advocacy programme** operates across four southern States. It aims to reduce stigma towards leprosy and disability through counselling and awareness raising. Pray for director Mr S Sripatham. Pray that the children who receive school scholarships through the project will be motivated to study hard and gain a good education.

Sat 3 / Sun 4 Sep

Education: TLM supports **Brighter Future Development Trust** in Vizianagaram which provides medical, educational and spiritual support to leprosy-affected families, particularly to children. Pray that the education the children receive will make a big difference to their future prospects.

Photos by Peter Lemieux

Nigeria

'I will forever remain grateful to TLM for standing with me in my hour of need, to ensure that today I am empowered academically to be a useful person to my family and the community,' Rabi'u, a son of leprosy-affected parents who received educational support from TLM to study health care at university



Brazil and the Philippines

'Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint,' Isaiah 40: 30-31



September Week 36

Top right: Kulu, left, received treatment for leprosy from Amanawa Hospital

FACTFILE
IN NIGERIA 1 IN 5
CHILDREN DIE
BEFORE THE AGE
OF 5

Mon 5 September

Progress: Praise the Lord for the involvement of the International Church in Abuja, a TLM Nigeria partner, which has been visiting, praying and donating to former-leprosy patients in Yangoji special village. Give thanks that Miss Constance Omoudu, the socio-economic development officer, has made progress in involving government agencies in poverty reduction and working with the villagers in Yangoji.

Tues 6 September

Travel: TLM Nigeria's rehabilitation, physiotherapy and leprosy control team in **Sokoto State** will be travelling many times this year. Pray for journey mercies and for God's protection on them as they travel. Pray too for TLM-supported Amanawa Hospital; that it will have the funds and resources it needs to provide good quality services.

Weds 7 September

Micro-loans: One of the main priorities of TLM's work in **Kebbi State** is to promote the socio-economic development (SED) of leprosy-affected people. Pray for Mr Mainas Ayuba, the SED facilitator here. Pray for all those benefitting from vocational training and micro-credit loans. Pray that God will give them wisdom as they endeavour to start small businesses.

Thurs 8 September

Advocacy: Pray for the success of IDEA, a grassroots organisation of leprosy-affected people, in **Zamfara State**. Pray that it will empower people affected by leprosy or general disabilities to advocate for their rights with the local government. Pray too for Mr Shehu S Fada, the rehabilitation officer working here, that he will bring hope and support to those he works with.

Fri 9 September

Health: Pray that the TLM Nigeria team working in **Sokoto State** will build good relationships with other NGOs working in the area. Pray too that the State government will continue to recognise the invaluable role of Amanawa Hospital, which provides quality leprosy services. Pray for increasing government participation in the overall wellbeing of patients and the hospital generally.

Sat 10 / Sun 11 September

Dignity: In **Kogi State** TLM works with villagers of Oyi leprosy settlement. Thank God that the socio-economic development initiatives in Oyi have led to great improvements in the self-esteem and dignity of people-affected by leprosy; they are being empowered to provide for themselves and their families.

September Week 37

Top right: Philippine Leprosy Mission distributes devotional materials to residents of Wester Visayas Leprosy Sanitarium

FACTFILE
MORE THAN 7,000
ISLANDS MAKE UP
THE PHILIPPINES,
BUT THE BULK OF
ITS FAST-GROWING
POPULATION LIVES ON
JUST 11 OF THEM

Mon 12 September

Brazil: Pray for Linda Lehman. Linda works as technical director of the national prevention of disability training project in Brazil. She is TLM/ALM's (American Leprosy Missions) representative in the country. Pray for good relationships with all government workers and other NGO staff.

Tues 13 September

Brazil: ALM/TLM provide leadership and technical support to **IDEA Brazil**, a grassroots organisation for leprosy-affected people. Pray that ALM/TLM will be able to help IDEA to establish a strong foundation from which future work with community groups can develop and be sustained in two States – Mato Grosso and Mato Gross do Sul.

Weds 14 September

Philippines: Pray for the Philippine Leprosy Mission Community Service Development Programme which facilitates: an alternative learning system for 50 out-of-school young people in three leprosy villages; income-generating projects for Hansen's (leprosy) Clubs in two hospitals in Metro Manila; and establishment of Hansen's support groups in two provinces.

Thurs 15 September

Brazil: Zilda Borges is IDEA's president for International Advocacy and is based in Brazil. Pray that Zilda and **IDEA Brazil** will, together, be able to develop, write, implement, monitor and evaluate projects. Pray for greater resources so that they can develop and expand work in more communities of leprosy-affected people.

Fri 16 September

Philippines: Pray for the **Philippine Leprosy Mission** Initiated Leprosy Activities (PILA) which will be expanded to four leprosy-endemic districts in Ilocos Sur in 2011. The project involves grade school and high school students in pre-screening family members for skin conditions. Those suspected of having skin diseases are invited to skin consultations conducted by government health clinics where further tests are done.

Sat 17 / Sun 18 September

Brazil: Pray that God will give clear direction to the decision makers within TLM/ALM as they consider the future of the work in Brazil. Pray for clear discernment as they look at potential projects that ALM/TLM could support and for adequate technical and financial support to implement the project successfully.



Members of a men's self-help group in Sokoto

Nepal

'I live alone but now I know that if I get ill, or if anything happens to me, the group will come to find out what the matter is and they will help me. Now I don't need to worry so much,' Self-help group member, Nepal



September Week 38



Above and top right:
A family in Nepal outside
their new low-cost home

Mon 19 September

Treatment: Give thanks for Hugh Cross, country leader for TLM Nepal. One of Leprosy Mission Nepal's roles is to provide training and technical support on leprosy at a government level. Pray for Mr Gopal Pokhrel, the training officer and Mr Indra Bahadur Tamang, the training supervisor, as they work to create greater awareness about leprosy.

Tues 20 September

Staff: Give thanks for Dr Elisa Yule, the project leader for the **Socio-Economic Rehabilitation** project which aims to improve the quality of life of leprosy-affected people. Praise God for Mrs Sulochana Shrestha and Mrs Pradipa Adhikari, two recent additions to the project staff. Pray for safety and good health for all staff as they often travel to remote districts.

Weds 21 September

Inclusion: Nepal Leprosy Fellowship staff actively support the formation of disabled peoples' organisations; people affected by leprosy and other disabilities join together to co-operate in income generation and social development activities. Pray that more leprosy-affected people will be included in general disability groups so they can receive government benefits and services.

Thurs 22 September

Stigma: Uphold Lalgadh's **Stigma Elimination Programme** (STEP) working to prevent or reduce disabilities and stigma in four districts in Nepal. Pray for this project as it aims to increase the social and economic integration of leprosy-affected people into their communities. Pray too for effective outreach of the prevention-of-disability satellite clinics, bringing leprosy services closer to patients.

Fri 23 September

Finances: Pray for Dr Paul Roche, superintendent of **Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre**, and staff as they seek to equip patients for community living. Funding is a major concern this year. The combination of reduced international funding and high local inflation led to a substantial deficit in 2010 – pray for a large increase in finances.

Sat 24 / Sun 25 September

Relationships: The **CEDAR project** seeks to improve the quality of life of leprosy-affected people. Pray for good relationships between those benefitting from the project and others in their communities – may stigma be reduced and relationships strengthened. Pray that people affected by leprosy will have greater participation in community activities.

North East India

Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Nagaland,
West Bengal

Thank you brother for the support for our children's education. Due to your project initiatives many of us received the widow's pension and old age pension. God bless all of you, a village elder commenting on the Sunderban Community Development project in West Bengal



Sep-Oct Week 39

Top right: TLM gave Dipnarayan from Muzaffarpur a small loan to start his rickshaw business



A woman's self-help group in Muzaffarpur

Photos by
Georgina Cranston

Mon 26 September

Staff: Pray that the students at **Bill Edgar Vocational Training Centre (VTC)** in Bankura, West Bengal, will enjoy good health and will be able to complete their courses; the students have either had leprosy themselves or a member of their family has. Pray also for the new staff members at the VTC – the principal, business manager and placement officer.

Tues 27 September

Self-care: In Bihar state many people are illiterate. This includes many of the leprosy-affected people that **TLM's Muzaffarpur Hospital** serves. Pray that the leprosy patients at the hospital who are unable to read or write will understand the importance of self-care (looking after insensitive hands and feet), and that staff will find creative ways to communicate this with them.

Weds 28 September

Strategy: **TLM's Premananda Hospital** in Kolkata is intending to improve its outpatient services this year by providing diabetic and general medical care. Pray for staff involved in this as they develop a strategy and open up the hospital to more residents of the surrounding communities.

Thurs 29 September

Elderly: **TLM's Hospital** in Purulia

runs a Snehalya (care home for elderly leprosy-disabled people). Pray that God will use Sylvia Nanda and Ajay Mishra, two counsellors who work with the residents, to bring healing. Pray also for the ophthalmologist and nurses who look after the blind patients who live here.

Fri 30 September

Integration: **Saldoha Leprosy and General hospital** in Jharkhand works to improve the lives of poor and needy patients in the area. Pray for the staff, the patients and their families, that all will be aware of God's presence in this hospital. Pray too for the success of a new initiative to follow up leprosy patients once they have returned home to see how well they are integrating into community life.

October

Sat 1 / Sun 2 October

Poverty: The **Sunderban Community Development Project** aims to uplift the socio-economic condition of the most socially excluded and marginalised people in south Kolkata and other districts in West Bengal. Pray for Prithi Raj Chakraborty, the deputy programme manager. Pray that through the work of this project many people will be able to access resources from the government or other agencies.