

Disability

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that disabled people make up 10 per cent of the global population – around 650 million people



A tricycle race as part of World Leprosy Day events in Ethiopia

Nov-Dec Week 48

FACTFILE

80% OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



A mobility aid for a young boy in Niger

Mon 28 November

Guidelines: Pray for Jannine Ebenso, Global Disability Adviser (based at TLM International) as she helps TLM projects around the world with all issues related to disability. Guidelines need to be written and advice given as the need arises. Pray that the training material she produces will be useful.

Tues 29 November

Physio: In most countries national staff are in positions previously held by cross-cultural staff. Praise God that at the leprosy referral hospital in Macenta, Guinea, Cécé Soropogui has taken over responsibility for the physiotherapy services. As he is the only trained physiotherapist in the country, we are very pleased to have him working with us.

Weds 30 November

Self-care: Around the world we have self-care groups for people affected by leprosy. The aim of these groups is to help members to prevent new ulcers developing. Pray for Adamou Idi (Niger), Lawrence Tolumuyiwa (Nigeria), Philippe Guilavogui (Guinea), and Ramesh Chaudhary (Nepal) as they co-ordinate self-care group activities.

December

Thurs 1 December

Church: In some countries disabled people are excluded from the church in various ways. Thank God for the work Erna Moller (TLM South Africa) has done in encouraging the churches there to be inclusive and to ensure that disabled Christians are able to worship freely along with non-disabled Christians.

Fri 2 December

Surgery: For some people, the impairments they have can be helped with surgery. Pray for surgeons like Jerry Joshua (India) who carry out the surgeries and for physiotherapists like Eric Ilenikhena (Nigeria) who prepare the patients before surgery and help rehabilitate the patients afterwards.

Sat 3 / Sun 4 December

Training: TLM staff are involved in training government, church and others in disability prevention and management. Pray for Angelika Piefer (DR Congo), Bob Bowers (Bangladesh), Natalie Smith (Timor Leste) and Anne Roberts (Ethiopia) as they carry out their training duties. Pray that their students will put into practice what they learn.

Myanmar & Thailand

'The national figure of WHO grade 2 disability among newly detected leprosy cases in Myanmar is reported to be 13.1%. There is an estimated 80 to 90,000 people affected by leprosy who have grade 2 disability throughout the country. It puts a heavy social burden upon affected individuals and their families.'



South India

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

'Today I have education and I have the confidence to do a job and earn an income and live a dignified and respectful life.' Bajjubai, a 16 year old girl, who benefitted from the Empowering Tribal Communities project



December Week 49

Top right: Salai Icedo, a leprosy patient at Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital

FACTFILE

AROUND 160,000
BURMESE LIVE IN
THAILAND

Mon 5 December

Advocacy: Pray for Dr Zaw Moe Aung, TLM's country leader and for the national action plan and policy initiatives developed together with the Ministry for Social Welfare. Pray that the **7-Up Advocacy Project for Disabled Persons**, operating in seven of the 14 States of Myanmar, will enable people with disabilities to participate in the life of their communities.

Tues 6 December

Children: Pray today for the staff and clients of the **Thanbuzayut Disability Resource Centre (DRC)**, especially for the children with disabilities who come to the centre for regular therapy to gain improved mobility. Uphold all the DRC staff members in Myanmar, that they may be able to carry out their daily activities safely, especially during field trips to villages.

Weds 7 December

Training: McKean Rehabilitation Centre, Thailand provides training in vocational activities, organic farming and life skills to enable patients to support themselves independently. Pray for new Thai leaders at McKean, especially manager Trairat; and for effective development of the aged-care service.

Thurs 8 December

Travel: Pray for God's blessing on the **Pakokku Disability Resource Centre**, in Myanmar's Dry Zone. Pray for centre staff and their clients with different types of disabilities who come to receive services; may they withstand the extreme heat of the area. Pray too for safe travel for clients coming to the DRC.

Fri 9 December

Transformation: Pray for God's continued blessings on **Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital** – may it be of great service to people with leprosy and disability; may the staff be instruments of God's love to patients and the community. May the **Community Transformation Project** staff be effective in influencing communities to include people with disabilities.

Sat 10 / Sun 11 December

Relationships: TLM Staff in Myanmar ask us to pray for good relationships with **local authorities**. All projects need permission from the relevant local authority. Pray that TLM finds ways to influence officials regarding issues of disability and leprosy.

December Week 50

Top right: Sarala is a member of a self-help group in Viluppuram, Tamil Nadu



Above: Arumugam (left) is a recipient of a low-cost house in Viluppuram, Tamil Nadu, India

Photos (top and above) by Peter Lemieux



This man was taught pottery thanks to a CBR project in Dayapuram, India

Mon 12 December

Progress: Praise God for **The Empowering Tribal Communities project** in Karwar, Karnataka State; the project has made good progress in giving these communities new opportunities to address their social, economic and health issues. Pray for all the self-help group and youth group members and for village committees, that they will be strong and able to lobby for their rights and benefits.

Tues 13 December

Impact: The **Disability Rights through NGO Networking Project** helps leprosy- and disability-affected people access mainline resources. 105 pressure groups have been formed in the Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. These groups help to educate members about their rights and about government benefits they're entitled to. Pray that this project will have a long-lasting impact on the quality of life of leprosy-affected people.

Weds 14 December

Healing: Give thanks for Dr Suresh Verghese, the superintendent of **TLM's Hospital in Dayapuram**, Tamil Nadu. Pray for God's guidance on him as he leads this busy hospital. Pray also that young Christian doctors will be motivated to work with

leprosy-affected people. Pray for the complete healing of all patients suffering from severe complications of leprosy.

Thurs 15 December

Health care: TLM Community Hospital, Vadathorasalur is managed by Dr Mrs Malarvizhi Edwin, the medical superintendent. Pray that all staff will demonstrate God's love and compassion through their work. The hospital is in need of more doctors – pray for dedicated and committed doctors to come and work in this remote location.

Fri 16 December

Fundraising: TLM's Community Hospital in **Vadathorasalur** is planning to set up a local promotional team to raise funds for the hospital. Pray that they will find the right people to manage this project and that good relationships will be built with potential local supporters.

Sat 17 / Sun 18 December

Students: Pray for Mr M Manaksha the principal of **Vadathorasalur Vocational Training Centre**. Pray that God will equip him to lead the staff team. Pray for wisdom for the staff as they help to develop the self-confidence of students, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Cross-Cultural Workers

'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth,' John 1:14



December Week 51

Top right: Elisa Yule (second from left) in Bangladesh

Mon 19 December

China: Yuek Ming Poon is originally from Hong Kong and works as TLM's country leader for China. Pray for her as she oversees our work here. Pray that she will have the support she needs and the strength to persevere in a role that involves much travelling. Ask that she will have good health and will continue to build up networks with other NGOs.

Tues 20 December

DR Congo: Angelika Piefer, from Germany, is an occupational therapist working in DR Congo as special advisor for disability with TLM and government staff. She has a heavy workload and also supports the staff working in the TLM Congo Co-ordination office. Pray that God will equip her to deal with all the demands on her time. Pray that she may have times of rest and relaxation.

Weds 21 December

Bangladesh: Pray that Bob and Sheri Bowers, from the USA, and their three children, will develop deeper relationships with colleagues and neighbours. Bob is an occupational therapist at DBLM Hospital in Nilphamari. Pray for wisdom as he balances many different roles and works with dozens of people – that his recommendations might reflect God's will for the work in Bangladesh.

Thurs 22 December

Chad: Give thanks for Geeske Zijp, originally from the Netherlands, who has worked for TLM for many years. In Chad she works in prevention of disability and leprosy control. Pray for God's protection on her as she travels to visit projects. Pray too that peace will continue to prevail in this nation and between the Chadian and Sudanese governments.

Fri 23 December

Family: Today, pray for all those cross-cultural staff who may be away from friends and family over Christmas. Pray that this will be a restful time and that they will be aware of God's presence with them. Pray too that all TLM staff around the world will enjoy a period of resting from work, spending time with family and focusing on the true meaning of Christmas.

Sat 24 / Sun 25 December Christmas Day

Joy: 'But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord;" Luke 2: 10-11. Give thanks for the good news of Jesus coming to earth as a man to make a way for us to have peace with God.

Faith and Mission

'And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit,' 2 Corinthians 3:18



December Week 52



Mon 26 December

Values: In every aspect of our work we want to be like Jesus. Pray for our staff that they may reflect him in all that they do. Let every job whether big or small be pleasing to God. Ask that we may serve the Lord in 'deed and word'.

Tues 27 December

Micah network: TLM is a member of the Micah network. This network wants to make a biblically-shaped response to the needs of the poor and oppressed. Pray for us as we try to respond in this way for people affected by leprosy. May we be rooted and grounded in Christ in all that we do.

Weds 28 December

Working with Churches: Pray for those who regularly visit Churches all over the world to help them catch TLM's vision and become partners in prayer and giving. Pray for clarity in communication and that the Lord will plant a passion for TLM's work in the churches.

Thurs 29 December

Working with Churches: Pray for those who are working to engage the Church in the implementing countries. Pray for people like Martin Adhikary (Bangladesh) and Erna Moller (South Africa) who are actively engaged in advocacy and helping churches to understand the needs of people affected by leprosy.

Fri 30 December

Counsellors: Many TLM hospitals have counsellors who help people affected by leprosy to cope with the discrimination and psychological difficulties that they face. Pray for the counsellors in this ministry. May the Lord fill their hearts with compassion and give them wisdom and insight.

Sat 31 December New Year's Eve

Leaders: Pray for all those in leadership in TLM. They need to keep close to Jesus in stressful and busy lives. Pray that they will be godly in their work and will inspire others with their lives. Ask the Lord to protect them and be their Shepherd.