

■ Ethiopia

Pray for the advocacy network and umbrella leprosy organisation, ENAPAL (of which TLM Ethiopia is a key member), as it campaigns at a national level for the rights of those disabled by leprosy.

- Pray that schools work would raise awareness and dispel stigma in the next generation.
- Pray for a positive and fruitful partnership between ENAPAL and the government that would lead to the rights of those with leprosy to be recognized.

■ Nigeria

Pray for the work of TLM Nigeria as it continues to challenge the stigma of leprosy.

- Pray for media campaigns, including TV and radio ads that aim to dispel the myths surrounding leprosy
- Pray for the fundraising efforts of TLM Nigeria, including marathons, charity dinners and speaking engagements in churches. Pray that this would raise awareness and compel people to reach out in love to those with leprosy.

■ Tanzania

Pray for the Community Health Education Programme. It reaches over 10,000 people each year. Pray for the team of 30 health workers.

- Ask God for safety as they travel between villages, a warm welcome and an opportunity to effectively screen all members of the village for leprosy and other diseases.
- As they preform educational dramas, pray that these dramas would alert people to the first signs of leprosy, and prompt them to get early diagnosis and treatment, as well as help people to understand that leprosy is simply a germ – not a curse from God.
- Pray also for the relationship between TLM and the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Pray that the parishes in the Diocese would help to educate people around leprosy.

**'Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.'** *Isaiah 1:17*

Headline prayers

Here are some prayers that you could include in your church bulletin:

- Pray for the work of Leprosy Champions across the world, as they fight for the rights of leprosy affected people, facing disability and discrimination.
- Pray for the work of TLM at a national and international level to see changes to laws which discriminate against those with leprosy.
- Pray for the advocacy work in places of education, villages and at a local government level in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Nigeria, India and Nepal.
- Pray for efforts across the world to end stigma and discrimination caused by leprosy, so that people affected by leprosy would enjoy equal rights and a restoration of dignity.

Support through prayer

Do you know anyone who would like to support us in prayer? If you would like to receive more copies of Prayer Fuel, or start a prayer group, please get in touch. If you want to stop receiving this communication let us know by calling 02892629500 or emailing info@tlm-ni.org.

Book a Speaker

If you would be interested in hearing more about the work of The Leprosy Mission, why not book a speaker. We love to share with groups of all types, sizes and locations about the work of The Leprosy Mission. Contact the office or complete the form on the website.



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Champions For
Change



PRAYER FUEL

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Defend the oppressed.'** *Isaiah 1:17*



Champion's for Change

The Leprosy Mission longs to bring an end, once and for all, to segregation, division and isolation that so often accompanies leprosy. We believe that through the power of prayer, and the witness and work of God's people, this can happen within the next generation.

Many leprosy affected people are being trained by TLM community workers to become Leprosy Champions. They learn how to gain vital financial aid for the members of their community and to advocate for leprosy affected people's education and employment rights with local government officials. One such Leprosy Champion is Pastor Elisha, a man who has overcome so much, and with God's help has become an agent of change for others in need.

Pastor Elisha

Pastor Elisha is now in his 60's. He has had leprosy for most of his life, and for many years he had no choice but to sit at the side of the road and beg.

Affected by leprosy in his teens, Elisha became a Christian in his late 20's and felt the call to minister to people in his leprosy settlement. As a well-known

beggar turned pastor, he earned the nickname, 'The Begging Pastor'.

He was determined not to let cruel names and dismissive attitudes beat him. He ministered faithfully to people with leprosy for many years and became well respected. Today, he is the leader of his leprosy settlement. He is married to a leprosy affected person, and has children and grandchildren.

He works hard to fight for the rights of those people living in the settlement. Following training to become a Leprosy Champion, he has been able to bring transformation in a number of significant ways.

The children from the settlement, who were not allowed to go to the local state school because of their association with leprosy, are now allowed to attend. Elisha has campaigned for two nearby leprosy settlements to have better living standards. Local government officials have recently funded the installation of 32 toilets, and a concrete road to link the settlement to the outside world – a lifeline during the monsoon season.

Pastor Elisha hopes that the change he has been able to bring will inspire others in the community to fight for their rights. His long-term dream is that his grandchildren's generation will grow up free from stigma and discrimination.



Pastor Elisha

'Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.' Isaiah 1:17

Here are some prayer points from our global partners, which focus on their advocacy work.

India

Pray for Pastor Elisha, and other Leprosy Champions.

- Ask God to give them courage and resilience as they face difficult challenges and opposition.
- Pray that many leprosy affected people would see their social and economic situation transformed as a result of the Leprosy Champion's work.

A Private Members' Bill for repealing discriminatory laws has been introduced in the Indian Parliament in December 2017. It is expected to be taken for discussion in the Budget session of Parliament, in March this year.

- Pray that the Bill would be discussed, and that the Parliament would pass it.
- Pray that this Bill would be the beginning of a transformation in treatment of those who have leprosy across India at all levels.

Nepal

Pray for the community Self Help Groups in Nepal. There are 116 Self Help Groups, with 4,291 members, all of whom live in highly endemic leprosy areas. The Self Help Groups offer those disabled by leprosy the opportunity to gain skills and employment, and provide a platform for members to collectively challenge discrimination and stigma caused by leprosy.

- Pray that the members would be able to earn a living through the skills they learn together.
- Pray that these communities would bring hope and healing into the lives of those affected by leprosy.
- Pray for the many women and children left undiagnosed and untreated.
- Pray that the Self Help Groups would be successful in their efforts to dispel the myths and stigma associated with leprosy.