In a few weeks, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus, someone who perfectly demonstrated the attributes we should aspire to have. I say “aspire to” because it’s not easy to be Christ-like. We struggle, we doubt, we lose our temper, we think negatively when we’re hurt... But God’s love grants us forgiveness and compassion at the cross. Instead of being isolated from perfection, we are embraced into eternity.

A few months ago, I met a woman at a “Mercy Home” at one of our programs in India. Established in 1876, the home provides a safe space within a Christian hospital campus for patients affected by leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases. The home also serves nutritious meals and provides healthcare free of charge, but more importantly, it offers a community for people who are regularly isolated and shunned by the outside world.

“It is only because of God’s mercy that I am here,” said Ram Kali, a Mercy Home resident for 44 years. “If I wasn’t here, nobody would have taken care of me and I’d probably be on the streets begging.

“But here, I have everything. I don’t need anything else.”

“"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

Continued on page 3
NEPAL

Displaced families build makeshift shelters from existing material.

This year’s monsoon season was particularly severe. Heavy rain, severe flooding and landslides have ruined crops, killed livestock, destroyed dwindling food stores, damaged or destroyed houses, and caused the deaths and displacement of many thousands. People living in poverty and those affected by neglected tropical diseases have suffered greatly. Please pray for their healing and recovery.

Please keep the front-line work of our friends at Lalghad Leprosy Hospital in your thoughts and prayers, especially the patients, children affected by leprosy, the community outreach to the poor and needy, the staff, work, and mission. Please pray protection over the Lalghad Hospital team and all who turn to them for help.

INDIA

Pray for more people to step forward and fill vacancies in our partner’s 14 hospitals. There are many positions that will need to be filled in the coming months such as ophthalmologists, surgeons, doctors, dermatologists, and nurses. May God provide for the hospitals’ needs.

Pray for protection over Christians in India. Over the past few years, they have been facing attacks from Hindu extremists. The situation has only worsened since the Hindu National Party was elected into power this year. Pray for peace amidst ongoing tensions and violence against religious minorities.

CANADA

Thanksgiving for Kim Evans, who became effect:hope’s new CEO in September. Pray for continued wisdom and guidance as she leads the team.

Pray we can share the work we do more broadly and inspire new and current donors to help people in need. Pray our grant applications will receive favour from the Canadian government and foundations.

There’s still time to register your church! Please contact Lynda at wld@effecthope.org

www.worldleprosyday.ca

WORLD LEPROSY DAY
JANUARY 26, 2020
Ram Kali was abandoned by her husband as soon as he discovered she had leprosy. She was living on the streets, distraught and without hope, when a stranger brought her to Naini Hospital, supported by effect:hope. The medical team cared for Ram Kali, provided her with the cure and treatment, as well as a permanent home. Today, she smiles brightly when talking about her lush garden and about discovering Jesus while attending Naini’s chapel.

As an organization that puts Christ first in our decision-making and activities, we strive to be His hands and feet on Earth, welcoming people who would otherwise be isolated and cast aside. People like Ram Kali, who, thankfully, experienced Christ’s love and embrace in a country that largely does not acknowledge His sovereignty. There are so many more who suffer and who need Christ’s healing touch.

Please pray our health workers will find them. We’ve included a list of current requests in this update.

Thank you for your continued prayers for this ministry and the people we serve. May you and your loved ones enjoy a blessed Christmas season as we rejoice in the life of our wonderful, merciful Saviour!

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**NEWS**

**The AIM Initiative: Ensuring Expert Care Reaches the Marginalized**

Ten-year-old Hannah lives in a small village in Liberia, surrounded by lush, green vegetation. It’s a remote place; after driving two hours on brown dirt, Hannah’s family can arrive at the closest main road. One day, when Hannah was running to call everyone in for dinner, she felt a sudden pain in her knee. The next day a bump appeared on her lower left leg, and then it burst into an ulcer. Hannah’s parents spent a large sum on local remedies, but she didn’t improve. She was in pain and her parents were desperate, so Hannah and her mother travelled hours to the nearest clinic.

When they arrived, the nurse realized right away that Hannah had a severe case of Buruli ulcer.

“She couldn’t walk — her mother carried her around on her back and Hannah’s leg was bigger than my thigh! We sent for the Buruli ulcer officer right away. He brought the antibiotics personally and immediately because we could see it was so urgent. Hannah was on the verge of death.”

People like Hannah are the reason for the AIM (Accelerating Integrated Management) Initiative, launched by American Leprosy Missions in partnership with effect:hope. AIM is a pioneering method to map people with Buruli ulcer, leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases that cause disabilities. These maps show where affected, marginalized people are located and where cases of different diseases overlap, making it easier to target treatment. With this knowledge, a government can mobilize personnel and resources to improve access to care and prevent further disability.

The AIM Initiative works to ensure that children like Hannah are diagnosed and treated more quickly, receiving expert care no matter where they live. Through programs like AIM, we move closer to a world without leprosy and other devastating diseases!

*Excerpt from www.leprosy.org.*
“I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come,” God’s people announce at Christmastime. Based on Psalm 98, Isaac Watts’s eighteenth-century carol celebrates the coming of Jesus, the Christ. The joy of the Saviour’s coming resounds throughout all of creation, even the fields and rocks and hills and plains “repeat the sounding joy.” This is good news for all of God’s world!

Why sing this carol with such exuberance? Watts answers that question in the third stanza, where he declares that Jesus has come to deal with the curse of human sin and rebellion. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus brings the blessing as “far as the curse is found.”

In Watts’s hymn, this phrase repeats several times—and for good reason. Released from bondage to sin and the power of death over us, we are now freed to live with joy, to love God and our neighbor, and to cultivate the earth God has given us. So let’s sing with joy that good news: “Joy to the world! The Lord is come”!

Excerpt from: www.today.reframemedia.com

effect:hope is a Christian mission that follows Jesus’ example of love and compassion by helping people with leprosy and other debilitating diseases. Through the kindness of like-minded Canadians, we cure and care for our patients, reduce stigma and support research to end these isolating and painful diseases for good. Visit our website at www.effecthope.org.

This Prayer Update keeps more than 2,000 prayer supporters informed on the work of effect:hope, The Leprosy Mission Canada. Please consider sharing this Prayer Update with your friends, family and congregation to increase our prayer support.

Many of our staff would be pleased to visit your church, organization or company to talk about our work among people with leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases. Please contact us at info@effecthope.org for more information.

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Prayer Update
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

effect:hope
The Leprosy Mission Canada

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