"I am sorry to tell you this, but you have leprosy"

If you or someone you love have ever received a difficult diagnosis, you can understand how some people may feel overwhelmed with feelings of shock, anxiety and sadness.

When Degbe Djaman from Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa, was first diagnosed with leprosy, he was very upset and worried that everyone would reject him. He thought leprosy was a curse from witches and that his girlfriend would leave him. Instead, his family and girlfriend (now wife) stayed by his side and continued to support him.

In our work, we see the changes in a leprosy patient’s life when family and friends are supportive as opposed to those who turn away in disgust. It can mean the difference between someone continuing their treatment to someone giving up. The teams at our hospitals tell us that compliance is a huge issue, and that some patients stop the treatment early on because they don’t see immediate results and don’t feel well.

We are grateful that Degbe was not stigmatized because of leprosy and his
Global Prayer Requests

**SRI LANKA**
Pray for victims and families of the Sri Lanka terror attacks on Easter Sunday. Pray for comfort and healing for the whole country. Also pray that all those involved in these acts of terror will be found and brought to justice.

**NEPAL**
Pray for the many patients at Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital, who participated in Christmas and Easter services. Pray that their hearts would be open to accepting Christ as Lord. Pray for strength and energy for the staff as they care for patients in the hospital and through self-help groups, supported by effect:hope.

![Washing feet in Nepal, photo from Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital](image)

**INDIA**
Pray for more doctors to step forward to help the 14 hospitals under The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI). A shortage of doctors will be detrimental to the great work taking place to help people in Jesus’ name. Pray that TLMTI hospitals can remain competitive with other hospitals and attract the right people.

Praise God for a recent workshop to train and develop 32 leprosy champions. Participants included people affected by leprosy who took part in the program to learn about the disease as well as how to advocate for their rights and entitlements. Pray they will be successful in efforts to ensure people with leprosy are treated equally.

**KENYA AND CÔTE D’IVOIRE**
Pray for the Every Child Thrives program, which helps children under 5 by providing deworming treatment and vitamin A. Pray parents will bring their children to our campaigns which take place in May and that communities will be supportive of efforts to improve children’s health.

**BANGLADESH**
Praise God for positive relationships with media in Bangladesh and for recent opportunities to share the work of our partner, The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh. Pray that with education and awareness, people will learn more about leprosy and other diseases of poverty so we can reduce discrimination among those affected.

**CANADA**
Pray God will continue to provide for effect:hope and the work to bring hope and healing to people with leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases.

Praise God for our Hope Doll knitters and for the supporter who created a Hope Doll crochet pattern. Thanks to them, we can help cure children affected by leprosy and provide a Hope Doll to comfort them through treatment. Pray that more Canadians will be inspired to knit, crochet or donate to help cure someone of leprosy.
Continued from page 1

loved ones continued to be present in the midst of uncertainty. With their encouragement, he completed one-year of Multi-Drug Therapy treatment at a clinic supported by effect:hope. Today, Degbe is a farmer who has been married for 10 years and has five children who are all in school. He admits it’s still a bit difficult to work, as nerve damage continues to cause pain in his lower back and legs. But he is thankful he got help early on and wants people to know that leprosy can be cured. Degbe has also accepted Jesus as his Saviour and regularly sings in church. “I find great peace in Christ,” he says with a smile.

If you are struggling with illness and would like prayer, please email us at prayer@effecthope.org. We would be happy to support you in your time of need and urge you to seek comfort in our Loving Father. “The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace” (Psalm 29:11).

---

**NEWS**

**Vietnamese nurse devotes life to care for leprosy patients**

The Qua Cam House [for people with leprosy], a solitary facility in a corner of Bac Ninh Leprosy and Dermatology Hospital Centre, is home to over 80 elders with leprosy who are receiving treatment and being cared for as they can no longer do everyday tasks unaided.

“Sister Xuân” is the affectionate name the patients have dubbed Nguyen Thi Xuan, who in 1987 gave up her job as a kindergarten teacher to spend her life caring for these unfortunate people, which was deemed an “insane” decision at that time when leprosy was still highly stigmatised in Vietnamese society.

“During the church sermons I attended, the priest often spoke about the patients, who I always felt sorry for. I came across a book titled Lạc quan trên miền thượng (Optimism on the highlands) about a French Catholic who left his comfortable life to come to Lam Dong Province to build the Di Linh House [for patients with leprosy],” Xuân said.

And that was how her attachment with leprosy started. During the time when she was still teaching at the kindergarten, every weekend, Xuân volunteered at Qua Cam learning everything she could about the disease and how to help ease the suffering of the patients. The first indelible impression that Xuân encountered was the sight of an 84-year-old man with late-stage leprosy lying in a corner just waiting to die. On his deathbed, all he wished for was a chance to meet his daughters and sons and his grandchildren for the last time, but it never happened.

This story turned out to be an ‘epiphany’ for Xuân, who then decided to give up everything and defy her family’s objections to commit her life to caring for leprosy patients full-time.

“I just felt that it was my calling; there are so many patients in need of support. At the beginning, seeing how closely I cared for the patients and how I did not shy away from touching them, the leader of the house even asked me if I was not scared of catching the disease from them? I told him they were like my parents so I didn’t flinch from them like other people did. I know the disease is really not that easily spread,” Xuân said.

After a period of volunteering, the house leader signed her up for a medical training course in Binh Dinh Province and she became an official nurse at Qua Cam after she finished the course in 1992. Despite reaching retirement age in 2012, Xuân asked to remain at the house, saying that she was still healthy enough to continue her work. “Their love for me gives me the strength I need. I will not rest until my hands can no longer pour a cup of water for the patients here. Maybe I was blessed by a higher power. I’ve never been sick for more than half a day,” Xuân said. “To simply be here, doing the job I love in the presence of those I care deeply about, gives me the greatest contention I could have.”

Source: VietNamNet Bridge (http://english.vietnamnet.vn)
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

How comfortable are you with uncertainty? Many parents agonize over decisions because they are afraid of making a mistake, but God doesn’t promise to give us absolute certainty. He invites us to know and trust Him in the midst of uncertainty. That’s what faith is all about!

If you constantly worry about your children, surrender your fears to God. Instead of being determined to figure out what God wants you to do, focus instead on who He is. As human beings with finite minds, we do not always understand the eternal purposes behind events. Faith is trusting that our story will fit perfectly into His story.

Trust God’s character in the midst of uncertainty and embrace the wisdom and goodness of God.

Source: https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/parenting-by-design

---

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 new website at www.effecthope.org.

This Prayer Update keeps more than 2,000 individuals and 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. If you would like to receive your Prayer Update by email, contact Lynda at lscott@effecthope.org.

Another way to support us in prayer is by joining the effect:hope Facebook Prayer Group! As part of the group, we will be hosting monthly live prayer sessions to encourage community and will also post prayer requests from The Leprosy Mission Fellowship. Join the group through our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/effecthope.

---

Editor: Melissa Wallace  
Email: mwallace@effecthope.org  
Telephone: 1-888-537-7679 ext: 2022

Prayer Update  
MAY/JUNE 2019

effect:hope  
The Leprosy Mission Canada  
200-90 Allstate Parkway, Markham, ON L3R 6H3

---

Uncertainty:“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

How comfortable are you with uncertainty? Many parents agonize over decisions because they are afraid of making a mistake, but God doesn’t promise to give us absolute certainty. He invites us to know and trust Him in the midst of uncertainty. That’s what faith is all about!

If you constantly worry about your children, surrender your fears to God. Instead of being determined to figure out what God wants you to do, focus instead on who He is. As human beings with finite minds, we do not always understand the eternal purposes behind events. Faith is trusting that our story will fit perfectly into His story.

Trust God’s character in the midst of uncertainty and embrace the wisdom and goodness of God.

Source: https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/parenting-by-design

---

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 new website at www.effecthope.org.

This Prayer Update keeps more than 2,000 individuals and 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. If you would like to receive your Prayer Update by email, contact Lynda at lscott@effecthope.org.

Another way to support us in prayer is by joining the effect:hope Facebook Prayer Group! As part of the group, we will be hosting monthly live prayer sessions to encourage community and will also post prayer requests from The Leprosy Mission Fellowship. Join the group through our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/effecthope.

---

Editor: Melissa Wallace  
Email: mwallace@effecthope.org  
Telephone: 1-888-537-7679 ext: 2022

Prayer Update  
MAY/JUNE 2019

effect:hope  
The Leprosy Mission Canada  
200-90 Allstate Parkway, Markham, ON L3R 6H3

---