Dear Friend,

What is a human life worth? A few years back, an online test attempted to find out. Through various questions on ethnicity, age, gender, income, habits, family history, and health, you could find out whether you were worth $500 or $5,000,000.

What if you contracted a disease such as leprosy? Would your life be worth less? When we visit people with leprosy around the world, we are disheartened when we learn how many are treated in their community. Some are abandoned by spouses, others are forced out of their homes, and others spend their days by the side of the road, begging for scraps of food and compassion.

We believe every person is valuable to God. Our programs provide dignity and hope to people in need. People like 63-year-old Tilak, whom we met at The Leprosy Mission Hospital, Naini, in India (pictured below, sitting). When diagnosed with leprosy, his relatives left him and wouldn't let him return home. "I would have died had it not been for this hospital," he says. Tilak has lived on the hospital campus' Snehalaya (or House of Love) for 40 years. Through the home, patients receive nourishing food and care free of charge. "There is no need to worry about my daily living," says Tilak. "I'm very happy here."
In this enewsletter, find out what we’ve achieved through your support in our Annual Report. You can also watch a video testimony from a hospital staff member and catch up on the latest news on leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases.

Together, let’s help people live with dignity and remind them that their lives have meaning and infinite worth.

Sincerely,
Peter Derrick, Executive Director

PS. Please consider a gift to care for Tilak and others affected by leprosy at www.effecthope.org/donate.

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**Milestones in 2018**

Our 2018 Annual Report describes our gratitude for your support and generosity over the past year. Through your gifts, effect:hope:

- screened 323,703 people for leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)
- diagnosed 4,386 with leprosy or other NTDs
- treated 120,193 patients
- performed 3,395 surgeries
- treated 13,041 patientes through outreach clinics and camps
- provided 14,567 patients with footwear
- referred, trained, or supported 8,060 people for economic activities
- provided deworming treatment and Vitamin A to 1,781,6900 preschool chidren
- equipped 22,494 healthcare workers with necessary skills
- raised awareness of leprosy and other NTDs among 2,463,901 people

Karun finds purpose and joy.

When Karun was growing up, he sought fame and fortune and constantly rebelled against his parents. That all changed when a serious incident threatened his future. Find out what happened and how he ended up working as an accountant at Naini Hospital: [https://youtu.be/bWggYPI-X_k](https://youtu.be/bWggYPI-X_k)

Have you checked out our new website?

The new site is designed to be secure, easy-to-use, and full of current information and photos. Please take a few minutes to check out [www.effcthope.org](http://www.effcthope.org) and tell us what you think by emailing us at info@effcthope.org.

Health for all

Last month, effect:hope’s Every Child Thrives program was featured in a curated art exhibit at the Ottawa Art Gallery, along with several other Canadian organizations. The purpose of the exhibit was to showcase how Canadians are ensuring children and women in other countries are strong and healthy.

“It takes bold dreamers coming together to bring about dreams,” the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for International Development, expressed to the packed room. “You’ve been able to convince the Canadian government that investing in women and children is the right and smart thing to do, so I personally thank you.”

NEWS

- In India, a renewed fight against leprosy
- New report says mosquitoes 'don't play pivotal role' in Buruli spread
- How Kenya's fight against Elephantiasis is becoming a blueprint for Africa
- Life after leprosy, India's untamed disease
Thank you to our faithful volunteers: Barb Beard, Verna Burness and Myrna Larmet. For years, these three wonderful women have given their time to "stamp out leprosy" and help people affected by leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases. Not only do they spend time trimming stamps and preparing them for stamp dealers, but they are also willing to help out through additional tasks such as preparing brochures that save the organization time and resources. On behalf of all of us at effect:hope, thank you! If you’d like to support the stamp program, visit this link for a brochure.

FEATURED GIFT: PROTECTIVE SANDALS

What difference can a pair of sandals make? Leprosy can lead to nerve damage, which means minor cuts can become major injuries. Purchase protective sandals for $25 at www.effecthope.org/gifts.

CONNECT

If you have a question, comment or story for Hope and Healing, email Melissa at mwallace@effecthope.org. We would love to hear from you and share your stories in the next issue.

NEED PRAYER?

Send your prayer requests to prayers@effecthope.org or join our Facebook prayer group. You can also sign up for our prayer newsletter to support us in prayer.
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.

Be sure to add our email address to your address book or safe senders list to ensure your newsletter arrives in your inbox.

Privacy Policy | Unsubscribe

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