Dear Friend,

We recently came across a photo (shown on the right) of a visit to The Leprosy Mission Trust India vocational training centre in Vizianagaram in 1999. It may be hard to believe, but yes, that's me watching a graduate of the centre's tailoring program hard at work. Through the centre, supporters like you helped students with leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases learn job skills to support themselves and integrate into society. I remember leaving that trip filled with so much confidence and pride in our programs and partners.

I'm excited to share that the centre received an award last month from the Government of India for being among the country's top 10 industrial training institutes! It's wonderful that the centre is being recognized for excellence and that it is still providing hope to people in need! Thank you for your generosity and for continuing to support people with leprosy and other diseases of poverty.

Sincerely, Peter Derrick, Executive Director
"She Used to Walk on Her Knees"

Shumi suffered the symptoms of leprosy early in childhood, but didn’t know what she had. When she was diagnosed at 10 years old, the only treatment she received was from a village shaman, which didn’t improve her condition at all. Shumi’s family did not allow her to live in their home, instead she stayed in a shack outside. Nobody took care of her, and she developed permanent deformities. Click here to find out what happened next.

Sankalp Update

In our last enewsletter, we asked you to support people with leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis through our Sankalp Program. We are happy to report that our supporters contributed $17,408 to improve our patients' health, prevent infections by cleaning vector breeding sites, teach sufferers how to care for themselves so their conditions don’t worsen, provide protective footwear, and perform necessary surgeries and treatment. Thank you all!

Highlights from 2017

In 2017, you gave hope to 4.5 million people across 11 countries, helped 2 million children access de-worming treatment and essential vitamins, and supported 1,297 surgeries and follow-up treatments. THANK YOU! Read our annual report for more on how your gifts are making a difference to people with leprosy and other diseases.

Runner With A Cause

Our manager of planned giving, Steve Price, ran his 9th marathon on Oct. 21 to raise money for leprosy research. His local paper, The North York Mirror covered the story prior to his run. Read it here: "Runner With A Cause."
• **Landmark Judgment in India Benefits People with Leprosy.** In a recent landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India issued directions for the inclusion and rehabilitation of people affected by leprosy. This includes ensuring public and private schools do not discriminate against children from families affected by leprosy; including leprosy in the school curriculum and preventing discrimination against students affected by the disease; and organizing mass leprosy awareness campaigns to increase public knowledge about the signs and symptoms of leprosy and its cure. Read the summary. We celebrate the news with those who struggle with leprosy and their families in India!

• **India vocational training centre ranked 6th in the country.** Congratulations to the Vizianagaram Vocational Training Centre for being ranked among India’s top 10 Industrial Training Institutes. The centre was supported by effect:hope for many years, helping students with leprosy and other diseases learn job skills to support themselves and integrate into society. Congratulations to our friends on this outstanding feat!

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**Start your Christmas Shopping!**

Christmas is just around the corner and effect:hope's **Gifts with a Purpose Catalogue** has something for everyone on your list. It will always be the right fit, doesn’t require wrapping paper, and warms the heart. Featured gifts this week are:

- **Antibiotics**
- **Crutches**
- **Eye Surgery**

SHOP NOW
A Community of Prayer

In October we launched the effect:hope Facebook prayer group! We hope this group will be a place where people will feel inspired by God and be encouraged through community. As part of the group, we will be hosting monthly live prayer sessions. Join the effect:hope prayer group!

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.

GET INVOLVED

You can be an effect:hope ambassador at malls across Canada. Raise awareness for people with leprosy and encourage donations for cures! Email Cindy at cquinn@effecthope.org or call 647-385-4318 for more information.

CONNECT

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

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.