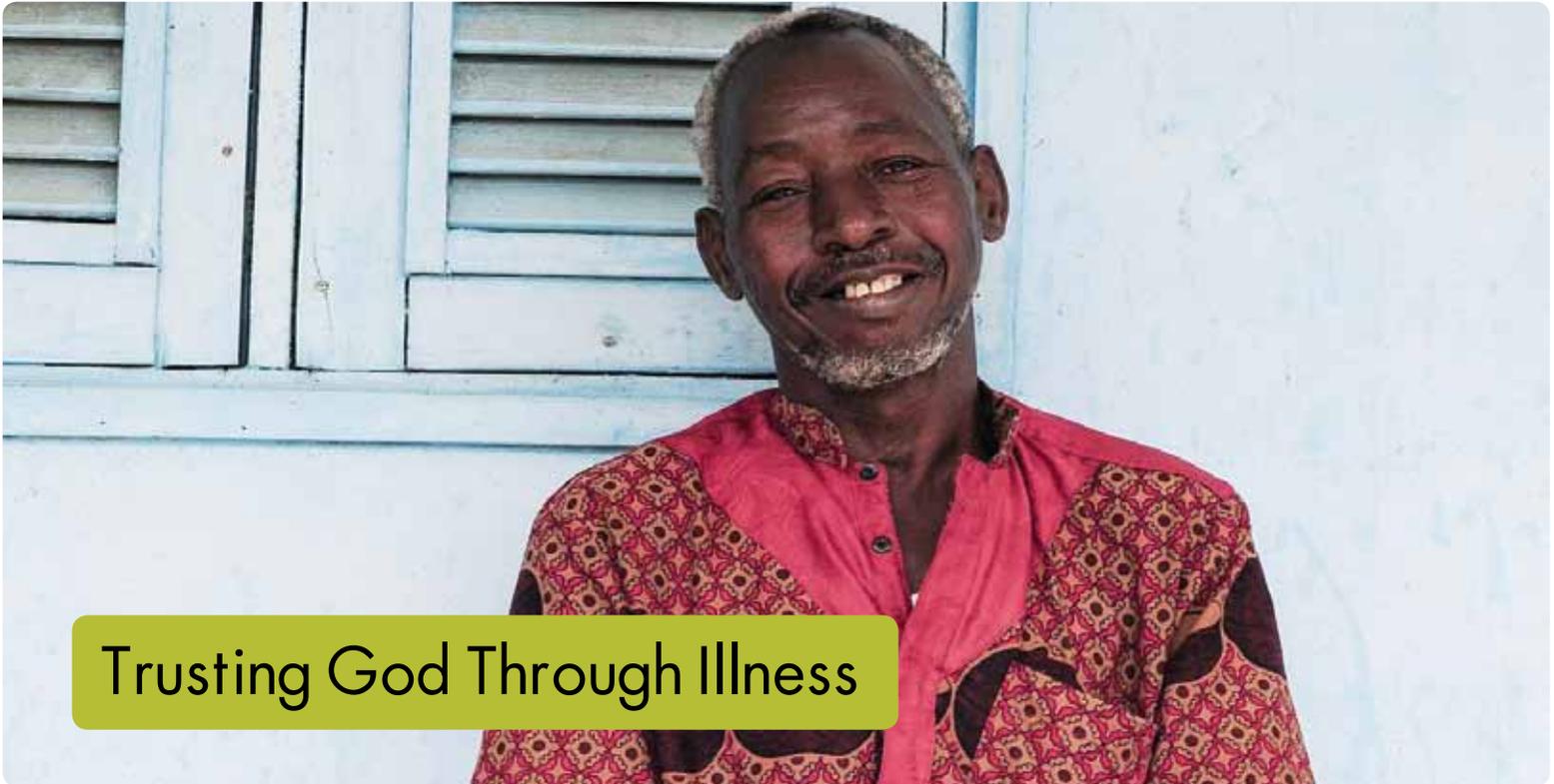


# Prayer Update

effect:hope  
The Leprosy Mission Canada

Healing in Jesus' name for 126 years

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019



## Trusting God Through Illness

**K**offi is a 62-year-old father and grandfather in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. In 2010, he discovered a lump on the back of his neck. It became very painful, so he visited a traditional healer, as was customary in his culture.

The treatment recommended by the healer didn't work, so he went to a clinic and was diagnosed with Buruli ulcer, a flesh-eating disease. He visited the clinic every day to receive shots and wound care. During this time, he couldn't continue his work as a tailor. A scar remains where the ulcer once was.

Then in 2015, he felt stiffness in his legs, which made it difficult to walk. He went to the hospital and was diagnosed with leprosy. He began treatment, but stopped after a while. Thankfully, his community health care worker noticed his absence and urged him to restart treatment. He completed his treatment and is now cured.

"But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation"

Psalm 13:5

Continued on next page

effect:hope supports the health clinic and workers in Koffi's village. Without the presence of health experts in these remote communities, people like Koffi would not be diagnosed accurately and would have to travel far for treatment.

Today, Koffi is an active member of his church. He believes his deep relationship with God carried him through his struggles. He trusted God throughout his care, and prayed he wouldn't have any lasting disabilities. He shared his story with us in hopes it would encourage others with Buruli ulcer or leprosy to receive an early diagnosis to prevent permanent disabilities.

As we start the new year, we thank you for supporting effect:hope and the people we serve through prayer. Like Koffi, we know God is greater than any disease, difficulty and heartbreak we may be experiencing and we trust Him to be our constant guide through 2019.

Warmest blessings to you all!

## Global Prayer Requests

### NIGERIA

- Thousands of Nigerians have been killed due to escalating conflict between herdsmen and farmers in the region. These violent clashes have destroyed many communities in various states of Nigeria, including some of the communities where we work. Please pray for an end to the violence; protection for our team, the people we serve, and the innocent; and that God will restore peace to the nation.
- In February, Nigeria will be conducting its presidential and governorship elections. Pray that the elections would be free and fair, and that the transition of power to the new government would happen smoothly without crisis or violence.

### INDIA and BANGLADESH

- Pray God would provide excellent medical staff to fill current vacancies at hospitals specialized in treating people with leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases. It can be a challenge to find and keep staff at some of our more remote hospitals.



- Pray our ongoing research efforts will come to fruition and scientists will be able to solve some of the big questions of leprosy, so we'll be able to do more to prevent the disease and its spread.

### NEPAL

- Our partner, The Leprosy Mission Nepal, requests prayer for a continued positive relationship with the Government of Nepal. Pray they can transfer leprosy skills to more government health personnel so we can help more people with leprosy.
- Pray for the safety and good health of the many volunteers and medical elective students who visit The Leprosy Mission Nepal. Pray the Lord would give them ample opportunities to gain a stronger understanding of leprosy, the work and the culture and situation of Nepal.

### CANADA

- Pray for our efforts on World Leprosy Day, January 27, 2019. This day is important to us and the people we serve because it generates awareness and funds for people who are often forgotten. Pray that God will soften the hearts of Canadians to understand the needs of those who remain isolated and disabled due to leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases.
- effect:hope is launching a new website in January. Pray the new site will be more user-friendly and well-received by our supporters and the general public.

## People affected by leprosy pen open letter to President of France

Dear Mr. President,

As women and men who have experienced Hansen's disease, more commonly known as leprosy, we were disheartened to read international media reports earlier this month that quote you as calling on Europe to fight nationalist "leprosy." Other national and international leaders have used similar language in high profile speeches over the past few months.

While it might be good at grabbing headlines, the use of 'leprosy' as a negative metaphor has consequences far beyond the political realm, because it perpetuates old and outdated stereotypes and reinforces stigma and discrimination against us, people affected by leprosy. Leprosy is not a disease of the past. More than 200,000 people are diagnosed each year with leprosy, and there are believed to be more than two million people affected by leprosy who are undiagnosed and untreated. The negative social attitudes towards people with leprosy create a barrier to treatment, and hinder efforts to stop the transmission of the disease globally.

Leprosy is a curable disease. However, women and men affected by this disease are still marginalized and excluded in many places around the globe. We ourselves have experienced being isolated by family and friends, fired from jobs, discriminated and insulted by people and many other violations of our human rights. That's why we are working hard every day to change this reality in every community.

Women and men affected by leprosy are people with hopes and dreams like everyone else. Most people affected just dream of a normal life: A place to live and work peacefully, surrounded by their family and friends. They do not want to be defined by their disease.

It is fundamental to ensure that the word leprosy is always used without the burden of stigma. Some countries already took the initiative to change the name of the disease. However, while such change does not

take place all over the world, public figures and authorities have the duty to be careful with the thousands of persons affected and the millions that had their lives impacted by this disease worldwide.

We therefore respectfully ask you to not use leprosy as a negative metaphor, and to instead support people in France, Europe and around the globe fighting to stop discrimination against people affected by leprosy.

In the name of women, children and men affected by leprosy around the globe.

Published Dec. 6, 2018.



effect:hope  
The Leprosy Mission Canada

**No fear in love.**

Stand with us, supporting mothers like Tania. Leprosy has robbed her of everything – except her precious little girl. But she worries... who will marry a girl whose mother has leprosy?

Help us change the future.

Join us for  
**World Leprosy Day 2019**  
Sunday, January 27th, 2019.

 @effecthope  
 /effecthope  
 /effecthope  
[www.worldleprosyday.ca](http://www.worldleprosyday.ca)

**"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear." - 1 JOHN 4:18**

## GOD WITH US

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. Some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead. Others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another. The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds slowly begin their process of healing.

Whether you have just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see that it's over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever.

Our God is a "with us" God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start. He is Immanuel, God with us. However, things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV).

Excerpt from Crosswalk.com - <https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/a-prayer-to-keep-god-first-this-new-year-10-verses-of-hope.html>



**Join the effect:hope Facebook Prayer Group!** In October, we launched a prayer group on Facebook to build our outreach efforts and encourage community. As part of the group, we will be praying together, sharing testimonies, devotionals and hosting monthly live prayer sessions. Join the group through our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/effecthope](http://www.facebook.com/effecthope).



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.



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. You can also visit [www.effecthope.org/prayer](http://www.effecthope.org/prayer) for online editions of the Prayer Update.

If you would like to receive your Prayer Update by email, contact Lynda at [lscott@effecthope.org](mailto:lscott@effecthope.org). Thank you for partnering with us in prayer!

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