
She was a grieving mother abandoned by her husband, and only 19.

effect:hope (The Leprosy Mission Canada) <info@effecthope.org>
Reply-To: info@effecthope.org
To: "effecthope.comms@gmail.com" <effecthope.comms@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 28, 2016 at 3:18 PM

effect:hope
The Leprosy Mission Canada

Abandoned because of the fear of leprosy
effect:hope Newsletter, Vol. 1, Issue 6
July 28, 2016



When Ivy was 18 she was diagnosed with leprosy. With support from your donations she received treatment and surgery in time and was able to avoid extensive nerve damage.

Ivy's story should have been a success story.

A year later Ivy fell in love and got married. When she found out she was pregnant it was a dream come true. But then her in-laws discovered she used to have leprosy. Although she was completely cured, her in-laws made her eat in a separate room because they saw leprosy as a curse. They abused her and at 4 months pregnant they kicked her out of the house. With no one to lean on and no support from her husband, Ivy returned to her father's home. In her community, this was a sign of disgrace.

She fell into a deep depression, she wasn't eating or taking care of herself. **When her son was born, he was tiny and frail and died when he was only 18 days old.** Ivy was not yet 20 years old.

Her depression was severe at this point. She couldn't eat anything and the curses she heard from her in-laws and community kept her up at night. Her husband and in-laws ignored her when she told them about her baby's death. Her father-in-law rejected her plea to return because he thought all her children will have leprosy.

After gruelling court trials between the two families, Ivy was allowed to return to her in-laws' home six long years later. She's never had the chance to properly grieve the loss of her son. She is now 25; her experience of pain and loss would be unimaginable to people her age in Canada.

NTDs

neg·lect·ed trop·i·cal
di·seases

noun.

Diverse group of diseases
common in low-income
populations of developing regions

River Blindness:

Formally known as Onchocerciasis, this disease causes unbearable itching, skin discolouration, lesions, and blindness if untreated. 120 million people are affected by River Blindness. Although treatment is available, it still remains a public health problem in many countries in the world, especially in Africa.

River Blindness begins with a bite from a blackfly. Once the larvae have grown into adult worms, the worms have their own generation of larvae, which infects the skin, organs, and the eyes.

River Blindness is a sentence to a life of despair for many people. The discomfort and possible blindness caused by the disease, though not life-threatening, makes working and living extremely difficult.

When we last spoke to her she was pregnant again and she thankful for the new start in her life. Aside from treatment and surgery, effect:hope helped her integrate back into her in-laws' home and the community. Although she was cured, Ivy still has a long battle to fight against stigma. With the help of counselling services for her traumatic experiences, we hope Ivy can find peace in her heart again.

Our care for people affected by leprosy doesn't stop at the treatment stage. **Click here to read what we mean when we say "cure and care for a person with leprosy".**

People with this disease tend to already struggle with poverty, and with the onset of blindness, it makes putting food on the table an impossible task.

Click here to read more about River Blindness.

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IMPACT REPORT



Wyman Jacques has been a loyal contributor to our stamp program for 40 years. Over the years, he has collected, trimmed, and delivered countless stamps to our office with the help of a friend who is confined to her home. Their immense contribution has helped many people affected by leprosy receive treatment, surgery and rehabilitative care. Unfortunately, Wyman is now in ill health. He had stamps piling up in his home but could not deliver it to us. We were able to receive them thanks to June Campbell who made the long trip to our office.

We are so thankful to have supporters like Wyman and June who will go to great lengths to support effect:hope. **Click here to find out more about the stamp program and see how you can make a difference.**

Have a question?

If you have any questions or concerns about this newsletter, please contact Andrea Onley and she will be happy to help you.

Email: aonley@effecthope.org
Phone: 1-888-537-7679 ext. 2038

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