

# PRAYER UPDATE

APRIL-JUNE 2020

effect:hope  
The Leprosy Mission Canada



*Nazma still finds courage to smile despite the walls of isolation. (Photo: Tom Bradley)*

## *The New Normal*

Our way of life has changed so much in the past few weeks because of COVID-19 and it's been a struggle getting used to 24/7 life at home.

When I think of life in isolation, I think about Nazma, a woman in Bangladesh. As a young woman barely out of her teens, Nazma developed symptoms of leprosy. Over time, she experienced clawed hands and a lack of sensation in all her limbs. Soon, her neighbours began avoiding her. Nazma moved out to the fringes of the community to escape persecution, stares and cruel comments.

Nazma's new neighbours weren't much better. They literally built walls around her. She could no longer walk freely and was left with a narrow path to go home. They also warned her not to walk through their property.

This is where effect:hope's partners found Nazma, on the outskirts of a large chicken farm, where the smell is unbearable.



"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."

PHILIPPIANS 2:3



Unfortunately, due to her late diagnosis, we couldn't reverse her physical disabilities. But we provided treatment and helped her start a small business selling eggs and goat milk, which provides her with a sense of purpose and dignity.

Thanks to your financial and prayer support, Nazma has hope for the future and the stigma she faces is lessening through community awareness. The walls are beginning to come down.

COVID-19 has given us a tiny glimpse into the lives of people like Nazma who have been living in forced isolation for years and continue to experience psychological impacts. We encourage you to reach out to people who might be struggling with isolation in this "new normal" and to people like Nazma who don't have a choice in the matter.

*Thank you for your support and prayers! Please read our annual report at:*  
[effecthope.org/2019-annual-report](https://effecthope.org/2019-annual-report)



## *Prayer Requests*

- **Please pray for the people we serve.** People struggling with neglected tropical diseases are often stigmatized because of their disability and end up isolating themselves, permanently, like Nazma. This isolation results in anxiety and depression. Please pray for the emotional and mental health of the people we serve and for healing.
- **Pray for effect:hope.** These are very challenging times for us as an organization. The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting us negatively and we are concerned about lower revenues, destabilizing the work of our partners. Please pray for God's continued provision over this ministry. He has carried us for over 125 years and we hope to continue serving until every person suffering from a neglected tropical disease is helped!
- **Please pray for protection over our partners and their families.** They serve in hard-to-reach places, some without adequate medical support. Yet, they continue to care for people affected by neglected tropical diseases, often at great sacrifice and personal risk.
- **Pray for countries, leaders, health workers, and medical staff.** Pray for Canada's leadership at all levels for those making critical decisions about the impact of COVID-19, and also for countries with weak health care systems. Pray God will grant wisdom to decision-makers and medical teams to ensure the protection and health of people - especially the vulnerable and sick.

Visit [effecthope.org/blog](https://effecthope.org/blog) for regular updates and for specific prayer requests from the field.



*Thank you for your support and prayers! We are encouraged by your concern for people affected by neglected tropical diseases such as leprosy and for the effect:hope team. We meet every weekday morning (remotely) to lift up concerns and praise items from supporters like you. Please email us at [prayer@effecthope.org](mailto:prayer@effecthope.org) and let us know how you are doing. We would love to hear from you!*