

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.
—Isaiah 58:9

February 2022

Dear **[Firstname]**,

Sometimes I wish we could re-write history for the people we serve. Too often, we meet people who tell us tragic stories that could have been prevented if we had just reached them with diagnosis and treatment earlier. I still have hope. God's love is healing and restorative. As you read Rashedul's story, I invite you to hold him and his little girl in your prayers.

A year after Rashedul was married, he and his wife had their first child. At the time, he was working as a cook at a restaurant in Dhaka. Life was good.

But things changed. Rashedul noticed that his earlobes had thickened. And then he developed a high fever. After misdiagnosis and struggling to find medical help, he was finally diagnosed with leprosy and told that his body was having an immune reaction to the disease. By the time his feet were severely damaged.

While Rashedul is cured today, the impact of a late leprosy diagnosis still haunts him. His damaged feet limit his mobility and he faces discrimination. He no longer works as a cook, and no one will hire him to do day labour.

His wife was afraid that she would get leprosy. So she abandoned her husband and daughter. She moved away. Because of the stigma of leprosy, Rashedul lives in poverty as a single father.

May Rashedul feel God's loving hand as he heals physically and emotionally. Pray that God will provide all he and his daughter need to live a healthy, secure, and full life.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

- Rashedul and others in a similar situation in Bangladesh. We are working with partners and the government to make sure people living with a neglected tropical disease can walk into any hospital and receive proper medical help.
- The people we serve and our partner staff who continue to face the threat of COVID-19. Some of our partners have reported increased cases of COVID-19 in the areas where they work. There have also been positive cases among the staff.
- Global action to end neglected tropical diseases for good. The Kigali Declaration is a political declaration. It calls together governments, organizations, and funders worldwide to invest in strategies and action to reach the World Health Organizations' 2030 goals for neglected tropical diseases. Pray that more countries, including Canada, would sign and support this declaration.
- Give thanks for the success of World Leprosy Day and World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day on January 30. Many more Canadians learned about neglected tropical diseases like leprosy. Pray that the hearts of those who learned about people affected by these diseases would be moved to action.
- We thank God daily for the generosity of our supporters. you have touched many lives with your gifts in 2021.
- Please pray that God would continue to bless the work of Effect Hope through 2022.