

CURED NOT CURSED!



LEPROSY Q AND A

Q: What is leprosy?

A: Leprosy is a disease caused by a bacteria that affects the nerves of the cooler parts of the person's body like the skin, eyes and limbs. The outward signs of leprosy are shocking. Nerves will die, fingers may curl, feet can start to drag and parts of the body will lose their sensitivity to touch. These symptoms, including ulcers and open sores, are not only unsightly but result in stigma and rejection.

Q: How is leprosy spread?

A: Leprosy is an infectious disease and is believed to be transmitted through airborne droplets such as the moisture in a cough or a sneeze of an infected person.

Q: What is the curse?

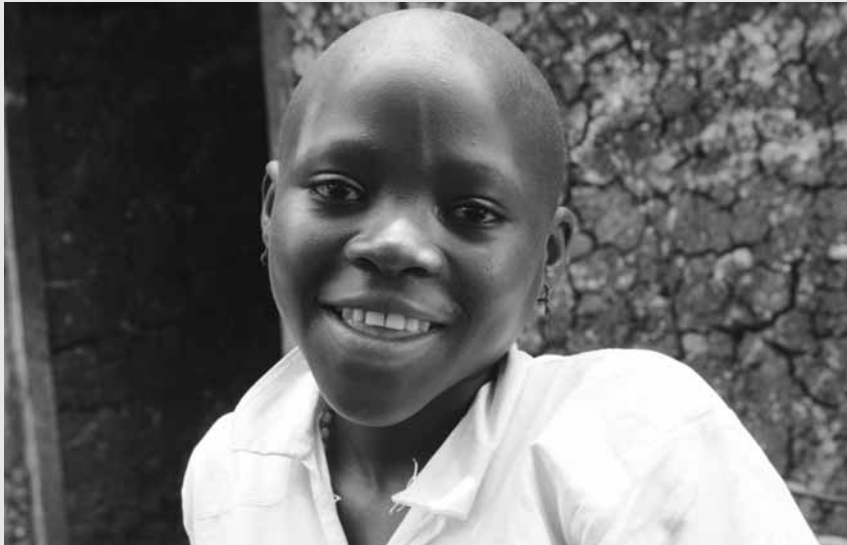
A: Because leprosy is still surrounded by myths, stigma and fear, it is more than a medical condition – it is a social condition. People with leprosy are often banished from their communities and face severe oppression due to this stigma.

Q: Can leprosy be cured?

A: Yes! In 1982, a Multi-drug therapy (MDT) was discovered as an effective cure against the bacilli that causes leprosy. After taking the medication for just a short time the patient is no longer contagious. After a course of several months, they will completely cured of leprosy!

Q: How does the Leprosy Mission help?

A: Founded in Ireland in 1874, the organization now operates in 30 countries around the world. It reaches 250,000 patients annually and operates hospitals, referral centres and rehabilitation units.



MAPENDO

When Mapendo was just 8 years old, her parents noticed discoloured patches of skin in different areas across her body. Knowing the devastation of leprosy, they found it easier to ignore the symptoms than receive a diagnosis.

Over the years, Mapendo gradually developed clawing in her hands and ulcers on her feet. But sadly, her parents have yet to show any interest in their daughter's healing. In fact, when the Leprosy Mission health care worker was going over treatment options, Mapendo's father told the supervisor it would be best if we would just take Mapendo away.

This young girl is well aware of her parents' lack of interest – yet she musters up the courage to keep going on her own.

The Leprosy Mission made arrangements for Mapendo to start school. Under any other circumstance, the school would not have allowed her application because at 16, she is too old to be in primary classes. But they made special arrangements to accommodate Mapendo.

She is the only child in her family to ever attend school. It's an amazing gift for her to receive an education. Mapendo is grateful for the help of generous supporters like you. With your help, Mapendo and others in her situation have hope for the future.

QUICK FACTS

- Leprosy is also known as “Hansen’s Disease.”
- 1 person every 2 minutes finds out they have leprosy.
- There is no vaccine – the only solution is early detection and treatment.
- 12 million people today suffer from or are threatened by permanent disabilities because of leprosy.
- People who have leprosy are non-infectious within a short time of receiving their first treatment.

Please note: the *Cured not Cursed* mitt will not protect against hot surfaces. The Leprosy Mission Canada does not advise use of the mitt as an oven mitt or any purpose other than intended.



Your *Cured not Cursed* mitts were made at the Vizianagaram vocational training centre in India. The women who made these mitts have all been directly affected by leprosy and are studying at Vizianagaram to rebuild their confidence and regain their dignity.



Thank you for standing alongside people just like these young ladies as we help eliminate leprosy around the world.



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