She Heard the Words That Terrified Her Most ... (continued from front page)

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For now, she’s happy just to know that she’ll get better, she’ll have regular meals and coloring books to enjoy, and she’ll get to play with the other kids at the hospital. Before running off to join one of her new friends, Kajal exclaimed, “I hope I’ll have a bed soon!”

Create Your Legacy of Caring and Compassion

Now you can create your legacy of compassion for suffering people. It begins with your planned gift to American Leprosy Missions.

Your gift ensures that your most heartfelt convictions are upheld for generations to come. At the same time, your planned gift assists American Leprosy Missions in building a long-term and sustainable program to help children, adults and families affected by leprosy and Buruli ulcer.

Choose How You’ll Give

To create your legacy, you might choose to:

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Find Out More

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She Heard the Words That Terrified Her Most — “You Have Leprosy” But Your Support Saved Kajal from a Lifetime of Suffering

Kajal is small for a 9-year-old. She doesn’t get enough to eat because her family is poor, like so many in her village. Kajal’s dad died a year ago, and since then, her mom has been struggling to survive and care for her children. But about four months ago, that became the least of her problems.

That’s when Kajal started noticing light-colored patches on her arms and back. At first, it looked like a harmless rash. Kajal’s mom took her to a local clinic, but the medicines didn’t help. The patches got bigger. The rash got worse. It covered her whole back. Then her face became red, and her skin started peeling off. Kajal’s mom was terrified.

She’d seen leprosy before and feared the worst. There was only one thing to do. But it wouldn’t be easy. She would have to take her little girl to the hospital. Because Kajal’s village is so remote, the journey was long and arduous, taking two full days, first by ox cart and then by bus.

Finally, they arrived. As soon as the doctor saw Kajal and examined the rash on her skin, he suspected leprosy. When the tests confirmed it, the doctor shared the bad news. “I’m so sorry,” he said quietly, “but, Kajal, you have leprosy.” She was terrified.

The doctor said that Kajal must begin treatment (continued on page 4)
A few months ago in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I was visiting an American Leprosy Missions hospital with two colleagues when I noticed a young girl with Buruli ulcer. The disease had left her with a disfiguring wound on her face.

I asked the doctor if this could be Mvuilawo, the girl whose picture we used in our mailings to our supporters. Maybe you’ve seen that photo and were moved by it. When he said yes, I was stunned. God was at work — He wanted us to meet!

Mvuilawo greeted us warmly. A good student, she had notes and books spread out on her bed. We sat with her, and we talked and prayed.

We tried to hold back our tears as we learned about her struggles, and we marveled at her courage. She told us she couldn’t wait to get back to school.

Before we said our goodbyes, we asked Mvuilawo what she needed most. Her answer shocked us. She said food. Just imagine! Mvuilawo’s photo had inspired so many donors to give, and now the idea that she didn’t have enough food was unthinkable. But that’s what she faced.

You see, when Mvuilawo’s father learned that she had leprosy, he fled, leaving his daughter and wife without a breadwinner.

We had to help. Along with Dr. Jacques Kongawi of American Leprosy Missions, I met with Mvuilawo’s mother. We found a job for her at the hospital that would enable her to feed her family. And we gave Mvuilawo a scholarship so she could attend school.

Dr. Kongawi knows what it’s like to be abandoned. His parents left him when he was a child. That’s why, as he sat with Mvuilawo and her mother, he could truly understand their suffering and feel their pain. It was a special, touching moment that was possible only with the provision of Jesus Christ. I felt His loving presence more deeply than I ever had before.

I hope you feel Jesus’ presence, too, because you’re part of how we show that His love is working through us. And I hope you’re as inspired by Mvuilawo as I am. Because of her, I feel such urgency about our mission to end leprosy and Buruli ulcer. This year, we’re pushing harder than ever to:

- **Move forward with a vaccine.** This year, toxicity studies begin on the leprosy vaccine. Next year, safety trials. A breakthrough is just around the corner. Praise God!
- **Fight Buruli ulcer in Ghana.** This campaign focuses on reducing cases of the disease in Ghana through drug treatment, drug trials, health services, training, and work in the field. We hope to expand the program throughout West Africa.
- **Help treat and prevent disabilities.** One of our initiatives, Legs to Stand On, helps people with leprosy and other diseases by supporting community health programs that aid their ability to walk and be productive.
- **Fight the poverty that gives rise to leprosy and Buruli ulcer.** One of our grassroots initiatives, Village Alive, provides training and information to rural health workers, who then go out and train communities. As people come together to help each other, they learn about self-care for disabilities, maintain safe water and food supplies, develop sanitation systems, provide education, and create economic opportunity. As communities transform, diseases decline.

God bless you!

**For children like Mvuilawo and others who are suffering, your gifts send life-changing treatment and reveal Jesus’ love.**

**Share the Gospel.** We’re bringing the Word of God to remote countries as we work with local churches. When the stigma of these diseases isolates victims, they find solace in God’s presence.

With your partnership and our faith in Jesus, this is just the start of what we can do together in 2013 to end leprosy and Buruli ulcer. Thank you for being there for us and for the suffering people we serve.

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Your gifts make it possible for Dr. Kongawi to reach remote, poverty-stricken places and bring his medical expertise to help people who are suffering.
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Show His Love, Send His Compassion

YES! I want to send compassionate care to Kajal, Mvuilawo and others suffering with leprosy and Buruli ulcer. Here is my gift of:

$25 $50 $100 $______ to help as much as possible.

I want to join Miracle Partners and give $_______ monthly.

Name: __________________________
Address: _________________________
City: ___________________ State: _______ ZIP: __________

My e-mail address is: ________________________________________ .

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But Your Support Saved Kajal from a Lifetime of Suffering

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