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From his earliest days as a young medical officer working for the Colonial Service in Nigeria and Trinidad, my father was dissatisfied with the scientific dogma of the day, that ‘Leprosy is caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*’. He saw that an uncritical acceptance of this assumption not only perpetuates fear of the disease and discrimination against sufferers, but effectively stifles scientific enquiry into its pathogenesis. His enjoining of the battle for a rational nomenclature of Hansen’s Disease (to have done away forever with the stigmatizing ‘lepr’ prefix) was central to his search for the scientific truth about the cause of the condition. To him, these were not separate fields of endeavour. He was always aware of the clinical implications inherent in the usage of medical and scientific terminology, and he never flinched from seeking the truth and living it for the benefit of his patients. This sometimes aroused discomfort in less open-minded authorities and at times cost my father much in personal hardship.

Through his own research and reading, my father sought to understand some of the seeming paradoxes of Hansen’s Disease. He once said that as a child he loved to lie on the grass, look down into it and imagine himself to be infinitesimally small. (He was not the first scientist to have carried out thought experiments like this. . . .). He thought that one way to explain the many otherwise paradoxical findings in Hansen’s Disease would be to allow for Hansen’s bacillus to harbour within it a DNA plasmid, capable of autonomous existence and pathogenicity.

His hypothesis was first published in 1982. Since then, research in the fields of molecular biology and genetics have borne out the existence and operation in nature of phenomena that he deduced through reading and contemplation. His work shows that arriving at scientific truth need not be an exclusive preserve of the ‘experts’. My father worked without the advantages of a highly equipped laboratory, a team of technicians and thousands of dollars in research grants. As well as in *Leprosy Review*’ he has had papers and correspondence published in *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, the *International Journal of Leprosy*, *The Lancet*, *New Scientist* and *The Star*. His writings will serve as a permanent reminder of that curiosity, originality, courage, discipline, respect, humility and humour that characterized his work as a clinician, his fellowship of the church and his relationship with his family.

I shall remember my father as a quiet, gentle and loving man who was passionate in the pursuit of truth, brilliant in his thinking with a delightful sense of the ironic, a man who puts others’ wellbeing ahead of his own. The common theme was what C. S. Lewis called ‘Grace’; a level of spiritual development, of relatedness to God, that few of us attain. We will all miss him.

C. D. CORCOS