

Prayer Notes

"She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger." Luke 2:7

December 2023 / January 2024

Jesus the king, born into poverty

"She [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

Luke 2:7

There are many beautiful nativity scenes that are presented to us over Christmas. Lovely as these are, I do wonder how these compare to the reality of Jesus being born amongst the animals in a stable.

If you have travelled to Nepal, you will have seen where animals are housed overnight. It's crowded, dirty and smelly. It is more likely the saviour of the world was born into these conditions. And consider the hygiene of Jesus' first visitors, the shepherds!

The King of Kings was not born into royalty but into poverty, he was not born in a sterile hospital, but in an unclean stable or barn. He was not first visited by distinguished guests but by weather-worn shepherds.



Yet the glory of God was not dimmed by these circumstances but amplified by a great company of the heavenly host proclaiming "peace" on earth.

As Mary pondered all these things in her heart (v19), may we also forever marvel at the majesty of Emmanuel, God with us indeed.

Richard Reeve, Interim CEO

Jajarkot earthquake update

Winter is coming on quickly in Nepal and sadly there have already been reports of earthquake-affected people dying from the cold.

It's been inspiring to see our partners spring into action providing immediate help of food and supplies to the poorest earthquake-affected families in consultation with local government and other groups.

Blankets, water filters and weather-proof tarps have been some of the much-needed items given out to families and individuals who are living in the open air. Now the focus turns to the next phase of assistance: providing temporary shelter as well as some building

materials, more tarps and warm clothes. The third phase will be focused on infrastructure and supporting psychosocial and livelihood recovery.

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) estimates that around 250,000 people including 80,000 children have been affected by this earthquake. 200,000 people including 68,000 children still urgently require assistance.

INF Australia is continuing to support the ongoing relief efforts. Your generous donations will bring help to families and children who need it most. Donate at www.inf.org.au/earthquake-relief

Please pray with us

INF Nepal

INF Nepal and INF International celebrated INF Day on the 17th November. We thank God for His faithfulness in guiding and sustaining INF for an impressive 71 years.

Pray for the recovery and good health of several team members, and for provision of committed, long-term staff to join our team, including roles like Research Officer, Physiotherapist, Speech Assistant, Monitoring Officer, and Staff Nurse.

We are grateful for the successful induction program and implementation of the Dignity Extension Project. Pray for the planning, funding and implementation of all projects, that we will administer them effectively.

Give thanks for the Shining Hospital Surkhet team's successful completion of a leprosy and disability screening camp. Pray for a leprosy patient who is currently undergoing treatment in Shining Hospital Banke.

We are thankful to God for the successful toolkit training conducted for health workers at Province Hospital Surkhet and surrounding health facilities, enhancing skills and knowledge and contributing to improved patient care.

The INF Nepal Disaster recovery team is planning to distribute winter supplies to Jajarkot and West Rukum. Pray for successful data analysis, timely procurement and the ability to reach those in need.

Pray for a wheelchair distribution camp in Shining Hospital Surkhet, and for the Sunita Project's school training and community education programs in remote sites.

Pray for the feasibility study and writing of the project proposal for the Empowering Women and Vulnerable Households to Combat Climate Change project in Bajura.

Please pray that expatriate visas that are expiring in December are renewed quickly.

Pray for the successful completion of the construction for 12 households affected by landslides in Bajura.

Pray for approval from the Ministry of Women and Child for the new Environment and Economic Sustainability (EES) and Transforming Masculinity (TM) project in Bajura.

Pray for the well-being and good health of Self-Help Group (SHG) members in the Terai belt, hilly region and those in earthquake-affected areas as the cold intensifies.

Milap

We are thankful that we were able to respond immediately after the recent earthquake with relief items such as quilts, tarpaulins, and P-form. Pray for our disaster response team who are working on the second phase of relief support.

Pray for the earthquake-affected families who are still living outside, even though winter has begun. We were able to distribute relief items to help them stay warm and safe from the cold, however the weather will make life difficult.

Sarwangin Sewa Samaj (Holistic Service Society)

Many who were injured due to the earthquake have ended up in Bheri Hospital. Please pray that God will provide for the spiritual and physical needs of each person and family.

Similarly, please pray for our organisation, that its needs will be met, that our work will be run well and our relationships be strong. Please pray for health issues of some staff – for swift healing as well as courage to face challenges.

Asal Chhimeki Nepal

Pray for coordination of earthquake relief with the local government, local communities, and other groups so that all work can be achieved sooner. Pray for all the procurement, safe transportation, and delivery of the supplies to the beneficiaries, and for resources for the next phases.

Shanti Nepal

Ask for God's care and safety for those affected by the Jajarkot earthquake, as well as the teams providing timely support both now and into the future.

Shanti Nepal is phasing out two projects and downsizing staff in December; pray for God's grace and peace in this process, and as we plan for projects into 2024.

INF Australia Vision Trip

We're going to Nepal!
Join us on our Vision trip
from 9–24 February.
Register your interest and
ask all your questions.

www.inf.org.au/get-involved/trips-and-treks

Email ausoffice@au.inf.org
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