

April 2024



INTERNATIONAL NEPAL  
FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

# Prayer Notes & News

## DEVOTION

“Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”. - Luke 5:31-32

This is Jesus’ response to the Pharisees who complained that Jesus sat with tax collectors and sinners at Levi’s house. Jesus intentionally ‘moved towards’ people who were despised by others or considered outcasts. He was not ashamed to respect, value and share a meal with them: Jesus saw the person, saw their need and was able to meet their need.

It can be easy to complain about others – what they do, how they are dressed, who they associate with, etc. This reaction arises from a fear that “these people”

may corrupt our ideals, comforts and the way we do life, and prevent us from seeing them as uniquely valuable, worthy of equality and support, as we are. Jesus, however, knew who he was: that as God’s son, his identity could not be corrupted, and in this confidence he could move towards people who were in need, outcast or despised with compassion. We can do the same.

By Richard Reeve, INF Australia CEO

## CHANGE AGENTS FOR MORE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

Raj\* is a 16-year-old boy from the Dalit community facing unimaginable challenges. His parents are forced to eke out a living doing migrant work in India, so he and his young sister share household responsibilities. Worse, though, Raj bears the brunt of the caste discrimination the Dalit community endures daily: being excluded from social gatherings, denied entry to homes and derided by the children of higher castes.

It deeply affected Raj and his peers – but galvanised them too. Raj became involved in the Sunaulo Child Club, established by the Improving Child and Adolescents Well-being Through Community Partnership (ICAWCP) project, and was eventually elected chairperson. Initially – even there – children refused to interact with Dalit peers. But when Raj and his fellow club member, Ram\* attended a training session organised by the project, they were empowered with the clear message: all children are equal and deserve respect.

They began to campaign. Gradually high-caste children started to choose to sit with Dalit children. A sense of equality and inclusion grew. Then Ram’s mother, who had previously done the opposite, welcomed Raj into their home with warmth and hospitality. This symbolic gesture marked a significant shift in attitudes. Now the campaign has spread to combat caste-based discrimination in their community, and their approach has won support from local authorities. Raj’s story proves the power of education and advocacy in creating equitable spaces for every child, and that even the most entrenched prejudices can break down, bit by bit.

\*A pseudonym has been used

Source: Welfare Association for Children Tikapur (WACT) project on Improving Child and Adolescents Wellbeing Through Community Partnership.



# Partner Prayer Points

## INF NEPAL

### Updates and Praise Points:

- Successful leprosy skin camp (smear test screening) held in the Kapilvastu region benefited 440 people. Free medical services offered at the Kapilvastu Skin Camp.
- The Physiotherapy Hall extension at Green Pastures Hospital is in full use. The upgrade will be complete with only a minor investment required to provide accessible toilets and equipment storerooms.
- The successful rehabilitation of many stroke patients who have recently been discharged to make a full recovery.

## INF HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

### Please pray for:

- Staffing, space, and resources to meet the demand of increasing patients requiring rehabilitation services.
- Wisdom and compassion for the Social Service Department (SSD) team as they support patients through counseling and assessments.
- The Healthcare Christian Fellowship event at Chourjahari Hospital, in Rukum district. Specifically for safe travels and good fellowship.
- Good progress and safe repairs to the wall and fencing project at Green Pastures Hospital, involving craftsmen from Shining Nepal Multipurpose Company (SNMC) and INF Engineers.
- INF Nepal is planning to build new Doctor's accommodation on the Green Pastures Hospital site. Please pray for the funds to be raised for this important project.
- The upcoming Palliative Care toolkit training and Palliative Care Introductory Workshop for Health workers.
- Effective disability interaction and leprosy case-finding training by INF and Green Pastures Hospital staff.

## INF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

### Please pray for:

- The newly designed projects "Livelihoods, Inclusion, and Empowerment for Transformation" (LIFT) in Rolpa and Empowering Women, Nurturing Abilities, Building Livelihood and Enhancing Inclusion (ENABLE) in Jumla.
- Drought-affected farmers in Rolpa, seeking guidance and solutions to mitigate crop losses as they adapt to changing climate conditions.
- The timely completion and evaluation of the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) project in Bajura, ensuring valuable insights for future climate resilience initiatives.



## ELIJAH COUNSELLING AND TRAINING CENTRE (ECTC)

ECTC's focus is on improving mental health within the local community.

Please pray for:

- Increased financial stability, especially for this psychosocial counselling program.
- All ECTC clients, that they may see a wholesome recovery through the services provided.

## SARWANGIN SEWA SAMAJ (SSS)

Sarwangin Sewa Samaj (SSS) means "holistic service society". This NGO in west Nepal provides patient support and advocacy at Bheri Zonal Hospital and at INF Nepal's TB Leprosy Centre Nepalgunj.

Please pray for:

- The service society has an increased open and harmonious work and unity among employees who are serving with God's love.
- Continued financial support and recovery for Dhanu, a long serving SSS staff member fighting cancer, she needs a breakthrough in funds required for treatment.
- Successful recovery for patients fighting asthma, suffering kidney failure, and other issues, being treated at Bheri Hospital.

## MAHILA MILIJULI

Mahila Milijuli means "women working together". They are a non-profit social organisation based in a women's collaborative.

Please pray for:

- The right candidate to be selected as a resource person to update organisational policies that achieve good outcomes.
- Successful training sessions for board and staff members to aid capacity building.

An INF staff member conducts a skin smear test on a local community member during the leprosy screening camp at Kapilbastu.

## ASAL CHIMEKI NEPAL

Asal Chimeke (Good Neighbour) is committed to bringing positive transformation through improved social programs

Please pray for:

- Successful negotiation with local government for the Jajarkot-Rukum Earthquake Reconstruction Project.
- God's guidance looking at ACN's Strategic Plan Development for the next five years, particularly concentrating on its future.
- The ACN teams, who are located in different districts, to look after the work.
- Approval and fundraising for the Pokhara Christian Community/ACN Community Support mission resource centre.

## MILAP- RECONCILIATION

Milap means "reconciliation". Providing community health and development services to embattled people in Janaki Rural Municipality, Western Nepal.

Please pray for:

- The family of a member, who tragically lost their life following a robbery incident in Milap's vicinity. His wife remains in critical condition in the ICU. Also for other local Milap staff, fearful after the incident.
- The success of Milap's grant proposal to the Rotary Club to address the needs of ex-bonded laborers of Bardiya and Kailali.
- Protection from fires as temperatures rise in working areas during the summer.

Community people at the Leprosy Screening Camp with leprosy Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.







## TEAM UPDATE

### INF Australia Praise Points and Prayer Points

- Give thanks that Ming Poon has returned to Nepal and received her visa smoothly. Please pray for continued improvement in her health as she resumes her ministry in Nepal.
- Peter and Caryn Kneale’s health with the increased pollution as both have had respiratory issues.
- Peggy Franks as she leads a workshop as part of her Masters in Arts research into how *Single Missionaries experience their first year in Nepal* at the South Pacific Member Care Conference, to be held in Melbourne on 1st May.

## NEPAL VISION TRIP AND TREK NOVEMBER 2024

Join us for our Nepal Vision Trip 2024!

On your trip, you’ll see firsthand the INF projects and heritage sites, and undertake a fundraising trek with an experienced guide.

For more information or to register your interest, head to the **Get Involved** page on our website.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for our Adelaide supporter gathering and dinner. Contact the INF Australia office for more information.

**Date:** Saturday 4th May

**Location:** Coromandel Valley, Adelaide

3.00pm INF Supporters gathering

5.00pm Wider gathering  
– God’s heart for Justice

6:30pm Shared Dinner

**Phone:** (02) 9411 1195 • **Email:** [ausoffice@au.inf.org](mailto:ausoffice@au.inf.org)

### Introducing William Hood – Board Member



I was born in Hyderabad, India, to missionary parents Donald and Patricia. I returned to Australia aged 5 while my parents remained connected to their work in India. I lectured in Librarianship and Information Systems at NSW University, and worked as

IT manager at Moore College. Now retired, I stay active doing voluntary IT work. I also enjoy bushwalking.

My interest in Nepal began when my father took over from then INF Australia Chair Rev Brian King. Our family hosted Nepalese visitors including Pastor Robert Khartak, founder of Gyaneshwor Church, one of the largest churches in Nepal.

I visited Nepal on the 2018 Vision Trip led by Peggy Franks. We toured INF in Kathmandu, observed projects in Pokhara and Nepalgunj, and concluded with a visit to Bardiy National Park.

I’ve been on INF Australia’s Board since 2017 and am currently serving as Deputy Chair on the Policies committee.

I am excited to be visiting Nepal in November as part of the Vision Trip and Trek. We’ll be able to see more of the work taking place in the field. We’ll also be raising money for the Green Pastures Hospital Poor Fund, providing access to the healthcare people desperately need.

To those joining us, I look forward to meeting you.