

March 2024



INTERNATIONAL NEPAL
FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

Prayer Notes & News

DEVOTION

“Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man, “I am willing, “ he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.” - Luke 5:13

In those days, people with leprosy had to live away from the rest of the community as outcasts, not permitted to approach others. This man was bold to approach Jesus. By declaring “If you are willing”, in verse 12, he was demonstrating his faith. “If it is in the Lord’s will”, is a statement of faith in the one who can heal.

I love how Jesus interacted with this man. He moved towards and responded by touch. In those days no one would dare go near someone with leprosy, let alone have physical contact with them. Jesus reached out in love and touched the man and responded to his faith. I’ve personally sat with

leprosy patients, held their hands and prayed with them, reflecting that I’m the one who has been blessed by their company.

Stigma is still a real problem in Nepal and people with leprosy are often treated as outcasts. INF has a long history of welcoming people with leprosy into their care, treatment and rehabilitation. INF is also moving towards people with leprosy, by establishing a community outreach team to educate and screen people in areas of high-leprosy prevalence.

By Richard Reeve, INF Australia CEO

COMMUNITY COHESION FIGHTS LEPROSY

The discovery of leprosy in Aathkhet Village sparked fear and stigmatisation among residents. Neighboring villagers avoided the area. But the community of Taghring village took measures to address the issue, collaborating with the Marsyangdi Rural Municipality, INF and Green Pasture Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre (GPHRC). Together they organised an awareness campaign and skin camp.

During the event, health workers, educators, students and 135 villagers participated in an informative session on leprosy. A total of 74 were screened for the disease, with 39 suspected cases identified. It dispelled misconceptions and fostered community empathy and understanding.

Community cohesion improved and the stigma decreased. Local leaders and villagers were grateful



Aathkhet Village in Taghring, Marsyangdi Rural Municipality, meets to discuss leprosy education and screenings

for the support, acknowledging the role of INF and GPHRC. INF and community leaders continue to monitor with a reported positive shift in attitudes towards affected individuals. It is a testament to community-oriented initiatives.

By Santosh Nepali, INF Australia Programs Manager

Partner Prayer Points

INF NEPAL

Updates and Praise Points

- Giving thanks that staff from GPH Speech and Occupational Therapy received scholarships to attend the Learn Play Thrive Neurodiversity Continuing Education Summit
- For successful completion of the 10-day palliative care training for seven doctors
- Thanks for the five-day Cerebral Palsy Camp.
- For successful leprosy screening camps in Lamjung and Gorakha Siran Chowk Rural Municipality
- For patients referred through outreach camps for reconstructive surgeries

Please pray:

- For provision of new wheelchairs, and for rehabilitation staff working with diverse needs
- For long-term and committed staff, as well as new candidates, at INF Nepal.
- For comfort, acceptance and no stigma for newly diagnosed leprosy patients
- For patients admitted in all INF hospitals
- For the health of patients experiencing leprosy reactions at Shining Hospital Banke.
- For patients' speedy recovery, and replacement of old equipment at Shining Hospital Surkhet
- For the successful implementation of a skin camp and leprosy-finding training in Kapilvastu
- For the safety of traveling staff and success of ongoing training programs
- For the successful completion of the Climate Change Adaptation for Sustainable Livelihood (CCAL) project in Bajura
- For the safe and productive visit of funding partners to INF Nepal.

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
- Philippians 2:4



Completion of INF Australia's monitoring in three INF hospitals. Left: INF Australia's Nepal Programs Manager Santosh Nepali, right, with GPH Chief of Medicine Dr Suman Tamang.

Right: Cerebral Palsy Camp was a five-day residential program for children with cerebral palsy. It addressed physical, social, psychological and spiritual needs of the children and their families.



Palliative Care and Chronic Disease Ward at Green Pastures Hospital holds a birthday celebration for an admitted child.

SHANTI NEPAL

Shanti Nepal works in Aathbiskot municipality, West Rukum and aims to improve the health and livelihood of the poor and marginalised people. “Shanti” means peace.

Please pray:

- For safety, shelter and return to normal life for those affected by the earthquake in Jajarkot and Rukum west
- For wisdom and care as Shanti Nepal manages downsizing, with the funding for two projects phasing out
- For evaluation and next year's planning of Community Transformation Project (CTP)
- For the recruitment of a Development Facilitator with the CTP team

ELIJAH COUNSELING AND TRAINING CENTRE (ECTC)

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

Please pray:

- Giving thanks for ECTC's new batch of diploma courses
- For speedy recovery for an ECTC founder, Dr Irmgard Spittler
- For new donors in the Pastoral Care, Counselling Training and Prison project
- For a smooth evaluation process with Social Welfare Council
- For positive changes and intervention through the prison counselling team

MAHILA MILIJULI

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

Praise point:

- Giving thanks for approval of this year's activities by the Social Welfare Council.

MILAP

Milap means “reconciliation”. It provides community health and development services to embattled people in Janaki Rural Municipality, Western Nepal.

Please pray:

- For the rehabilitation of a school damaged by the Jajarkot earthquake
- For success in Milap's new business venture to support its social work
- For Kabita Chamar, the daughter of a self-help group member, for speedy recovery after being admitted to hospital with severe burns

SARWANGIN SEWA SAMAJ (SSS)

This NGO in west Nepal provides patients support and advocacy at Bheri Zonal Hospital and INF's Shining Hospital Banke.

Please pray:

- For Dhanu's recovery from cancer and the necessary funds for treatment
- For Narisa's healing from kidney disease and funds for her treatment
- For the successful completion of the 40-day fasting for SSS employees
- For Lakhanlal's head surgery and funds for further treatment
- For Parvati's broken leg due to an accident
- For Arjun's recovery from HIV

WELFARE ASSOCIATION CHILDREN TIKAPUR (WACT)

Women Empowerment, Advocacy, Community Health and Transformational Development (WACT) responds to the needy and vulnerable in the far-western development region.

Please pray:

- For healing and comfort for a staff member who recently lost her husband
- For fruitful engagement and safety in the upcoming visit to WACT



Sarwangin Sewa Samaj team



TEAM UPDATE

Board Announcement – February 2024 - Appointment of CEO

After a process of external advertisement, review of applications and interviews, the board has unanimously approved the appointment of Richard Reeve as the next CEO of INF Australia. The board wishes to congratulate Richard on his successful appointment and looks forward to his leadership and contribution to INF Australia over the next few years. The board will also seek to find a replacement Director in the next few months as Richard will be required to relinquish his Board position to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

By Ravi Underwood, Board Chair

About Richard Reeve



I am married to Penny, an award-winning author, and we have three children – a daughter now married, a young adult son and a teenage son. I was born in Burnie, Tasmania, and moved to Melbourne with my family when I was young.

In 1994, I was called to work with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea, and was its finance manager for the next five years.

In 2001, my family and I left Australia for Pokhara, Nepal, where I worked in finance for INF. During this time, I was able to focus on training and equipping staff, support Himalayan Ministries with Cindy Perry and Anne Herr, and be a part of the handing over of INF as a mission to the Nepali churches in Pokhara.

Since returning to Sydney in 2006, I've had senior roles with Bible League, Anglicare and Churches of

Christ in NSW. I completed a Bachelor of Theology through Churches of Christ and became an endorsed minister. I'm currently studying a Masters of Leadership at Deakin University.

For more than 20 years I have worked closely with the current Executive Ministry Director of INF Nepal, Krishna Adhikari. When I lived in Pokhara I supported Krishna in his ACCA studies (UK equivalent of CPA). I then worked intently with him before passing on the role of Finance Director, when we left Nepal. To continue to support Krishna, I joined the board of INF Australia in 2018, and the INF International board in 2020.

My passion has always been mission, particularly overseas mission. I keep being drawn to Jesus' life and early ministry as presented in the gospels. Jesus was so attuned to moving towards people, meeting both their physical and spiritual needs and modeling how we should live. I'm humbled to be appointed CEO and I'm looking forward to serving Nepal and its people through INF ... God's mission.