

February 2024



INTERNATIONAL NEPAL
FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

Prayer Notes & News

DEVOTION

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor” - Luke 4

“The poor” here refers to both those who were economically and physically poor, and the spiritually poor. Jesus declares that He has seen the plight of the poor, and that He has come to help them.

In fulfillment of this, Jesus identified with the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the naked, the sick, and those in prison.

Similarly, our partners in Nepal work alongside the most poor and marginalised: with inmates, providing medical services, and giving financial and advocacy support. Food, clothing and housing

has also been provided to the victims of the Jajarkot and West Rukum earthquake.

Jesus gathered many from both the poor and wealthy and discipled them on the kingdom of God. Likewise, our partners provide education and training, empowering people and communities to see their lives transformed.

Ultimately, in Jesus’ work on the cross the poor in the world find hope and transformation. Jesus is very good news for the poor.

By Richard Reeve, INF Australia CEO

HOPE FOR A FUTURE FREE FROM LEPROSY

The horrors of leprosy are well-known to INF supporters. We continue to strive to eradicate this feared, contagious and ancient disease. INF has been caring for people with leprosy for more than 70 years.

It has been a heart-wrenching, heart-warming, extraordinary journey made possible by the sacrificial service of the early INF teams. No matter how hopeless a cause seemed, they determined people with leprosy would have a hope for the future.

Green Pastures Hospital specialises in helping patients understand the therapies and treatments. Specially trained nurses run classes for patients, teaching and demonstrating daily practices. These include soaking, oiling and scrubbing damaged feet (the SOS Method), along with other ways to relieve pain, assist healing and reduce progression.

Nurses also coach patients in communication skills, essential for those with affected speech and those with no-one to navigate healthcare options.

This training has resulted in 80% improvement in self-treatment skills, as evidenced by pre-and-post training assessments. Many are freed to manage their condition independently.

Along with other fine charities and the World Health Organisation, we continue to devote ourselves to the education, healthcare and treatment of leprosy. On World Leprosy Day we recognise those who have gone before us as well as those who need us now, as we work towards [#ZeroLeprosy](#) transmission by 2035.

By Sharon Tiwari, INF Nepal Communications

Partner Prayer Points

INF NEPAL

Updates and Praise Points

- Successful completion of the Basic Life Support (BLS) training with 24 INF Nepal staff members. This training equips the INF team with essential life-saving skills.
- Positive outcomes of reconstructive surgeries referred from our community outreach medical camps, to restore health and improve quality of life.
- Thanks for the community education program on Palliative Care by the Sunita Project. Twelve events were organised including sessions in schools, communities, and with FCHV groups.

Please pray for

- The upcoming winter relief distribution in Jajarkot District. Winter clothes and food will be distributed to 300 households.
- The four patient peer counsellors who listen to the concerns of those admitted to wards in all three hospitals.
- Projects at the three hospitals will impact the health and well-being of the community.
- God's provision for long-term staff in the INF Nepal team, and for the plan to secure new candidates.
- Effective execution of leprosy case-finding training at Kapilvastu.
- The Climate Change Adaptation for Sustainable Livelihood (CCAL) Project in Bajura, to be completed on time (March 2024). And ultimately contributing to sustainable livelihoods.
- Comfort and healing for families of those who died in the tractor accident in Bajura. May they find strength and support during this difficult time.
- Well-being and good health of Self-Help Group members in the Terai region, as well as those in earthquake-affected areas as the winter cold intensifies.





SHANTI NEPAL

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

Please pray for:

- Wisdom and safety for those working in earthquake zones
- The development of the birthing centre in Aathbiskot.
- Give thanks for relief and recovery support to Jajarkot earthquake-affected families.

ELIJAH COUNSELING AND TRAINING CENTRE (ECTC)

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

Please pray for:

- Earthquake victims receiving trauma counselling with our partner Shanti Nepal
- Shanti Nepal’s work with inmates.
- God to raise up new donors.

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 INF Nepal’s TB Leprosy Centre Nepalgunj.

Please pray for:

- The recovery of Jeevan Shahi, 6, after a major head injury following a fall. And for provision to pay for his medical needs
- Earthquake victims Gobind Bahadur Budhathoki and Anami Shahi.
- SSS employee Dhanu Thapa’s radiation treatment in Kathmandu.
- SSS employee Indira Tamand’s treatment for uterine kidney and heart-related problems.

MILAP

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

Please pray for:

- The third phase of support for earthquake-affected areas
- Warm clothes and educational materials are badly needed. Milap is aiming to assist 500 children.
- Support of self-help groups seeking to enhance the financial situations of local families and communities.

ASAL CHIMEKE NEPAL

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

Please pray for:

- Positive relationships with local governments in providing supplies
- The PCC-ACN Community Service (Mission) building’s quick journey through the approval process.
- A sense of calling for mission in unity at the Church Visit Program event.

MAHILA MILIJULI

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

Please pray for:

- Approval of this year’s activities from the Social Welfare Council of Nepal





TEAM UPDATE

Each month we will introduce a member of the INF Australia team or a member of the board. So you can get to know them a little better and can be praying for them.



We'd like you to meet **Neriyes Chhetri** who officially joined the INF Australia team last year following several months of volunteering.

I was born in Nawalparasi, west Nepal. I am

a third-generation Christian. I am grateful for my parents in shaping my understanding of faith and commitment to serving the Lord.

After marrying in 2016, Sanjay and I came to Australia and found Hosanna Nepali Church in Auburn, before finding a room to stay! I pursued my bachelor degree in Social Science at Torrens University and in February learned about INF Australia.

After my internship, there was an opportunity to join INF in July 2023. I have been a Program Support Officer but was recently asked to join INF Australia Communications. Allowing me to contribute to the community which holds a special place in my heart has been a tremendous blessing.

My passion for serving aligns with the vision of INF. I'm enthusiastic about making a significant impact on poor and marginalised individuals.

Please pray for:

- Success in the Communications team, as well as in taking the lead on some partner projects.

Read more about Neriyes's story on the INF Australia website at inf.org.au/who-we-are/news/neriyes-story