

Prayer Notes

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks." – Thessalonians 5:16

July 2023

Serving with love

A reflection on the INF mandate

Dear Friends,

As you read through these newsletters, let us be united in prayer and reflection to contemplate the essence of our work and the mandate that guides us: "We serve with love because God first loved us."

These simple yet profound words form the foundation of our actions, plans and works within INF.

This mandate is deeply rooted in the Scriptures and reminds us of the ultimate source of our motivation. At INF, service is more than just a job; it is a tangible demonstration of God's love for all humanity. It bridges the gap between our faith and our work, merging the spiritual and the practical.

We have been entrusted with a responsibility to bring comfort, healing, and transformation to those we encounter, embodying the love that God has poured into our lives.

When we serve with love, we become channels of God's compassion, mercy and hope.

We extend a helping hand to the broken-hearted, the marginalized and the vulnerable, shining a light in the darkness. Our acts of service become a testament to the transformative power of God's love working through us, touching lives and bringing restoration to communities.

As we pray for the needs of our working areas, hospitals, and the people we serve, let us also reflect on the privilege and calling to serve with love. May we be reminded of the profound impact we can have when we align our plans and actions with God's unconditional love.

In moments of weariness and challenges, let us draw strength from the knowledge that we are participating in God's work. Our service is an act of worship, an expression of gratitude for the love we have received.

May our prayers be with gratitude for the privilege to serve and a renewed sense of purpose in fulfilling the INF mandate. Let us hold onto the truth that, as we serve with love, we are instruments of God's boundless compassion and vessels of His transformative power.

Sincerely,
Krishna Adhikari
Executive Director

Please pray...

Ben has just returned from Nepal where he's been supporting Krishna and INF Nepal in the development of their strategic plans for the coming five years.

Please pray for the leadership of INF, for the staff and the communities in which they work. Pray for wisdom to expand programs with appropriate staffing, and for resilience in the face of challenging economic conditions.

Give thanks for the launch of INF's Zero Leprosy strategy and the opening of a new ward at Green Pastures Hospital.



Krishna greets INF's Russ Hancock on Russ' final visit to Nepal before his retirement earlier this year

Please pray with us

International Nepal Fellowship Nepal

Give thanks for the successful completion of the Wheelchair Distribution Camp during June at Green Pastures Hospital. The project provides free wheelchairs for those in need and was a very welcome opportunity for INF to connect with local community members in partnership with the “Wheels for the World” program.

Please pray for INF's new attempts to incorporate sustainable, low carbon construction materials in project planning. In a country increasingly impacted by changing climate, INF wants to uphold Creation Care and increase their ability to be 'green' in the way they plan and implement their work.

SHANTI Nepal

Give thanks for the successful preparation of a strategic plan for one of their partners in Makwanpur district who are working to build sustainable change in their community. Shanti Nepal has been playing a role in equipping and mobilizing local Christian organisations and helping them extend their reach.

Please pray for Shanti Nepal to continue its work in Dhading district. 2023 is the last year for two major projects – nutrition/food security and water/sanitation (WaSH). Current funding is ending for this project and Shanti Nepal is seeking a new partner.

WACT - Welfare Association for Children Tikapur

Give thanks that the planned activities for this year are progressing well, including a monitoring visit and the chance to collaborate with INFA on funding for Self Help Groups.

Give thanks for the opportunity for Nayan, who leads on these projects, to speak to supporters via Zoom in Sydney.

Please pray for staff and people in the communities in light of the ongoing heat. Temperatures have been regularly above 40C which makes it difficult to visit communities. Rescheduling project activities to the morning puts pressure on the team who are traveling long distances in difficult circumstances. Elderly people in particular are also badly affected by the high temperatures.



Milap

Give thanks for the Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) training that MILAP organised for WACT, Shanti Nepal, Sarwagin Sewa Samaj and Mahila Milijuli in Nepalgunj, Banke. The training helps our partner organisation think through how they can reach all members of their communities, offering inclusive services that are a real hallmark of their commitment to the equality found in Christ.

Give thanks for MILAP's service to those impacted by fire recently – nine families received Corrugated Galvanized Iron (CGI) sheets for roofing, bedding sets, health & hygiene kits, and mosquito nets. They were also able to provide educational materials including school uniforms for 12 students whose families lost possessions in the fire.

Please pray for the team as they deal with increasingly high temperatures and the fire season. Outbreaks are common in the Terai region of Nepal, so please pray for those families at risk and for the ability of MILAP to respond in a timely and compassionate way.

SSS

SSS are working with individuals who are experiencing severe health problems. They ask for prayer for local woman Mrs Tharu, who is seven months pregnant and experiencing neurological symptoms that are putting her life and that of her baby at risk.

SSS is also ministering to a widow who has suffered extreme spinal injuries after a fall while gathering food in the field. Pray for the team, for healing and for access to affordable medical treatment.

Give thanks for the committed staff of SSS and for their recent attempts to raise funds for their work.

INF Australia

Please pray for our team as we undertake reporting with DFAT to account for the projects we support and the way funds are administered. Australian Government reporting is thorough and takes time and care to complete. Pray especially for Santosh; for the first time this year, he carries most of the responsibility for this process.

Please pray also that INFA supporters will be moved to support our work in prayer and giving. We're committed to funding the life changing projects of our partners and are constantly looking for new ways to engage our supporters, calling them to generosity and justice.

Scan the QR code or visit us at www.inf.org.au/selfhelp to read more about Self Help Groups – our focus this month.