



Good news from the Ear Centre

Affordable care for the most disadvantaged

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble." Psalm 46:1

The Ear Centre is an important part of the care provided at Green Pastures Hospital. It's one of the only places in Western Nepal where affordable medical treatment is available, with the treatment subsidised for those who have previously found the high cost of medical care beyond their means.

Ear problems are one of the leading causes of disability in Nepal. 16.6% of the population suffer from hearing problems, much of this related to poverty and its impacts. Children with hearing difficulties are often not easily able to access education and grow up with language difficulties. The mission of the Ear Centre to provide care for the most disadvantaged is progressive and life changing.

The centre runs outreach camps, in-patient care, assessment, hearing aids, surgery and rehabilitation. While it was difficult to continue the work during the height of COVID lockdowns, in recent months referrals have picked up and audiology wards are busy once again.



One recent rehabilitation case involved a young woman who was left with a damaged facial nerve after receiving surgery for ear problems in another location.

One side of her face had become paralysed. The team worked on a graft to repair the damage, and at a recent follow up, doctors were gratified to see that she has good mobility and returning muscle tone.

The Ear Centre also recently sponsored part of the cost of a cochlear implant for a young woman based in Kathmandu. She had lost all her usable hearing in her early teens, ten years earlier.

Three months after the implantation, staff were astonished at her progress and clear speech, and that she could understand both spoken Nepali and English thanks to her implant. As a result of the life changing procedure, the young woman now has plans for further study and is extremely grateful to the Ear Centre at Green Pastures Hospital.

Please pray for this work and especially for the staff. It's not always easy to find the right professionals to join the team and they appreciate knowing that you are upholding them in prayer.

Image: Amina is delighted with the results of her implant, facilitated by the Ear Centre.

For Your Prayers...

WACT

Give thanks for the installation of a new water facility in a local rural municipality. The whole community, ward officials and government agency staff supported the initiative, coming together to celebrate the opening. The facility will benefit all households (about 32) in the village.

Give thanks too for a member of WACT's child and adolescent groups who had dropped out of school but because of the influence of the group, has decided to rejoin. He has also encouraged seven other children in his community to rejoin the school.

Please pray for the safety of staff as they travel during the rainy season on rough and flooded roads to communities that are difficult to reach. Sometimes during the monsoon, staff need to cross rivers on foot, which can be dangerous.

Pray also for the Board's retreat this month from August 27-30. Please pray that the event is a successful time of prayer and planning.

Shanti Nepal:

Give thanks that Shanti Nepal was able to provide treatment for two severely malnourished children in one of the villages in which they work. They also supported a family affected by fire, intervening to save the family's lives and helping them to recover.

A staff member is also being recruited for a new field project in Gorkha. Please pray that Shanti Nepal will be able to attract a qualified and experienced person with a heart for the region.

Give thanks for the successful completion of a Waste Management and Sanitation project, as well as for monitoring visits to the Sustainability project in West Rukum which show that the work is making a significant difference to local people.

Green Pastures Hospital, Ear Centre

Give thanks for the arrival of a new junior consultant surgeon and Masters Degree Level audiologist at the Ear Centre. Please pray for the two new professionals, that they will settle in quickly to make a valuable contribution at the centre.

The Ear Centre continues to provide funds for patients who are unable to afford all or part of their care – a vital part of the mission of Green Pastures. Give thanks for this work, which helps to provide hearing tests, hearing aids and surgery.

Please pray for (and visit) Ear Aid Nepal's new website, which will continue to provide information to engage professionals in the work.

INF Australia

Lots of exciting things are going on at INF Australia! Project Manager Russ Hancock is in Nepal currently meeting with staff to discuss plans and monitor projects. It's been two years since our staff have been able to meet face to face. Give thanks for the visit and the encouraging news it provides and pray for safe travels.

Caryn and Peter Kneale have set their departure date for Aug 30 and all plans are proceeding well toward their service in Nepal. Caryn will work in nutrition as part of Green Pastures Hospital while Peter will teach at the ex-pat school in Pokhara. Please pray for the swift resolution of working visas and for their safe travel to Nepal.

We are exploring more ways to collaborate with the Nepalese community in Australia, including an event to celebrate Nepali culture in September and an advocacy action in the lead up to the October Federal budget. Stay tuned for details, and give thanks for renewed energy and relationships among the team.

Supporters in Queensland are also attending the Mission Matters Conference for the first time in two years. They'll be representing INF and learning about the work of God's people partnering for change around the world. Please pray for all who attend and give thanks for the dedication of their lives in this service.