

# Prayer Notes

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

November 2022

## How do you find out what a community really needs? You ask.

In one of Western Nepal's most remote communities, West Rukum, men and women from INFA's partner **Shanti Nepal** are going door to door to talk to residents.

The village is often cut off from the outside world – it has no electricity or internet. The only road in is often closed by landslides and flooding. Our partners, though, are determined.

They want to understand what life is like for people in the community and what they dream their lives might become.

They meet with more than 250 people, representing over a thousand households. Most of those surveyed are women and few can read or write, but they answer Shanti Nepal's questions with enthusiasm.

## What do the people most want for their community?



They want to be able to feed their families, learning new skills to increase food production in the midst of a changing climate.

They want to see their children grow up in good health, with access to clean water and information about sanitation and hygiene.

They want a safe place for women to give birth. Currently, more than 70% of mothers deliver in their own homes. The risks are severe; the infant mortality rate at 33 per thousand births is much higher than the Nepalese average.

They want to be involved in making these changes happen themselves, drawing on their own skills and determination. They know they need financial support, training and encouragement, but they believe change is possible.

And that's where we come in.

This month and in the lead up to Christmas, we're focussing on building, equipping and staffing a Birthing Centre as part of the broader Community Development work in West Rukum.

We need your prayers.

We need you to understand the project and share it with others.

And, if you're able, no matter the size, we need you to give.

Find out all about the project at [www.inf.org.au/safebirth](http://www.inf.org.au/safebirth)

And please find a special focus on the project as part of this month's prayer notes (over).

# Please pray with us

## Shanti Nepal

Shanti Nepal are a Christian organisation working for wholistic transformation in some of Nepal's most challenging and remote communities in West Rukum.

They ask us to give thanks for a clean up campaign in a local village that attracted 215 people to help sort rubbish into recyclable materials and raise awareness about environmental sustainability.

Give thanks also for candle water filters and information about sanitation and hygiene distributed to 480 households. Pray that more groups will attend training about and benefit from Water and Sanitation (WASH) projects, particularly in schools.

Mother's Groups in the region are advocating for a safe place to give birth – too many pregnancies in West Rukum end in tragedy. Shanti Nepal has acquired land and plans have been approved to build the Centre, but they need more financial support to complete the project.

This will be the focus of International Nepal Fellowship Australia's Christmas Giving Campaign.

Pray that supporters will catch the vision for the West Rukum community and celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas by praying for the work of Shanti Nepal and giving generously to ensure the projects can continue.

## International Nepal Fellowship Australia

We have several groups travelling in Nepal at the moment on Vision Trips – our first in two years!

Please pray that the groups will enjoy their time learning from and fellowshiping with our partners in the communities where they work.

We have been working very hard on both our Annual Report and our website over the past few months. We also took part in two major events with the Nepalese community in Sydney during November.

Please pray that as a result of our communication efforts, more people will be inspired and moved to become part of the INFA family.

## Our volunteers - Peter and Caryn Kneale

The Kneales very much appreciate your love and concern as you join them in prayer for:

- Strength and concentration as they continue to learn the Nepali language.
- The timely processing of work visas – due to take place this month.
- Their health – both are growing stronger after a few setbacks early in their time in Nepal.

## Celebrating 70 years of International Nepal Fellowship

There are a number of special events taking place in Nepal this month for which we value your prayer, including 70th Anniversary Celebrations in Pokhara. Our CEO, Ben Thurley, is attending with some members of the Vision Trip from Sydney.

A new book has been released that tells the story of the medical mission in Nepal called "Medicine in the Mountains" by David Hawker, Ellen Findlay and Mike Smith. You can follow the book on Facebook or buy a copy on Amazon.

Check out our Walk for Nepal fundraiser (still in pilot mode at present). Perhaps you can be involved next year? [www.inf.org.au/walkfornepal](http://www.inf.org.au/walkfornepal)