

May 2024



INTERNATIONAL NEPAL
FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

Prayer Notes & News

DEVOTION

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith”. - Hebrews 12:1b-2

As followers of Jesus, we grow in resilience as we fix our eyes upon Jesus. We do not lose heart, as we consider Jesus, what he endured, his perseverance to stay the course to the cross, despite the obstacles and hardships, to obtain the goal of salvation for us all. Our faith is perfected as we stay focussed on Jesus, trusting in him, enduring as he endured, for the joy before us and our hope of what is to come.

Developing resilience is important in INF’s work as we seek to empower poor and marginalised

communities with the resilience to recover from hardships and disasters, to work together, and to adapt to new solutions as they seek to improve their livelihoods. Resilience is vital for INF’s patients, who have often tried everything, spent all they have and may be close to giving up; but find new hope through treatment received from INF’s health services, through the encouragement of INF’s staff and through being empowered to move forward towards “life in all its fullness.”

By Richard Reeve, INF Australia CEO

RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY: MINA’S LEPROSY JOURNEY

Ongoing pain and medical issues are a challenge that many of us can relate to. In Nepal, where fully equipped health professionals are expensive the path to treatment can be riddled with anxiety as well as pain as also exploitation. Mina’s story shows how pivotal the right blend of care is for a young woman to live a full life.

When painful nodules first appeared on Mina’s* arms and legs, she was a 19-year-old living with her husband, his parents and her 1-year-old daughter. Local doctors recommended creams and lotions which were ineffective, so more doctors examined her. Their treatments were also unsuccessful. A medical facility in Nepalgunj offered no diagnosis, forcing Mina to either accept the worsening pain, anxiety and distress, or travel to India in a bid to find a solution.

In India, two years after the nodules first appeared, Mina was diagnosed with leprosy. Beyond the distress of diagnosis, Mina’s anxiety that she could transmit leprosy to her small daughter was overwhelming.

She began Multi-Drug-Therapy treatment in India. Upon her return to Nepal, Mina diligently continued her therapy for eleven more months. However, under

the mistaken belief that she was fully healed, she prematurely discontinued her treatment.

Six months later the nodules returned, and with them harrowing anxiety and depression. This time, however, Mina’s family heard about Shining Hospital and she travelled to Surket for the team there to assess her.

INF played a pivotal role at this point. Leprosy treatment was restarted from where she left off. Mina was supported by tailored counselling and health education sessions, and she was able to actively engage in her recovery. Nursing care helped heal and empower her.

When Mina returned home to her daughter she has significantly improved: physically, mentally and emotionally. With the completion of her treatment Mina is now a more resilient person and can now experience life to the full: as a young Nepali woman with much to give.

by Sharon Tiwari and Sydney staff
Source: Towards Zero Leprosy Strategic Project of INF.

*A pseudonym has been used





Partner Prayer Points

INF NEPAL

Give thanks for:

- Reade Abroad's two-week training program on International Classification of Functioning (ICF) and Disability and Health Framework, benefiting staff from GPH, Shining Surket, and Shining Banke.
- The Healthcare Christian Fellowship (HCF) conference in Rukum was attended by many INF staff, including Caryn and Peter Kneale, volunteers serving at GPH since 2022.
- Disaster Recovery: Update on Jajarkot Earthquake - a productive Jajarkot Earthquake Response project review workshop was held.
- Successful completion of the Palliative Care toolkit training in Lamjung and the Palliative Care Introductory Workshop for Health workers in Pokhara.
- Well run hospital operations and project activities during February and March, including successful staff recruitment for the Towards Zero Leprosy Initiative.
- Fruitful relationships being built with local ward offices, which has secured funding for the expansion of the physiotherapy services at GPH.

Left: Jajarkot Earthquake response project review team
Right: Healthcare Christian Fellowship (HCF) conference in Rukum

Please pray for:

- Patients with traumatic brain injury undergoing neuro-rehabilitation services at GPH, seeking healing for their complex needs.
- Patients' fellowship at GPH, that they may find hope and healing through prayer and spiritual support during their time of need.
- Funding for essential staff accommodation at GPH, enhancing staff retention and hospital sustainability.
- The successful completion of wall repairs and mesh installation overseen by engineers at GPH, enhancing safety for patients and staff.
- After site visits and consultations, INF Infrastructure Advisor and engineers released a report suggesting upgrades for Shining Hospital in Banke (SHIB). Please pray these upgrades support the reported enhancements needed.
- Provision of essential machines and assistive devices, including wheelchairs at Shining Hospital Surkhet.
- The successful closure of Climate Change Adaptation for Sustainable Livelihood (CCA) project in Bajura including timely submission of the evaluation report.
- Three households affected by the recent fire in Badimalika, that they're able to rebuild their lives and homes after such a devastating loss.
- For the bereaved family who lost their lives and loved ones in a landslide in Bajura.



ELIJAH COUNSELLING AND TRAINING CENTRE (ECTC)

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

Please pray for:

- Urgent funding to come through for a major project focussed on Pastoral Care Counselling and Training, enabling the provision of quality mental health support and training for church leaders.
- Staffing needs to fully launch programs following the recent loss of two staff due to financial constraints, there is a high demand for mental health support from churches.
- Smooth navigation through Government inspections and for strengthened relationships with various Government departments to advance mental health initiatives.

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 at INF Nepal's TB Leprosy Centre Nepalgunj.

Please pray for:

- The patients that are currently receiving support and treatment from SSS. That they may experience healing, comfort, and financial provision during their time of need.
- Continued financial support and recovery for Dhanu, a long serving SSS staff member fighting cancer, she needs a breakthrough in funds required for treatment.

MAHILA MILIJULI

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

Please pray for:

- Effective outreach to marginalised communities through collaborative services, utilising new technical support for improved financial monitoring.
- Continued financial provision to provide quality services to those in need. For guidance and support to navigate the changing financial landscape within Nepal which sees increasing fluctuations in savings and credit dynamics.

ASAL CHIMEKI NEPAL

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

Please pray for:

- Swift approval of Pokhara Christian Community (PCC)-ACN Community Service building designs, which are currently delayed.
- Development of new projects and funding prospects, and for guidance in the five-year strategic planning of PCC/ACN.

MILAP- RECONCILIATION

Milap means "reconciliation". Providing community health and development services to embattled people in Janaki Rural Municipality, Western Nepal.

Please pray for:

- The success of training around Gender Equality and Social Inclusion training, aimed at empowering women within the community.
- Timely construction of toilets by Didi Bahini Self-Help Group (SHG).
- The swift approval process by Social Welfare Council for Milap's partnership with Rotary Club to support ex-bonded labourers in Bardiya.
- The safety and change in situation within working areas of Milap, particularly against robberies having taken place recently at an SHG leader's house, which was targeted by gangsters.

The Mahila Milijuli team



Introducing Santosh Nepali – Programs Manager



I was born and raised in the mid-western part of Nepal. I am married to Rebika, who is currently studying at University of Sydney. I was the first Christian in my family and came to faith in 2010.

During the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, I worked as a Project Coordinator and later as a Team Leader with Baptist Global Response. From 2016–2020, my wife and I were called to serve as leaders in the local house church in Kathmandu.

In the midst of COVID 2020, Rebika and I came to Australia and regularly attend Parramatta Baptist Church. I was involved in student ministry for a year and a half with Power to Change at Macquarie University. I joined INF Australia as a volunteer in November 2021. Now as the Nepal Programs Manager, I engage with our partners in Nepal, directing our focus towards projects aimed at strengthening the local communities and needs we serve together. I have a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Rural Development from Tribhuvan University.

I am thankful to God for this opportunity to serve people back in Nepal to bring life to its fullness among the poor and marginalised.

TEAM UPDATE

INF Australia Praise Points and Prayer Points

We're Moving Offices

- On 15th May, the INF Australia office will be moving to St Paul's Anglican Church in Chatswood
- Please pray for a seamless pack up and move for all staff involved, as well as a smooth transition into our new location.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mission Matters Conference

Date: Fri 7th - Sun 9th June

Location: Mount Tamborine Conference Centre, QLD

On Sunday 9th June an afternoon gathering for INF supporters will be held with INF Australia CEO, Richard Reeve.

Contact us to let us know you'll be joining the gathering by 31 May.

Phone: (02) 9411 1195 • Email: ausoffice@au.inf.org

For the Diary

JUNE

- **Supporters Gathering, QLD**
Sun 9th June, 2.30pm
4 Celosia Street, Alexandria Hills

JULY

- **Missions Interlink Conference, VIC**
Thurs 25th - Fri 26th July
- **Supporters Gathering, NSW**
Sat 27th July

More information to be shared in upcoming prayer newsletters