

November 2024



INTERNATIONAL NEPAL
FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

Prayer Notes & News

DEVOTION

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.
Proverbs 31: 8-9

Last month, Nepal experienced unseasonal prolonged rains that caused devastating widespread flooding and landslides in Kathmandu and many other places. Unfortunately, roads, bridges and homes were destroyed, and many lives were lost. INF Australia has supported Asal Chhimekee (ACN) in the relief and recovery efforts.

Those who cannot afford housing, often squat permanently in poorly constructed shelters along the riverbanks. These are the ones who were swept away when the rivers broke their man-made banks. The poor are more exposed to these extreme

weather conditions because they can't afford to live on higher ground.

Who will speak for them? Who will defend their rights? Proverbs 31 says this is the role for kings and rulers - those in positions of power have this responsibility. We can use our influence and positions to speak up for the poor, needy and destitute. In Nepal, INF and ACN are speaking up for the destitute, providing relief and support and also advocating for them. Let's join with them to speak up and defend the rights of the poor and needy.

By Richard Reeve, INF Australia CEO

FLOOD DISASTER RESPONSE

On 26 to 28 September 2024, heavy monsoon rains triggered severe flooding and landslides across Nepal, resulting in 217 deaths, 28 people missing, and 142 injured. Asal Chhimekee Nepal (ACN) immediately responded by coordinating with local authorities and partners to deliver emergency relief to the most affected regions, including Nawalparasi and Rautahat, both of which are regular working areas for the organisation.

In Rautahat, the flooding of the Bagmati River impacted over 2,000 households, with 500 families displaced. The situation was critical, as many had lost their homes, food, and clothing. ACN quickly mobilised to provide these families with food, clothing, and essential safety materials.

Meanwhile, in Nawalparasi, flooding caused extensive damage to paddy crops in Gaindakot, Kawasoti, Madhyabindu, and other areas, submerging fields and destroying fish ponds. Communities in Basti Sehri, Nandpur, Sitapur, and along the Nawalparasi River were severely

affected. Local officials confirmed that paddy crops were almost entirely lost due to the flooding.

To assist these vulnerable families, ACN distributed emergency relief packages to families in Nawalparasi East. These efforts were vital in supporting displaced and flood-affected families before the Dashain festival, ensuring they had essential supplies during a critical time.

Source: Asal
Chhimekee Nepal





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Partner Prayer Points

INF NEPAL

Updates and Praise Points:

Give thanks for:

- Successful coordination with Baijinaath and Duduwa rural municipalities for Zero Leprosy Project activities, including leprosy awareness sessions for Female Community Health volunteers.
- Shining Hospital INF Banke's five-day training for self-help group members in Methiya and Narainapur municipalities.
- Shining Hospital INF Banke team being honoured by District and Province governments for contributions to public health in Banke district and Lumbini Province.
- God's grace in leading the Obstetric Fistula service, culminating in the handover of the Fistula Centre Surkhet to Karnali Province Hospital on 20th October 2024.

INF HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Please pray for:

- Comfort and Peace for Chaiti (Support Staff at GPH) and her family after the loss of her husband, a former GPH staff.
- The Social Service Department's ongoing work in counselling, patient fellowship, and socio-economic assessments.
- God's guidance on the recruitment process of an Operation Theater In-charge nurse.
- Effective implementation of the regular work of hospitals and hospital-led projects in various locations.

INF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Please pray for:

- The success, safety and impact of all projects currently being implemented by INF Nepal across various regions in Nepal, that they may bring hope, healing and sustainable change to the communities.
- The Micah Connect Asia 2024 conference on 11-13th November in Kathmandu focusing on "Humanitarian Response" which will be hosted by INF Nepal with over 100 international and 150 Nepali delegates.
- The 3-day Disability Inclusion workshop in Surkhet from November 10-12.
- The new Rolpa Livelihood and Inclusive Empowerment for Transformation (LIFT) project, for effective Community Mobilisers, successful formation of Self-help groups and all the activities that are under this project as this is a new project.



World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2024 was celebrated on 1st October 2024 with slogan "Ten Years Since, The resolution: How are we doing?"



Community education on Palliative Care.

ASAL CHHIMEKEE NEPAL

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

Please pray for:

- The Earthquake Response IV phase which has been finally approved by the Social Welfare Council after a long wait, pray for the reconstruction work in Jajarkot (Nalgad Municipality).
- Flood-affected communities in Nawalparasi (East) and Rautahat, with plans to respond to Rautahat before Deepawali.
- Pokhara Christian Committee/Asal Chhimekee Nepal Mission centre building's design has been approved, please pray for further process of approval, fundraising and project proposal submission at local and Social Welfare Council offices.

SHANTI NEPAL

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:

- Shanti Nepal's effort in fundraising and networking with like-minded organisations.
- The response and reconstruction work for those affected by heavy rain and landslides.
- God's wisdom and guidance for the Government and leadership of Nepal to bring peace and political stability.

WELFARE ASSOCIATION CHILDREN TIKAPUR (WACT) NEPAL

WACT is also referred to as Women Empowerment, Advocacy, Community health and Transformational Development to better reflect WACT's work. WACT has been involved in social action in the far-western development region deeply committed to respond to the needs of needy and vulnerable communities and individuals.

Please pray for:

- Children during their month-long Dashain and Tihar vacation, they may spend it productively and safely.
- The ongoing paddy harvesting, for no rains to disrupt it, and for the safety of workers in the fields.
- The safety and health of staff and families, especially those recovering from illness or caring for sick family members, and full recovery of the supervisor of Community Organisation Networking and Collaboration for Transformation (CONNECT) project after a scooter accident, as she is still grieving the loss of her husband.

MILAP- RECONCILIATION

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

Please pray for:

- Protection of the paddy harvest in Banke and Bardiya, as these districts supply rice all over Nepal and for no further damage from weather conditions.
- Marginalised Youth Engagement through Vocational Training and provide support for Business Start-up project, praise God that the project got approval from Social Welfare Council.



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.

INF Australia Praise Points and Prayer Points

- We give thanks for the recent visit of Lekhnath KC, Community Development Director from INF Nepal who attended the ACFID conference and presented at INF events.
- Please pray for Peter and Caryn Kneale who have recently returned to Nepal for a second term, that they will resettle quickly into their roles.
- Please pray for Ming Poon for her engagement with churches and supporters in Hong Kong, as she prepares to return to Nepal in late November.
- Please pray for safe travel for the teams travelling to Nepal in November – Richard Reeve (CEO) along with board directors William Hood, Nicola McGunnigle and Bijaya Shrestha, as well as Peggy Franks leading a Vision trip of 4 participants.

Introducing Naomi Reed- INF Ambassador



Naomi and Darren Reed served with INF in Nepal for six years between 1993 and 2006. They both loved being part of the physio health programs as well as their local church and community. During those years, Naomi also began to write (by

candlelight in the monsoon) and is now the author of 12 books. Since 2006, both Naomi and Darren have regularly returned to Nepal – Darren in his role supporting physio education across the country and Naomi in her role as an INF Ambassador.

Naomi says, “Our journey, both in Nepal and in the years since, has been surprising in every way! God keeps working in ways we never expect. Even 20 years after writing ‘My Seventh Monsoon’ I’m still bumping into people reading it – people who are asking me questions about Nepal, ‘What is God doing now in Nepal? How has it changed? How can we pray for Nepal, and connect with Nepalis in Australia?’ Of course, I rarely feel equipped to answer those questions, but it’s been a deep joy for me to remain connected with Nepal and to be able to share about the faithful work of God through INF.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

INF Annual General Meeting & Christmas Appeal Lunch

- **Date:** Saturday, 30th November 2024
- **Time:** 10am (AGM for members) | 11:15am (Presentation by Naomi Reed) | Lunch at 12:30pm
- **Location:** St Paul’s Anglican Church, Chatswood NSW



To confirm your attendance and assist with catering, please RSVP emailing to communications@au.inf.org or contact us on (02) 9411 1195.

Remembering Ken Morgan

INF Australia is thankful for the life of Ken Morgan, wife of Bev Morgan father to Robyn Lack and Chris Morgan (both past Interserve partners), recently passed away peacefully on August 24, surrounded by family. Ken and Bev have been active supporters of INF since the early 90s. After Chris, with his wife Alison and their children went to Nepal in 1993, followed by Robyn and Peter Lack and their family in 1996, Ken and Bev became regular visitors to Nepal. Never to do anything by halves, these visits turned into service. Ken and Bev worked together as pharmacists in the Medical Supplies Department at UMN in Kathmandu for two short term missions in 1995 and 1997.