

today**in**nepal

The magazine of INF | Number 232 | April 2017

changing Lives

Helping Nepal's poorest access medical care



CONTENTS



changing Lives

Helping Nepal's poorest access medical care



EDITORIAL

As we approach the second anniversary of the devastating 2015 earthquake, INF's GRACE project is well underway in Gorkha District, the epicentre of the disaster. New houses and schools are being built; people with disabilities are being supported; and communities are developing resilience to future disasters through our training. Read more on page 12.

Major medical treatment is simply unaffordable for many Nepalis. When a patient runs out of money, treatment often stops. INF's Poor Fund ensures that poor patients can receive the treatment they desperately need. Meet some of the patients we have helped through our Poor Fund and find out how you can support this life-changing work on page 3.

A recent visit by INF leaders to Kalikot District in the North West of Nepal has confirmed plans to expand our work into this district. Kalikot is the third poorest district in Nepal and neighbours Bajura, Jumla and Mugu, where INF has run community projects for many years. Read about the visit on page 7.

Thank you for being our prayerful advocates; your prayers and petitions are our foundation. In this issue we focus on how you can support our Health Services Department in prayer [page 15].

Grace and peace

Alastair

Alastair Seaman

INF International Director

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a Christian mission serving the physical and spiritual needs of Nepali people

WWW.INF.ORG

INF's Vision
Life in all its fullness for Nepal's poor and disadvantaged

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Cover
lady carried to airport for flight to nearest hospital
Bajura
PHOTO: JAMES CHINNEY

Poor Fund changes lives

Huy Tran reports

Dhanu, a staff member of Social Service Department, educating a patient
PHOTO: KSHITIJ CHANDRA TIWARI



Three Nepali men are on the road to recovery following serious accidents that inhibited their ability to work, walk and provide for their families. Each has a unique story but each have also shared in the blessing of INF's Poor Fund that provides financial assistance to those who cannot afford necessary medical treatment.

Khagendra is making a speedy recovery after he seriously injured his right leg in Dailekh District, Mid-West Nepal. He underwent surgery, followed by months of physiotherapy and occupational therapy as he now completes his rehabilitation.

Nirajan was working as a labourer in India when he injured his spine, causing paralysis to the lower half of his body. Since surgery, a carer helps him complete his exercises and daily activities.

Karna broke his leg and ended up at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital [MWRH] in Surkhet. He needed to be transferred by ambulance to Bheri Zonal Hospital [BZH] to access appropriate treatment.

Patients are required to pay all their medical costs in Nepal, whether they are accessing government run hospitals or private health services. This can be incredibly expensive for those living in poverty or in rural areas, where even purchasing a bus fair to the hospital or basic medicines is simply unaffordable.

The challenge of navigating a complex health system for those who are illiterate makes the task often insurmountable.

INF operates a Poor Fund through each of its district offices to help people access the services they need.

The Poor Fund includes full payment of, or subsidised expenses, including medicines, other treatment, transport, assistive devices and additional support costs such as food and accommodation.

In addition to financial assistance, patients are often met and helped through the complicated admission processes at government hospitals. Our patient advocates ensure that patients get the right treatment at a fair cost.

The Poor Fund is one way in which INF actively aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate poverty and provide universal health coverage. It's funding includes individual donors, institutional donors and overseas donations. A growing population and steep inflation means that more help is needed to ensure the Poor Fund can assist those in need.

INF's Poor Fund has made a significant difference to the lives of all three men recovering. For Khagendra, the Poor Fund covered his surgery costs and subsequent rehabilitation. For Nirajan, life without his caregiver would be impossible, and for Karna, the Poor Fund paid for the ambulance that transferred him to BZH.

In Luke chapter five, a story is told of a sick man healed by Jesus. To even reach Jesus, it took four faithful friends who lent a helping hand carrying him to the house and lowering him through the roof to where Jesus was. Because of their compassion and dedication, the man was able to experience the grace of God and be healed, giving him new life. In the same way, INF's Poor Fund lends a helping hand to those in need so that they too may gain access to God's life-changing grace.

Over the years, INF's Poor Fund has helped many hundreds of Nepalis with conditions such as bone infections, heart conditions, spinal cord injuries, eye problems and cerebral palsy. Each patient was grateful for the support of INF's Poor Fund, which allowed them to access much needed treatment.

PRAY | DONATE | JOIN US | SHARE – Please pray that the Poor Fund will continue to be a blessing to those most in need. Give thanks for the many lives already helped through the generous giving of donors around the world. To contribute to the Poor Fund, please visit www.inf.org/donate



Punam, a staff member of Social Service Department, in action
PHOTO: KSHITIJ CHANDRA TIWARI



Major medical treatment is unaffordable for many Nepalis. Forty-year-old Buddhi Pandey was forced to use his family's entire life savings to receive treatment for an accident in late 2015. Fortunately, he has since been able to access INF's Poor Fund and receive financial assistance ensuring his rehabilitation is completely covered.

It was a typical day for Buddhi working in his paddy field. He loaded straw onto the tractor as he had done many times before, but on this particular occasion the tractor became unstable and fell on him.

Buddhi's spinal cord was severely damaged. He was taken immediately to Kohalpur Medical College and a long and costly journey began as he was referred from one hospital to another without receiving the right treatment for his injuries.

His treatment even took him to India, costing more than 13 lakh Rupees [US\$12,300], but he continued to have problems. Eventually referred to INF, Buddhi underwent four months of therapy sessions in Surkhet where he learnt how to sit, eat and drink using a modified device for his hands.

Despite Buddhi's progress, deep wounds on his back required further treatment and he was again referred to Green Pastures Hospital. Sadly he had run out of funds.

INF's medical team assessed Buddhi's situation and agreed he should receive help from our Poor Fund – a fund reserved for patients requiring treatment but unable to pay for it.

Buddhi has since received the care and treatment he needed at Green Pastures Hospital. He is thankful to the INF family for their care and support. "If I had not come to INF Surkhet Hospital, such big changes in my life would not be possible. I have found new life. I would like to thank all staff who helped me to recover up to this stage," says Buddhi.

The long road to recovery continues for Buddhi but he has been given the best possible chance for rehabilitation.

PRAY | DONATE | JOIN US | SHARE – Pray that INF be recognised as a first place to go with a spinal cord injury and that many others like Buddhi will benefit from life-changing treatment and therapy there. Give thanks for supporters that contribute to INF's Poor Fund and consider how you may be able to give.

BUDDHI PANDEY'S STORY

Gagan Dhoj Basnet writes



CELEBRATING EASTER IN THE STREETS

Samuel Budhathoki reports

Each year Christians around the world celebrate Good Friday and Easter in many different ways. In Nepal, believers remember Jesus' death and resurrection by taking to the streets in large groups to publicly declare what has been done on the cross for the whole world.

On Good Friday most Nepali churches hold a fellowship in the evening to mark Christ's crucifixion. Easter Sunday sees Christians meet at dawn, to remember and celebrate the resurrection. Often women will lead the morning service to represent Mary and Martha, the two women who went to Jesus' grave early on the Sunday morning with incense and oil only to be told by an angel that Jesus had risen.

After the service, particularly in the larger cities of Kathmandu and Pokhara, Christians take to the streets to mark Easter Sunday. Thousands of Christians attend these rallies from all denominations. They march through the cities celebrating, singing hymns, playing instruments and proclaiming the name of Jesus. In the streets of Kathmandu, locals come out to see at what's happening and the authorities are often kept busy providing security. In some respects, the rallies reflect John's vision in the book of revelation of 'ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands' of people worshipping God.

Christians often march for several hours through the streets before gathering together in a large open space to sing hymns. Pastors from across the city will speak; others will pray and lead worship together. Often a well-respected, older Pastor will give the main sermon followed by more singing, dancing and worshipping among the crowd.

The rallies at Easter are a great testament to the saving work of Jesus Christ and allow for a public declaration of His name across Nepal.

God is growing His kingdom in Nepal. Although Christianity is relatively young in Nepal; just over 50 years old, God is doing extraordinary things in this land.

PRAY | DONATE | JOIN US | SHARE – Let's keep praying that His kingdom will come and praising God for what he is doing among Nepali people.

Church groups march through Kathmandu during the 2016 Easter Rally
PHOTO: ROWAN BUTLER

Reaching into KALIKOT

Building on its pioneering work in neighbouring districts, INF is set to begin work with the people of Kalikot District in the Mid-West of Nepal. Kalikot ranks as the third-poorest district in Nepal* and borders with three other districts where INF's community projects have been running for many years [Bajura, Jumla and Mugu].

Richard Sykes, a long-standing friend of INF, recently took part in one of the INF Community Team's exploratory visits to the area. He shares his experience...

*2015 census data

Not a trip for the faint-hearted!
PHOTO: DR BUDDHI BAHADUR THAPA

"In December 2016, I accompanied an exploratory visit to Kalikot led by Prem Subedi, Executive Director of INF Nepal, and Buddhi Thapa, Community Director. In Manma, the Kalikot district centre, we met with local government officials who were supportive and agreed that the new working area should comprise a group of five Village Development Committee [VDC] areas to the west of Manma - Lulu, Malkot, Rupsa, Kumalgaun and Kotbada.

That evening over supper with a local pastor we were encouraged to learn that there are already three church groups in Manma and another thriving church in a more remote VDC in the district.

There are no roads in the new working area of Kalikot. To reach the villages we had to cross the Karnali River in a 'twin' - a metal double seat suspended by wires above the water. The wires were pulled by youths on the far side of the river, to help us get across.

Once across, we climbed the steep terrain and spent the next days visiting villages in the working area. Prem spoke to community members about INF and its work, and the local people shared the issues that most concerned them.

Though short, the visit was an important step in establishing relationships and obtaining government approvals to begin work. It is an area that will truly benefit from INF's help in the years to come."

How INF will be helping people in Kalikot:

- **Women's health and empowerment** – tackling issues such as child marriage, chhaupadi [excluding women from the home during their monthly periods and after childbirth] and girls' education, as well as supporting pregnant mothers and their babies
- **Disability** - equipping people with a disability with assistive devices, home adaptations, as well as making schools and health posts disability friendly
- **Farming and livelihoods** - incorporating an agricultural element and helping farmers get the most from their land
- **Church partnership** - building the capacity of local churches to support communities using their own resources to solve problems, reducing dependence on external support and building long-term resilience

PRAY | DONATE | JOIN US | SHARE – Pray that INF staff can work together with the local churches of Kalikot to model Christ's love and compassion, living out grace-filled lives in their neighbourhood.

A HEART FOR THE POOR

Nicola McGunnigle reports



PHOTO: KSHITIJ CHANDRA TIWARI

Green Pastures Hospital [GPH] is currently undergoing renovations, but within its changing walls are the stories of lives also being transformed. Many of these are only possible through the financial assistance of INF's Poor Fund backed by faithful supporters around the world.

In Nepal, all hospital treatment is paid for up-front, in cash. When a patient runs out of money their treatment stops. Shankar Pantha works at GPH as a social services assessor, liaising with patients when they arrive to determine what fees, if any, they are able to pay. Shankar treats each incoming patient with the same respect he received when he first arrived at GPH with leprosy at age ten.

Shankar faced struggles early in his life and following the discovery of leprosy symptoms on his body, the discrimination from others in his village began to grow, as did his worry about the future.

When he was finally brought to GPH for treatment, he experienced hope for the first time in his life.

He realised he was not alone with the disease and over the years he received treatment for his wounds, hands and feet. He was also given the opportunity to receive an education and to hear the gospel for the first time. He says the times of fellowship with other patients is one of his fondest memories.

The love and compassion he received from the hospital and the love of God is what Shankar says drives him to serve the poorest every day.

“One of my responsibilities as the socio-economic assessor at GPH is to conduct fair socio-economic assessments of the patients. This not only ensures that those who are able pay for the services they receive pay but also ensures that the poorest receive the opportunity for treatment which they could not otherwise afford. What I love about my job is that I can contribute to providing hope to the hopeless through our heart of love and service.”

One such patient who has benefited from the INF Poor Fund service is Buddhi. You can read his story on page 5.

PRAY | DONATE | JOIN US | SHARE –
Please pray for Shankar and the Social Services Department team. Give thanks for the many supporters that contribute to INF's Poor Fund and consider giving to the fund through www.inf.org/donate

Critical Vacancies

Is God calling you to Nepal? INF uses a special combination of expatriate and Nepali expertise to apply international level practice in a way that is relevant to the local context, always with the aim of increasing capacity in Nepal. Here are a number of current key expatriate needs in the organisation - to explore more opportunities to serve please visit www.inf.org/join-us

PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Many of INF's expatriate families live outside Kathmandu. This is where the needs of Nepal are greater. But to enable them to stay there, we need primary school teachers to work in our small study centre.



EDITOR/DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Has God gifted you with the skill of storytelling that inspires and motivates others? If so, our Communications Department needs you.



DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

INF has ambitious and exciting plans for the future and we believe that there are organisations and individuals around the world who would be inspired by our vision and keen to partner with us to resource our work. We are looking for someone with proven business development experience who can help INF to develop these vital new partnerships.

ANAESTHETIST

Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara is looking for an expatriate anaesthetist to work in the hospital and train up a Nepali counterpart.

REHABILITATION PHYSICIAN/DOCTOR

Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara is looking for a Physiatrist to help support the expansion of its rehabilitation work.



FUNDRAISER/DONOR RELATIONS SPECIALIST

INF needs a Christian with experience in fundraising, PR or donor relations to lead and work with Nepali colleagues to support programmes.



HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISOR

INF Nepal [our major implementing partner] needs help to design, implement and train others in recruiting and supporting the expatriate expertise that it needs to realise its exciting vision.

If you're a Christian interested in working in an exciting, international, cross-cultural mission, email recruitment@inf.org

around The world

Be encouraged to
PRAY | DONATE | JOIN US | SHARE

INF INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR RUNS TO REBUILD AN EARTHQUAKE DAMAGED HOUSE



Our INF International Director did it! Alastair Seaman ran the Great Scottish Half Marathon on 2 October and was able to raise over £2,000. Thank you to those that supported Alastair and INF, the funds raised will provide a new start for a person with disability in Nepal and their family.

Read Alastair's fundraising story here www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Alastair-Seaman

TOWNERS' TANDEM TRIP FOR INF

Thank you Carl and Alison Towner from the UK for their Tandem Trip cycling, from Land's End to John O'Groats. So far they've raised £933 for INF.

They share their experience...

"We can hardly believe it is almost six months since we finished cycling our Tandem the length of Britain, from Land's End to John O'Groats, or 'LEJOG' as it is affectionately known. We cycled a total of 1,141 miles over 19 days, which averages 60 miles per cycling day. We loved the adventure, it made us feel alive and we thoroughly enjoyed noticing how the countryside changed as we cycled from South to North. We got through three tyres, had four punctures, and some of the days took a lot longer than expected, but we were blessed with meeting lovely people who helped us along the way and [believe it or not] great weather!



Along the journey we were even able to stay with friends from when we were in Pokhara with INF 17 years ago. When folk asked "are you raising money for charity?" we naturally wanted to support the work of INF in Nepal - one pound for every mile. There are still a few 'miles' left so if you would like to give to this then go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TownersTandemTrip. Until the next adventure... many thanks!"



FUNDRAISING NOTE!

One of our [INF New Zealand] retired mission partners recently sent us a NZ\$5 note signed by Sir Edmund Hillary.

Her friend had asked Sir Edmund to sign it several years earlier. The \$5 note went missing for a few years but after prayer the mission partner found the mislaid note and decided to use it to help fundraise for INF. The note sold for NZ\$510 and the funds will support the ongoing work of the GRACE project [www.inf.org/our-work/grace/] that began following the 2015 earthquake.

Letterbox

SMOKELESS STOVE PROJECT

INF Australia is raising funds for smokeless stoves, an initiative of Self-Help Groups in INF's Climate Change project in Rolpa District. The iron smokeless stoves reduce fuel consumption by a third, therefore slowing deforestation and reducing time spent collecting firewood. The result is life-changing for women and girls who can instead, attend school or earn an income.

Thank you INF Australia team!



Inspired? You too can be involved in this project by subsidising a smokeless stove for a family in Rolpa. For more information and to make a donation, please visit www.inf.org/news/smokeless-stoves-rolpa

KIWI CURRY NIGHTS

The night of 25 Feb was a curry night, an event that INF New Zealand holds several times a year to share about Nepal and INF's work in Nepal. It was great connecting with people who love Nepal, learn more about INF and pray. If you would like information about these events please email nzoffice@inf.org.nz

"I bought some INF Christmas cards to send to friends and was amazed to see the image of Aiti Maya.

Fifty-years ago, a friend and I sponsored some of Aiti's treatment at Green Pastures Hospital out of our first pay-cheques. It was wonderful to see her picture again. She is now 91-years old but looking so well and happy. She had received medical treatment, vocational training and support to open a tea shop.



I phoned my friend to tell her - we have only met once or twice in those 50yrs. We are both amazed and thrilled. Aiti Maya looks so good at 91 and we are very grateful to God for this encouragement."

Sue Lough,
Sydney

PLEASE NOTE

Letters and emails are most welcome and should be addressed to TiN, The Editor, INF, PO Box 1230, Kathmandu, Nepal / tin@inf.org or get in touch via Facebook or Twitter.

Readers are welcome to re-use articles from "Today in Nepal" with due acknowledgement to INF – Ed.

GRACE in motion

Kylie Colville reports

In April 2015, the earthquake that shook Nepal completely devastated the Gorkha District – killing thousands and flattening the majority of buildings in the region. Today the area is a hive of activity as INF's GRACE project carries out planning, construction and renovation.

To date, ten accessible and resilient homes have been completed and over 50 of the planned 108 houses for People With Disabilities [PWDs] have begun construction. The building of three schools has commenced and planning has begun for another two. More than 70 Self-Help-Groups [SHGs] have been formed and their membership includes more than 700 PWDs.

These groups, under the guidance of INF's GRACE staff, will be the foundation on which health, livelihood and capacity building work is implemented, ensuring that community members, including those living with a disability, will be integral in the planning of their own community's development.

Advocacy training and promoting the rights and abilities of PWDs has been successfully implemented across the district. Churches have also received training on how to improve inclusivity and accessibility of PWDs. Two churches have been given grants construct accessibility ramps for PWDs into their buildings.

Coordination with local authorities at district and national levels has been successful and INF looks forward to growing our working relationships as we join together to rebuild and restore life in all its fullness. To read more on GRACE visit: www.inf.org/our-work/grace

GRACE PROJECT - THE AGREEMENT

108 new houses for PWDs

40 additional houses renovated

5 schools

3 disability friendly public toilets

1 Village Development Committee building training and capacity building



One of the 108 houses being built for PWDs
PHOTO: NILISHA LAMA KARKI

JUSTICE IS ROLLING IN



Himalayan Grace Church with the newly built ramp
PHOTO: PREM GC

God's justice calls us to love and provide for the least in our society, those who are on the margins, and the discriminated and disabled among them. In the Bible's book of Amos we read that justice will roll down like a river, in Gorkha we have seen justice in action as churches provide access for those with walking aids and wheel chairs, enabling them to 'roll' into church with ease. In Nepal People With Disabilities [PWDs] are often shunned by their communities, colloquial language refers to them derogatively and is generally accepted as the norm. After having received training from GRACE staff, churches in the Gorkha district are now leading by example; choosing to be intentional about not using names and words that are disrespectful when referring to PWDs; and helping them access treatment and rehabilitation. Two churches that received training in inclusivity were given funds from GRACE to build ramps ensuring PWDs can attend worship services and gatherings with ease. It's a practical example of grace and justice in motion!

DAMBAR BAHADUR'S STORY



Dambar in front of his temporary shelter

When the GRACE team first met Dambar Bahadur he was a broken man. His house destroyed and his stored grain was lost. He was living in a temporary bamboo shelter facing a future of despair. Today he stands tall and smiling, dressed in his finest topi and waistcoat, proudly telling the story of how intervention from GRACE has restored his life, replacing sorrow with hope.

Dambar Bahadur has faced much discrimination in his 62 years. After losing sight from one eye at aged 13 and suffering low vision in the other, he was often humiliated because of his disabilities.

He was working in the fields when the earthquake struck. Returning home he found his house and his possessions destroyed. Though he wept bitterly amongst the rubble, he recalls being thankful to be alive.

GRACE staff met Dambar Bahadur while evaluating earthquake victims and assured

him they would be able to provide assistance. Dambar Bahadur and his wife, Somi, received funding to build an earthquake resistant house on the site of their previous dwelling. Their new house is now complete and they have plans to open a shop in their front room once they have settled in. Having also joined a newly formed Self-Help Group [SHG] Dambar Bahadur is now able to participate in advocating for others with a disability and encourage others in his community to plan for the future of their community. He expressed his gratitude to INF for turning disaster into opportunity.

PRAY | DONATE | JOIN US | SHARE – Praise God that the vital coordination with the local government authorities has been successful. Pray that the planned activities can be completed smoothly and on time and, maybe you might like to consider supporting the project. To make a donation visit www.inf.org/donate



Dambar and his wife in front of his new house

Women take the lead

Srijana Shahi reports

The way women are viewed in Nepal has changed dramatically over the past few years. The election and appointment of Ms Bidhya Devi Bhandari as the first female President; Ms Sushila Karki as the first female Chief Justice and Ms Onsari Gharti Magar as the first female speaker of Nepal's parliament in October 2015 was a major achievement for all those who believed women can lead and bring about positive change in their respective areas.

In March 2015, the Leadership Team of INF Nepal along with members from the INF Nepal Board and a number of INF families, gathered to develop an 'organisational development plan' to actively prepare and strengthen women for leadership positions and to increase the number of women in those positions.

At that time there were only four Nepali women at the officer level in INF Nepal. Today, that figure has grown with the number of women in leadership position reaching more than twelve in the past year. The conscious and strategic decision to strengthen women moving into leadership roles includes the recruitment and promotion of some of our most valuable staff in the last year:

- **Karuna:** Nursing Superintendent
- **Manju:** Finance Manager
- **Nalome:** Funding and Marketing Manager
- **Anjali:** District In-charge
- **Esther:** Funding Officer
- **Nilisha:** Donor Liaison and Monitoring Officer
- **Anita:** Assistant Admin and Finance Officer
- **Sharon:** Donor and Funding Officer
- **Srijana:** HR Trainee

However recruitment is only the first step. INF Nepal, in partnership with Tear Australia, ran a workshop in January 2017 to discuss issues related to strengthening 'women in leadership'. The session generated many ideas that INF will seek to implement incrementally and that will benefit staff and the organisation as a whole.



PRAY | DONATE | JOIN US | SHARE –
Please pray for INF Nepal as it seeks to equip and strengthen women across the organisation, particularly in leadership positions. May it be implemented in a way that builds up both INF and our work among marginalised communities in Nepal.

partners in prayer

INF could not function without prayer.

As our prayerful advocates, who faithfully join with us in seeking to bring hope and restoration to Nepal, your prayers and petitions are our foundation.

Each edition of Today in Nepal will highlight a part of INF's work, and hence cover all INF's work and staff over the three editions published each year. For up-to-date prayer information go to www.inf.org/pray, where you can also sign up to receive monthly Prayer Notes.

This edition features INF's Health Services Department [HSD].

INF'S HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

All INF's health work is managed under the HSD. This includes Green Pastures Hospital [GPH], medical camps, Surkhet Disability Centre, palliative care, fistula work, and the Banke Clinic.

The department is overseen by **Dr Dipak Marharajan** [Medical Director] and **Dhaka Ram Budha Magar** [Operations Director].

SUPPORT SERVICES

Manju Thapa oversees the financial management of the HSD.

Nalome Rongong is the Funding and Marketing Manager.

Dhyanendra Mani Tripathi is the Acting Operations Manager.

SURKHET AND BANKE HOSPITALS

Rajendra Sunar is the Manager for Surkhet and Banke Hospitals and the outreach/camps programme.

There are 15 beds at the Surkhet Hospital where patients with leprosy, spinal cord injuries and other disabilities are treated.

The Banke Hospital has beds for leprosy patients and has projects to help people with disabilities in the community.

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT HEALTH SERVICES

INF also supports government health services in other hospitals and helps develop priority areas of medical care.

Shirley Heywood, INF's gynaecologist, supports the Mid-West Regional Hospital in Surkhet and trains medical staff.

Nurses **Kripa Chaudhary** and **Dil Kumari Giri**, travel to other areas of the Western Region to train health post workers about obstetric fistula.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Give thanks for visionary leaders with a heart for God and a gifted medical team
- * Give thanks for the successful registration of both the Surkhet and Banke Hospitals
- * Pray for Banke team recruitment as the hospital in Nepalgunj takes more patients
- * Pray for those making key strategic decisions, including the registration of GPH with the Ministry of Health
- * Pray that patients will experience excellent care, finding hope and healing

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Praise God that the construction of the new fistula centre has begun, pray for its successful completion in 2017
- * Pray that patient advocates in Nepalgunj continue to help patients get the right care and support
- * Pray that Kripa and Dil will be able to establish good nursing protocols and training



SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT



DR DIPAK MAHARJAN



DHAKARAM
BUDHA MAGAR



DR SUMAN
SHARMA UPRETI



DR SHIRLEY
HEYWOOD



MIKE AND FIONA SMITH

GREEN PASTURES HOSPITAL

Dr Dipak Maharjan [Medical Director], an orthopaedic surgeon, and the team are working towards GPH becoming a Christ-focused centre of excellence, providing quality medical care and creating an atmosphere of hope and healing for everyone.

Dhaka Ram Budha Magar [Operations Director] has a special focus on development of the GPH complex and also oversees the Surkhet and Banke Hospitals.

Dr Suman Sharma Upreti is the newly-appointed Medical Superintendent at GPH. He is a general surgeon; trains junior doctors and ensures the hospital functions well.

Geoff Ibbotson is a general surgeon awaiting his work visa so he can begin work at GPH.

GPH: SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The Social Service Department at GPH is staffed by seven people whose roles enable them to bring love, hope and peace into the lives of patients and their carers.

Dhanu Giri heads the department, until his retirement in 2017.

Ruth Pariyar provides support to people with leprosy-related disabilities.

Punam BK is a peer counsellor for spinal cord injury patients.

Shankar Panth is also a member of this Dept. Read his story on page 8.

CHRIST AT THE CENTRE: THE CHAPEL PROJECT

Building a chapel at the centre of the GPH complex is a major part of the redevelopment plan. It will provide a place of peace where patients, family and staff can find spiritual support.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Give praise for the recruitment of an excellent team of leaders
- * Pray for GPH to become a leading light for the medical sector in Nepal
- * Pray that Suman continues to settle well into his new role and has the courage to bring change where needed
- * Pray that Geoff and Jenny, will know God's guidance
- * Pray that Dipak and Dhaka are able to prioritise family time in their busy schedules

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Give praise for opportunities to share Christ's love with patients and their families
- * Pray for a fruitful retirement for Dhanu, and for a replacement to take this role
- * Pray that patients and carers counselled will respond to the care of the Good Shepherd
- * Pray that Punam will gain confidence in taking group sessions for therapy and counselling

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Give praise for the vision to have Christ at the centre of our work and for the interest from churches in Pokhara for this project
- * Pray for new donors and partners to support the building of the chapel at GPH



GPH NURSING TEAM



EKA DEV [BACK ROW SECOND FROM LEFT] WITH EAR TEAM



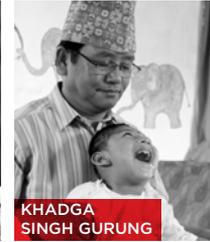
PURNA AND MANJU



DR DAN MUNDAY



DR RUTH RUSSELL



KHADGA SINGH GURUNG



DHAN PRASAD NEPALI

NURSING CARE

Karuna Tamang Gurung is the Nursing Superintendent at GPH, working alongside other departments to coordinate high-quality care.

Mahima Bhattarai is a senior nurse, who manages the junior staff.

PALLIATIVE CARE

INF's palliative care work continues to develop, despite the absence of **Ruth Russell** and **Dan Munday**, who are waiting for visas.

Purna, an experienced palliative care nurse, based at GPH is setting up a community service for the surrounding area, helping people in their homes and training others in caring for their loved ones.

Manju is a palliative care nurse and trainer based at Tansen Hospital.

REHABILITATION

Mr Khadga Singh Gurung heads the physiotherapy department at GPH. His team provides treatment for patients, home visits, and is responsible for twice-yearly cerebral palsy camps.

Dhan Prasad Nepali makes orthopaedic appliances for patients with disabilities.

EAR CENTRE AND MEDICAL OUTREACH

Eka Dev Devkota is responsible for running the Ear Centre, managing staff, and coordinating ear and medical outreach [camps].

Mike Smith is a consultant surgeon and is currently awaiting his work visa.

Sandra Eisner is carrying out research into ear disease in Nepal. Since opening in 2015, over 40 patients are seen in outpatient clinics every day, and up to 18 operations are carried out each week.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Give praise that nurses are encouraged by seeing many positive outcomes for patients
- * Pray for an increase in the number of nursing staff
- * Pray that nursing staff can deliver effective and compassionate care

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Give praise for opportunities to train church groups in palliative care
- * Pray for wisdom for Purna and Manju
- * Pray for effective partnership towards a national palliative care strategy

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Give praise for the life-transforming skills of the rehabilitation team
- * Pray that Khadga's clients can see improvements in their conditions and learn how to tackle difficulties

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- * Give praise that the Ear Centre is receiving referrals from hospitals in Pokhara
- * Pray that many people will be freed from pain and hearing loss
- * Pray that a visa is granted for Mike, so that more patients can receive surgery

bible SPOTLIGHT

"THE KING WILL REPLY. 'TRULY I TELL YOU,
WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST
OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE,
YOU DID FOR ME.'" **MATTHEW 25:40**

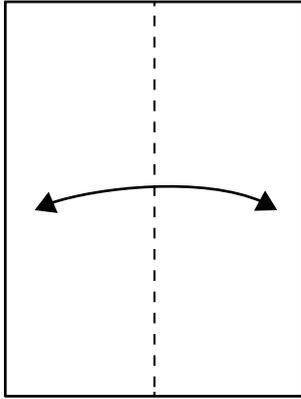
God's heart turns toward the poor, the outcast, the sick and the lonely; and he calls on our hearts, His followers, to do the same in Matthew 25:31-46. This well-known parable of judgement is often reduced to a command to care for the poor. However if we simply treat it as a command we miss the intimate invitation inherent within it, an invitation to engage in genuine worship.

This parable reveals the depth of Christ's identification with the 'least of these', calling on us to identify likewise. The challenge of the parable is not simply that we are called to care for those who are hungry, thirsty and sick, the alien and the imprisoned simply because Jesus cares for them, it is much more personal than that. Jesus declares that, as you do for these, you do for me. Showing concern for the poor and marginalised goes far beyond an act of charity, responsibility or pity, but rather as we show acts of mercy and compassion we are engaging in an intimate act of worship. Jesus directly identifies with those we would consider the most vulnerable in our world, to respond to them is to respond to Him.

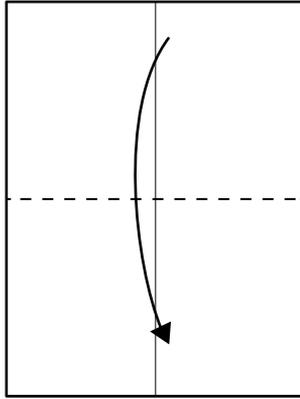
Throughout the Old Testament we are confronted with numerous passages where God condemns empty religious practice as false worship, again and again inviting His people into acts of true worship. What does it mean to approach the Holy God with acts of genuine worship but to, 'learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression, bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause' Isaiah 2:17

To engage in true genuine worship, worship that God desires, is to love the most vulnerable.

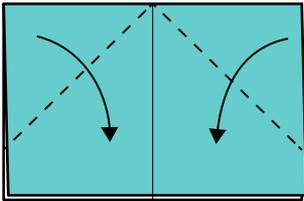
As we seek to worship God, our lives should be lovingly declaring the Good News of God's restoring love for all people, by offering them hope in the redeeming love of Jesus and showing them what this love looks like in practice. It is water given to those who thirst, food given to those who hunger, clothing given to the naked and medical care to those that are sick. In doing so, we will both glorify and honour the one who said, 'what you did for the least of these, you did for me'.



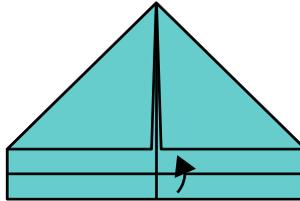
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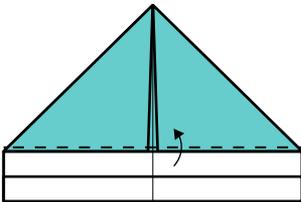
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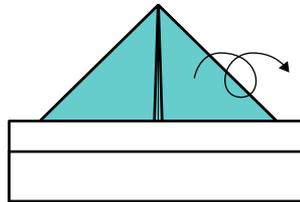
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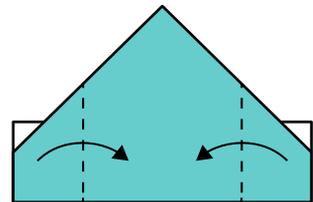
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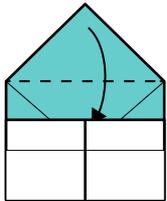
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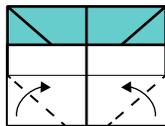
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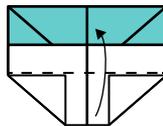
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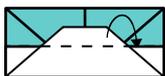
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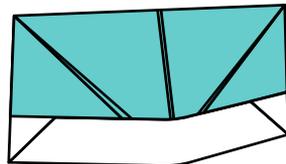
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These days everyone ‘in the know’ can dab, beat-box or Google, but the real question is ‘**Can you topi?**’

This issue of ‘fun stuff’ brings you the Topi Challenge, see the picture below for instructions on how to create your very own topi [hat for Nepali men] from a sheet of newspaper and then post a selfie to our facebook page @InternationalNepalFellowship for your chance to win INF’s beautiful photobook ‘Share Nepal’.

Traditionally, a topi is made from red, white and black woven cotton called dhaka but for this competition we invite you to be as creative as you like – game on people, **lets topi!**



Is God calling you to use your skills to serve overseas?



Would you enjoy teaching children from different cultural backgrounds?

Do you like teaching small classes, small groups or one to one?

One of the key factors keeping our expatriate families serving in Nepal is the education of their children.

The Pokhara Study Centre is the only place outside Kathmandu that provides internationally recognised education. INF has an approved visa position for teachers, effective immediately. However, there is presently no teacher available. This has put an enormous stress on the INF families in Pokhara.

Primary school teachers are required immediately. For more information see: www.inf.org/join-us/primary-school-teachers

Come and join the team and help build this dream. Please contact recruitment@inf.org

To explore more opportunities to serve please visit www.inf.org/join-us

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