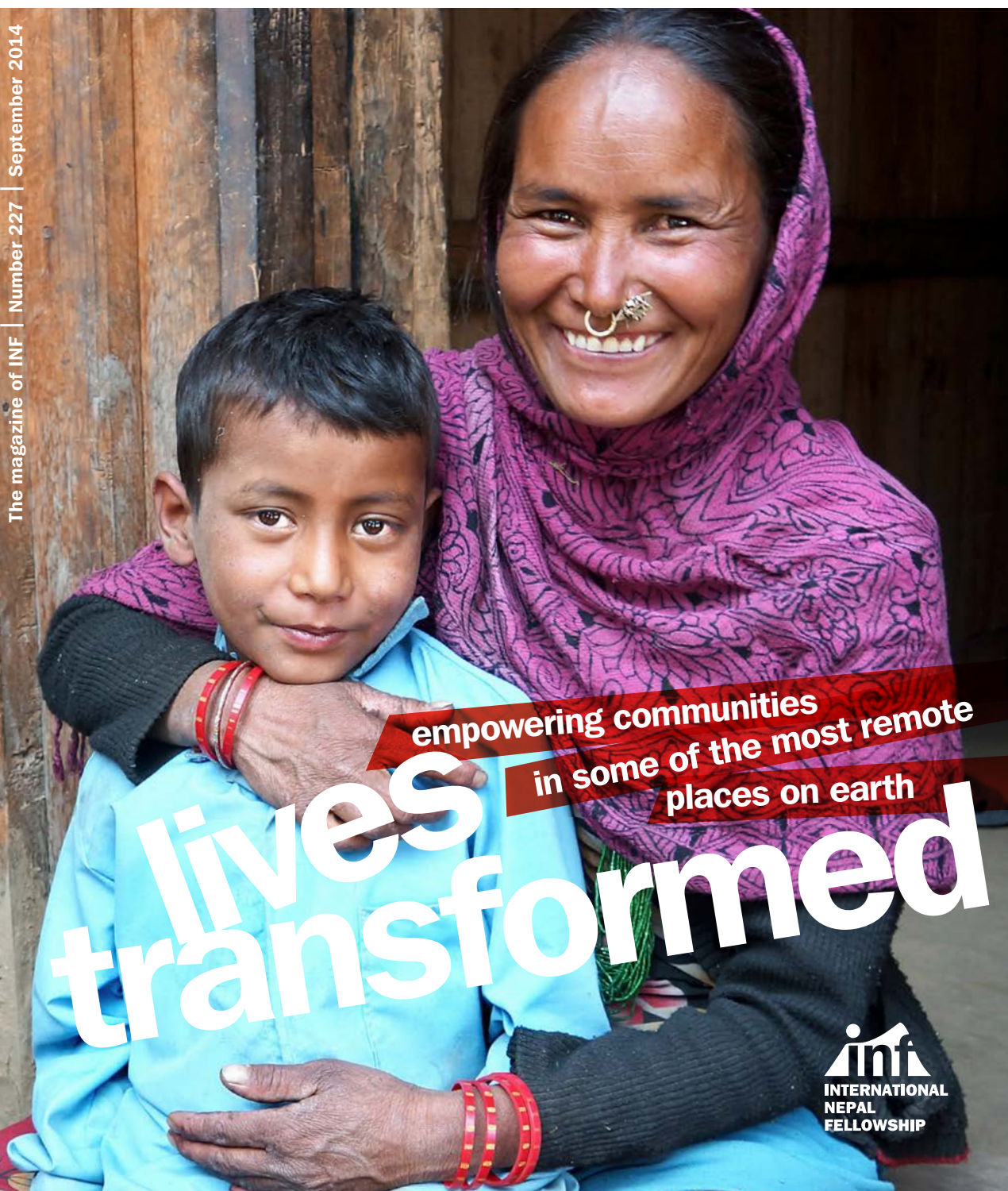


today**in**nepal

The magazine of INF | Number 227 | September 2014



empowering communities
in some of the most remote
places on earth

lives transformed

inf
INTERNATIONAL
NEPAL
FELLOWSHIP

INF values

love

God's love compels us to reach out to others

service

serving others, as Jesus did

compassion

having compassion for poor and marginalised people

forgiveness

having forgiveness for each other

equality

treating people equally, as all have equal worth

justice

seeking justice, especially for poor and marginalised people

reconciliation

striving for right relationships between people and God

honesty

being honest as an organisation and as individuals

excellence

striving for excellence in our work

joy

being joyful because of our relationship with God

hope

bringing hope to hopeless people

INF's vision: Nepali people in Nepal and beyond experiencing fullness of life in Jesus Christ and serving with others to promote health, peace, justice and harmony with God and His world.

INF's mission: to live out the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed by serving Nepali people through promoting health, fighting poverty and social injustice, working with and encouraging churches, and caring for creation.

INF began in 1936 – Nepal was then a closed country, so INF served Nepali people in India. After Nepal opened its borders, INF was the first Christian mission to enter in 1952. In the same year Nepali INF members established Nepal's first church.

www.inf.org

todayinnepal

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Printing

Hillside, Kathmandu, Nepal

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Phabitra Shahi, Self-Help Group leader, Sanpuli Village

PHOTO: ALI WILKINSON

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United States of America

ITAG, International
Messengers, Interserve,
MCC, SIM, WEC, WMPL

WEST AFRICA

SIM

editorial



lives transformed

empowerment

Empowering marginalised people is at the heart of INF's work. In this 'Today in Nepal' we bring you stories of empowerment, across whole communities and within individuals. It's long term, often undramatic hard work, but absolutely life-changing. We meet two remote communities in Jumla and see INF's work firsthand [pages 4-6].

new directions

I want to share with you the changes taking place within INF Nepal. A significant funding gap means that we sadly have to reduce some of our activities and staffing levels. Please pray for the leadership of INF Nepal as they manage these difficult changes, for staff who will lose their jobs and for the development of new and long-term funding partners.

staff

As I've visited our teams in the field this year I've been impressed by the skill and dedication of our staff. In particular, those living in remote areas who are often working cross-culturally and who make significant sacrifices to serve. Our staff and their witness are key to our effectiveness as a mission – in this issue you'll meet a few of them [pages 9 & 15]. Please pray about how we can best support them to live out their faith in INF.

family

One of INF's special characteristics is the family nature of our organisation, united by a common mission. We bring you news from across our international family [pages 10-11] that I hope will encourage you to PRAY | GIVE | GO | SHARE.

Alastair

Alastair Seaman

INF International Director

contents



A tale of two villages	4
Remote villages empowered for change	
Write this way	7
Why almost half Nepal can't read or write	
One step at a time	8
Jyoti learns to walk again	
God's plan for one family	9
Three children inspired by a father's legacy	
Around the world	10
Be encouraged to PRAY GIVE GO SHARE	
Eyes wide open	12
Life-changing trip brings new 'vision'	
Don't try this at home	13
Is God calling you to go to Nepal?	
Brighter sounding future	14
Ear camp helps troubled teenager	
Migrant champion	15
The pastor who fights exploitation	
Letterbox	16
Supporters' comments	
New faces	18
Who's new in INF	
Who's who	19
Mission personnel in INF	
Really good gifts	20
INF's new gift catalogue	



A tale of two vill

**We used to
stay in our
homes...
now we feel
brave and
empowered**

Sanpuli Village

Broad smiles stretched across the weather-beaten faces of the women as they spoke proudly about their village. Sitting under the shade of a verandah there was plenty of cause for joy as they reflected on the community's transformation over the past three years.

"We used to always stay in our homes. We felt we couldn't leave or contribute to the community," says Phabitra Shahi, a Self-Help Group [SHG] leader in the village of Sanpuli. "Now we feel brave and empowered. We actually do things instead of just talking about our problems."

Sanpuli Village sits nestled at the foothills of the Kailash Kadh Mountains above the Tila River in Mid-Western Region. To reach the village it's a bumpy three hour drive along a dirt road, followed by a walk across a long suspension bridge hanging over the gurgling



Self-Help Group members discuss the changes in their village - Sanpuli
PHOTO: ALI WILKINSON

Alex Barwick visits two remote communities where INF is working and finds stark differences

Over the past three years INF has worked alongside Sanpuli Village through its Community Health and Development [CHD] work. INF-trained Community Mobilisers have facilitated the formation of seven SHGs. These groups, of about 20 people, have learnt to work together devising and implementing action plans with the assistance of INF. The gradual transformation has been life-changing.

Today, green crops sway in the breeze in the fields around the village. There are newly built toilets and a large dry-stone drainage system that helps to steer the monsoonal rains through the village. Local children scramble onto one of the bridges built by the SHGs that provides easy access to the local school. Their parents proudly point out the 14 communal water taps installed to provide previously inaccessible drinking water.

"We have regular meetings now. One SHG will develop an action plan and then the others will offer to help implement it," says Phabitra Shahi. "We've also organised a savings scheme to help pay for these community projects."

Changing attitudes towards health care have seen women and children attending INF's Nutrition Programme. Families have been taught to identify the signs of malnutrition early, in turn saving young lives. Previously those who were sick went to the traditional healer, now he has started referring people to the local health post or hospital. Two families in Sanpuli Village have come to know Jesus and are meeting regularly for fellowship.

As the women of Sanpuli look out across their village there is pride but also gratitude in their eyes, and in their words, for how INF has walked with them. ►

waters below and finally, a 20 minute hike uphill. Compared to many other villages in the Jumla District, it's well connected and reasonably close to services.

Sanpuli has a population of approximately 1,295. No one has done an exact head count but with 185 houses, each with seven family members [on average] there's a general acceptance that the maths is right.

Before INF arrived those 1,295 residents defecated in the fields surrounding the village. The entrance to the town looked and smelt awful. During the monsoon, water gushed down the hills and through the village, sweeping up rubbish and excrement, and often destroying crops and property in its path.

A lack of available work locally and tension within the community saw families fighting. The men were often forced to find employment in India leaving their families behind.



Ninety-five percent of the women in Dungri are illiterate. Most cannot even write their own names

Dungri Village

As you approach the village of Dungri there is a sense of heaviness that accompanies the multitude of carved wooden statues and torn red flags flapping in the crisp mountain air. Dungri has one of the most breath-taking views of the Himalayas but its residents have little opportunity to enjoy it. Geographic isolation and poverty mean surviving each day is a challenge.

At 3,000m above sea level Dungri is a place where most non-governmental organisations won't go. Despite being only four kms away from Sanpuli Village getting there isn't easy. Travelling further along the rough road west of Jumla it's then a steady walk four hours up and down winding trails on a steep mountainside.

Walking through the ramshackle mishmash of houses there is an eerie desolation. Most of the able-bodied men and women are four hours back down the hill working on a road project. Children dart in and out from behind buildings. Most carry a younger sibling on their back secured with lengths of grubby cloth. A layer of dirt is cemented to their faces and there are no shoes on their feet.

Ninety-five percent of the women in Dungri are illiterate. Most cannot even write their own names. Work is scarce and most of the men travel to India each year leaving their wives to care for the family's needs. The nearest school and health post are both more than four hours walk away.

INF began work in Dungri less than a year ago. CHD work is slow and often undramatic but the INF staff have gained the trust of community members and two SHGs have now formed. In the last few months, INF has also set up its Nutrition Programme after a community survey revealed almost 20 children from the 35 households were severely malnourished.

Bhunari Rawt is a mother of two toddlers – four-year-old Susmita and two-year-old Urmila. Her husband would normally be in India now but is back working on the road-building project. Both her children were malnourished when INF began work in the village. Today they look healthy; they've gained weight and Bhunari has started attending the nutrition training. She admits that sometimes she doesn't turn up because she has difficulty understanding. Bhunari has been taught to make 'super flour' porridge using locally available crops but the challenges of growing vegetables at such high altitude present an ongoing problem for all the families in the village.

INF has committed to walk alongside this village for the next few years, to help the residents of Dungri to help themselves. Already the Nutrition Programme has seen the majority of malnourished children gain weight - only two remain in a critical condition. An INF staff member walks the four hours up to Dungri each week and runs educational sessions for the mothers on cooking nutritious food. On average, most mothers in Dungri are aged between 16 and 17 years old.

"Slowly the community is starting to trust us. They have begun making changes that will bring benefit to the whole community," says Nirmala BM, Nutrition-in-Charge, INF Jumla.

The differences between Dungri and Sanpuli are stark. INF's commitment to empower and work alongside each village has seen extraordinary change. In time, INF will wind up its work in Sanpuli as its SHGs continue to transform their own community. For Dungri the partnership has only just begun but the hope of seeing transformed lives in their neighbouring village gives optimism. High on a mountaintop, in one of the most remote places on earth, His work is being done.

PRAY | GIVE | GO | SHARE — Please pray for the people of Sanpuli and Dungri Villages. We give thanks for the lives transformed and pray that the newly formed SHGs in Dungri would feel empowered to make positive changes for their whole community.

Write this way

Almost half of all Nepalis, 15 years and older, cannot read or write. Alex Barwick looks at why literacy is not 'as easy as ABC'

While literacy levels are increasing in urban areas, adult literacy remains desperately low due to geographic isolation and poverty in remote Nepal.

International Literacy Day [8 September] provides an opportunity to highlight the challenges to improving literacy levels across the country. Nepal's current literacy rate sits at 56.6% - male literacy is 71.6 % compared with 44.5% for females.*

A child's education is often a low priority for parents who themselves cannot read or write. Putting food on the table is often the overriding priority. As a result, more than a third of school-age children in remote areas are working in the fields.

So how can the situation change for those living in remote areas of Nepal?

Fifteen pairs of eyes are focussed on their teacher. The children at the Chhahari School in Thukila Village, on the outskirts of Nepalgunj, sit on a straw mat under the shade, raising their hands one by one as Rita Thapa calls the roll. It all seems very normal, except that their surroundings are a little unusual for a regular school.

The children seem completely unaware of the cows loitering nearby or the goats chewing grass a few feet away. Even the whiteboard wedged in a nearby tractor seems perfectly in its place. This is where these children are most comfortable and for each of them it's their first encounter with formal education.

In the last year more than 900 children from the most remote areas of Nepal have attended classes thanks to an innovative educational non-governmental organisation called Chhahari [shade] Nepal. Eleven years ago INF's Sue Kemp, Principal of the Primary Study Centre for missionary children in Pokhara, learnt that on average children living in the west of Nepal were spending less than two and a half years in school. They often only spoke their own local language, and felt uncomfortable in an unfamiliar environment. At least half would leave within the first year. Too many others, for reasons of status or poverty, never even tried to go to school, despite a longing to learn.

Sue founded Chhahari Nepal in 2003 and continues to provide training for the year-long programme that prepares children for school. There are now more than 40 classes across the Mid-Western Region.

PRAY | GIVE | GO | SHARE — Please pray for the children attending the Chhahari classes that the opportunity for early childhood education would see them ready to begin school.

Jyoti has learnt to walk again.
INF has given her physical and
spiritual hope for the future.
Leigh Filmer reports



One step at a time

She doesn't know her age and she's never been to school but today Jyoti Chaudari walks with the calm assuredness of a queen. It's been a long road for the married mother of two in Surkhet, Mid-Western Region.

Two years ago while gathering leaves for her goat, Jyoti fell onto rocks and badly injured her spine. She lost all sensation and movement below her waist.

Unable to get treatment locally, doctors referred her to a hospital in Kathmandu - a fourteen-hour bus ride across the country. She had a plate put into her spine to stabilise the fracture and began physiotherapy. After four months the family ran out of money and had to return to Surkhet so her husband could work.

Jyoti became increasingly depressed and often thought about dying. She was particularly distressed by the loss of bowel and bladder control. Unable to move around, she developed a large pressure sore on her hip. Soon after this, she was admitted to INF's Leprosy and Disability Referral Centre in Surkhet.

Seven months of rehabilitation have now enabled Jyoti to move around and regain some of her independence. She can get herself in and out of her wheelchair, change her clothes and she is no longer incontinent.

The INF rehabilitation team were so impressed by her recovery that they began teaching her how to walk again. Today she can walk slowly with the help of elbow crutches. Her husband has provided ongoing care and support along with her children and daughter-in-law. Jyoti's physical and physiological changes have been accompanied by a spiritual change too.

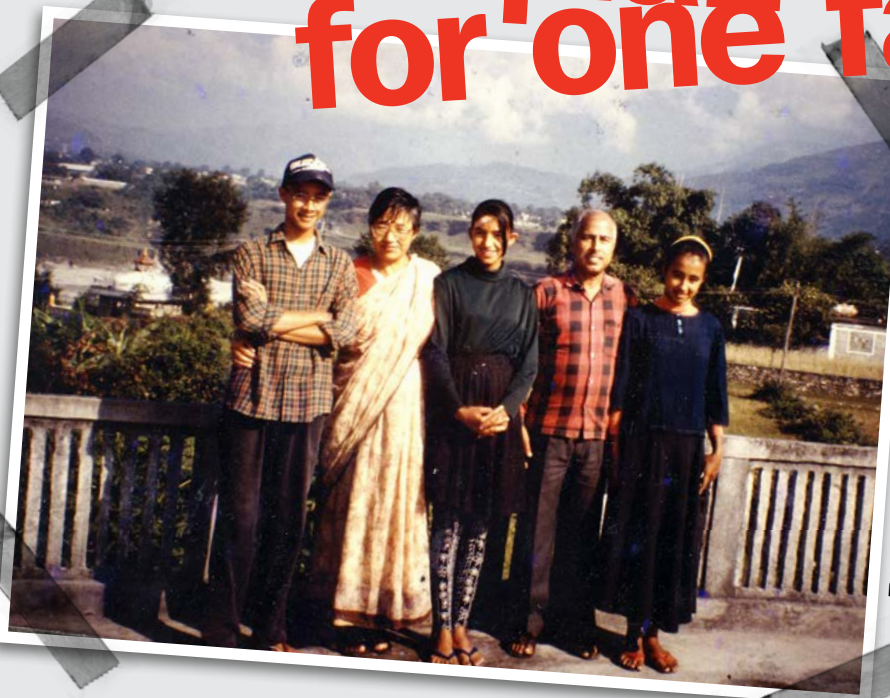
Jyoti has been attending the weekly fellowship meetings and evening bible studies run by some of the INF nurses.

"I feel loved here and want to learn more about Jesus," says Jyoti. "Before I felt no hope - now I look forward to being able to care for my family."

Adjusting back into daily life has its challenges. Jyoti is tired of the attention and questions from people about what happened to her, and she continues to struggle with pressure sores. However, despite the limitations, she is happy to be home - thankful that she can get out into the garden, cook for the family and give the baby his bath.

PRAY | GIVE | GO | SHARE — Please pray for Jyoti's physical and spiritual journey as she continues to have physiotherapy and reintegrates into her community.

God's plan for one family



The Bhattarai children are all grown up and inspired by their father's legacy. Alex Barwick reports

The Bhattarai family standing on their rooftop in Pokhara in the 1990s [Ashish, Rosemary, Karisma, Lazarus, Mahima]

Nar Bahadur made fun of new Christian converts. He was once overheard saying that even if the Seti River flowed in the opposite direction he would not become a Christian. God had other plans.

Nar Bahadur began secretly visiting Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre [GPHRC] in 1962 for leprosy treatment, but a severe reaction to his medication saw him admitted to hospital and his condition revealed.

INF's Eileen Lodge encouraged Nar Bahadur to teach other patients' children. One of his students asked him for help reading a Christian booklet. That night God opened Nar Bahadur's heart and he became a Christian. Renamed Lazarus, because he felt he had been brought back from the dead, he went on to manage several regional banks. Later, he served as the Principal of the Pokhara Bible School.

Mahima Bhattarai is Lazarus's eldest daughter and Senior Staff Nurse at GPHRC. She says her father has been the biggest influence on her own life.

"When other people hear that we all work for INF they say it can only be God's plan," says Mahima. She joined INF in 2007 and has been serving the needs of leprosy patients, as well as those with disabilities.

Lazarus's son, Ashish, clearly remembers hearing stories of INF's work as a youngster. "I knew I also wanted to be part of that work but I didn't know how or

when," says Ashish. Fascinated by computers, Ashish spent his childhood taking apart toys and gadgets - trying to understand how they worked. Today he is the IT Officer in INF's Kathmandu office.

"Knowing that my IT support can play a vital role in fulfilling INF's main vision truly thrills me," says Ashish. His wife Arati has also worked with INF at GPHRC as a staff nurse before their family moved to Kathmandu.

Lazarus's youngest daughter Karisma works for Sagoal, a Christian non-governmental organisation that formed out of INF's community development work. Sagoal equips Nepali churches to reach out to their local communities and work with them to meet their physical, social and spiritual needs.

"We three are blessed by having the opportunity to serve in organisations like INF and Sagoal, and in turn we can be a blessing to the communities of Nepal by using our skills and qualifications," says Karisma.

"I'm really proud of what my parents taught us, and always give thanks to the Lord for them."

Lazarus passed away in 2012 but is survived by his wife Rosemary. She is very thankful for the ongoing partnership her family has with INF.

PRAY | GIVE | **GO** | SHARE — Wherever you live across the world consider whether God is calling you to go to Nepal [or stay put] to work for His purposes. [Additional information from INF's book 'Light Dawns in Nepal' by Tom Hale]

Throughout 2014 God has blessed the work of INF through the prayerful commitment and generosity of individuals, groups and churches around the world. These are just a few of the many varied activities that have and will take place. A big 'thank you' to everyone involved!

Happy 21st Down Under

Laura Mo



Australian Laura Mo decided she didn't want any presents for her 21st. Instead of buying gifts she encouraged her friends and family to make a donation to INF. "I was prompted to do this after noticing all the clutter on my bedroom floor. I was overwhelmed with all the 'stuff' I had," said Laura. "I think over the years, God has taught me to be content with all that He has provided."

Laura was not only able to share delicious food and good times for her birthday but thanks to the generosity of her friends and family, AU\$750 was raised for INF's Partnership For Rehabilitation Programme. Laura is heading to Nepal at the end of 2014 for a physiotherapy placement.

New prayer group in Scotland

Sandy Falconer



Sandy Falconer has set up a new INF prayer group in Scotland. He was inspired to establish the group following a trip to Nepal with INF's International Director, Alastair Seaman.

"I think of my time in Nepal almost every day," says Sandy. "I was inspired by the servant hearts and dedication of all involved with INF, both expats and Nepali - the great variety of work undertaken in both urban and rural situations was an eye opener."

Sandy is also taking up opportunities to speak about INF with other church groups.

Nepalis in Portugal

Abraham Shrestha



Abraham Shrestha [INF UK] works with Nepalis in the UK and Europe. He recently made a trip to Lisbon, Portugal, where there are about 8,000 Nepalis, only a handful of whom are Christians. While Abraham was in Lisbon he held a gathering attended by about 25 Nepalis. Five came to the Lord that day – praise God!

SHARE around the world

Back on track in the UK

Anne Wafula Strike



Paralympic wheelchair racer Anne Wafula Strike is back on the track raising money for INF in the UK. Last year Anne raised over £10,000 for INF through a charity appeal on BBC Radio 4. Anne suffered paralysis at two years old, and had to wait 27 years for her first wheelchair. It is her hope that Nepalis in need of a wheelchair will not need to wait as long as she did. She has recently been honoured as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire [MBE] for services to disability, sport and charity work. This October, Anne will be completing a half marathon to raise further funds for INF. Check out the INF website for more details www.inf.org/inf-uk

Strumming up support in the States

Ryan Flemming

Ryan Fleming, former INF missionary with Partnership For Rehabilitation [PFR] in Nepal, recently held a benefit concert in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Ryan played several guitars made in Nepal by Maurice Paul Guitars and was joined by Jason Lee on violin. There were also handicrafts made by PFR on sale at the concert. It was an evening of great entertainment and good food, for two great causes.

INF/UMN Australia Conference

Australia Conference



The visit of UMN's Mark Galpin [Executive Director] and Dhana Lama [Clusters Director] was a great opportunity to hold the first joint INF and UMN conferences in Australia. Two events were held in Sydney on Saturday 5 July. The morning event highlighted the heritage and vision shared by INF and UMN and their focus on serving the poor and marginalised in Nepal. Author Naomi Reed also spoke. The evening event, at St Luke's Church in Liverpool, was hosted by the United Nepali Christian Community [UNCC]. It included talks, music and dance followed by delicious daal bhat for 150 people. The aim was to introduce INF and UMN to a new, mostly Nepali audience who were delighted to hear Dhana and INF's Phil and Jenny Davis share about their work in Nepal. All the costs of the evening were generously donated by St Luke's and UNCC – to the value of AU\$1,000.

Event +

**If you've been encouraged
or inspired by any of these
activities, get in touch with
your local INF office to see
how you can support INF
[details page 2] or visit
www.inf.org**

What have you been up to?

You don't need to travel to Nepal to understand the work of INF - but being part of a Vision Trip has changed me forever.

Witnessing INF's work in some of the poorest communities of Nepal, I no longer feel comfortable with the disparity between the life of an Australian and a Nepali. I feel compelled to share the challenges facing Nepali people every day.

During the 14 day journey we met with, and heard stories from, INF Community Mobilisers in Kapilvastu, western Nepal. I was particularly struck by their work to encourage and empower women. After marriage, some women won't leave their homes very often, even for childbirth. As a mother of four, it was hard for me to imagine a life limited by four mudbrick walls.

I was encouraged to hear one INF staff member's story. Her husband was ill and out of necessity she overcame the pressure to stay home. She gained an education and then a job and has become an inspiration to other women in her village. Through her example attitudes are slowly changing.

My daughter [Indira] and son [Oliver] joined me on the trip and also left Nepal with a deeper understanding of life for children in developing countries and a desire to speak with their friends about Nepal. They were humbled by an extraordinary welcome during our visit to a village school in Karkineta. Seven hundred pairs of eyes watched and waved to my children – they felt undeserving of such a welcome.

It wasn't easy to step outside my comfortable existence in Australia but now I see more clearly. We have such a great opportunity and responsibility to walk with the people of Nepal, to help empower them to live lives of dignity and purpose.

PRAY | GIVE | GO | SHARE — Please consider whether God may be calling you to go to Nepal; short term, long term or on a two week vision trip. www.inf.org/opportunities-serve

Eyes wide open

**INF Australia's
Selena Courtress
shares her 'vision'
after visiting Nepal**



Australian Vision Trip enjoying the view in front of Fishtail Mountain, Pokhara [Selena, third from left]
PHOTO: BOB CUMMING

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME...



What can't you carry on a rickshaw!
PHOTO: ROWAN BUTLER

CRITICAL VACANCIES

Is God calling you to **go to Nepal?**

Finance Director

Do you have a passion for financial management? INF Nepal needs a Christian Finance Director. You'll be responsible for financial management, control and governance. You'll need to be a chartered accountant with experience, preferably in a not-for-profit organisation.

Funding/Donor Relations Manager

Has God gifted you with experience in raising funds for a not-for-profit organisation? INF Nepal needs a Christian with experience in fundraising or donor relations to develop capacity, and support local and international donor liaison.

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

For further details, visit www.inf.org/opportunities-serve

Subscribe to the INF jobs feed at www.inf.org/feeds

Life can be tough when you're a teenager no matter what part of the world you grow up in. 13 year-old Bal is from a village in the Mid-Western Region and has experienced his share of difficulties. Born with 14 toes, Bal has also had a serious hearing impairment for more than half his life.

Despite having nine toes on his right foot, Bal's favourite sport is football. Surgery helped sort his feet out and now surgery has helped him to hear again.

For the past seven years Bal has had chronic ear infections in both ears. The impact of being unable to hear properly has meant he has finished less than three years of schooling. The smelly discharge from both ears has also been uncomfortable for Bal and created difficulties socially.

When Bal arrived at INF's Ear Camp in Pyuthan earlier this year, doctors saw that one of his eardrums was perforated and the small bones inside the ear were damaged. The camp surgeons decided to operate on Bal, reconstructing the eardrum with cartilage from the outer ear. Bal was able to leave the camp hospital the same evening with the hope of full recovery.

Despite years of bad hearing from the chronic ear infections, Bal's future is sounding a lot brighter.

PRAY | GIVE | GO | SHARE — Please pray that many others like Bal might receive much needed care from an INF Camp or may be referred to INF's new Ear Hospital and Training Centre currently under construction in Pokhara. www.inf.org/ear-hospital

Bal recovering after surgery at INF's Ear Camp, Pyuthan
PHOTO: MATTHIAS HAVEMANN

INF's Ear Camp gives one teenager real hope of hearing after seven long years. Matthias Havemann [medical student] reports



**Brighter
sounding
future**



Alex Barwick caught up with former trekking guide Ramesh Regmi, now church pastor and one of INF's advocates against exploitation

Migrant champion

Ramesh Raj Regmi stands at the Nepal-Indian border
PHOTO: ALEX BARWICK

Ramesh Raj Regmi, INF's Migration Support Supervisor in Nepalgunj, Mid-Western Region, represents the growing relationship between Nepali churches and INF, working in partnership to help the most marginalised.

Ramesh became a Christian about 20 years ago while guiding a Dutch couple on a trek through the Himalayas. They shared the bible with him at a time when he was facing financial difficulties and struggling with addiction. Everything in his world changed. He enrolled in a bible college in Kathmandu and after graduating moved to Nepalgunj to work in an orphanage.

"At that time there were three churches in Nepalgunj. After three years of prayer, my wife and I started a fourth church," says Ramesh.

Smyrna Missionary Church began on New Years Day 2000 and continues to provide a place of fellowship for more than 70 people each weekend.

Ramesh is passionate about encouraging his congregation to get out into the community and be an effective witness for the Kingdom of God. This is echoed in his INF role, managing the Migration Programme on the border and the dedicated team of church volunteers in Nepalgunj who identify and assist Nepalis at risk travelling to and from India.

"I see many Nepali people facing problems as they travel," says Ramesh. "Nepalis are often befriended, drugged and then robbed on their way home to Nepal carrying money for their families. We give them counselling, food and shelter."

Volunteers speak with between 300-400 people per day and often walk with people for long distances. They talk about HIV/AIDS, counselling, trafficking and exploitation, secure bank accounts, human rights, and labour laws. They also hand out small booklets with useful information.

Last year the group of church volunteers registered as an organisation Christian Compassion Network Nepal, while continuing to receive support and financial assistance from INF.

The programme has successfully seen a gradual decrease in the number of Nepalis being attacked.

"I don't believe that migration is going to stop but we can help it be safer," says Ramesh. "I am encouraged to work for those people and to be part of God's work."

PRAY | GIVE | GO | SHARE — Please pray for Nepalis travelling to India for work, that they would be aware of the risks and that through the help of local churches and INF, they would return home safely.

Fit for fun[d]raising

The Everest Marathon Fund has been supporting INF since 1997. This year I have pleasure in donating £5,000, which has been raised by people running the 2013 Everest Marathon. We would like the funds to benefit the work of Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre.

Diana Penny Sherpani UK

'Nepal night' a huge success

Our prayer group's Nepal evening earlier this year was a real success - 29 people bought tickets. The atmosphere was very good and supper [Nepali vegetable curry] turned out well. Chris and Jenny Clark [trustees of Chhahari Nepal UK] spoke about their visits to Chhahari classes and showed lots of pictures. There were also some lovely Nepali products for sale. Half of the funds raised went to the Chhahari schools and half to INF's leprosy work at Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre.

Elizabeth Steven UK

See page 7 for how Chhahari Nepal is helping to turn the tide on low literacy levels in Nepal. – Ed.

To market, to market

We are so pleased to be returning to Nepal to work with the craft centre in the Partnership For Rehabilitation [PFR] programme this year. We are very much enjoying our retirement and the opportunity to help INF at the same time. In the past year we have run several market stalls in South Australia - these have been a fantastic way to promote the work of INF and to show off PFR's great products. It is also a bonus to be able to tell real stories about the wonderful women who made the products.

Jan and John Adcock Australia

A long-term connection

Many thanks for your letter encouraging my wife and I to attend the INF/UMN Nepal Mission Conference in September in the UK. Unfortunately we cannot be with you... but are pleased to continue supporting your mission's work. I have followed the ministry of

INF for many years. We have also enjoyed two visits to Nepal when our eldest son was serving with INF. May God continue to bless, provide and guide all who are currently serving our Lord with INF, and I wish you a truly encouraging conference at The Hayes.

Geof Turner UK

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTS

Twitter

Thank you to the Nepal Prayer Group at All Saints Thorpe Acre for inviting me to their coffee morning.

Loughborough Member of Parliament [UK], Nicky Morgan, tweets to her more than 8,000 followers after attending a coffee morning arranged by the local INF prayer group in aid of Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre.

Facebook

Thanks for sharing these heart-wrenching but hopeful stories and the beautiful photos - thank you INF for this life-changing work. Praying for the surgeries to be successful for every woman, may they go home with a life that has changed, physically, but hopefully spiritually as well. Well done INF!

Inge Baumann-May Australia

Doing good job. God bless you INF. I hope in future I join INF as missionary.

Gupta Raj United Arab Emirates

Great work being done for these unfortunate women [patients of INF's Fistula Camp]. How well off we are here in Australia. Praise him.

Doreen Smart Kulikovsky Australia

Dear God, Bless INF and their work which glorify Your name. Amen.

Saraswati Shrestha Paudel Australia

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 and Twitter.

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



PFR products



LIKE what INF is doing in Nepal?

Want to **SHARE** the story of God's work with the poor and marginalised?

Become a **FRIEND of INF** on Facebook and invite your friends to **LIKE** us too.

New 'Why I Serve' video

Hear why people love working with INF... you can see the new 'Why I Serve' video in English or Nepali on our Facebook page or on Youtube [www.youtube.com/INFWorldwide]

Making a gift in your will

A supporter contacted INF about making a gift in her will. She wrote: "No doubt there will be quite a large number of people who will appreciate guidance about a legacy and I trust and pray there will be a generous response. God is doing great things in and through INF and it has been simply wonderful to see Him at work through his beloved children."

Would you consider making a gift in your will for the work of INF? If so, please contact your nearest INF office [details on page 2] for information.

Praying for INF



INF could not function without prayer. If you'd like to pray for INF, please contact your nearest office [details on page 2] for our regular prayer newsletters. Also available is the annual 'Partners in Prayer' [pictured], a comprehensive guide to INF personnel and their work. There may be an INF prayer group in your local area which you could join – if not, maybe we could help you start one?



Pass it on!

According to recent surveys, two or three people read each copy of a contemporary mission magazine. After reading it, why not pass on your copy of 'Today in Nepal' to a friend? Or 'share' the magazine online at www.inf.org

Feeling listless?

Are you on the mailing list for 'Today in Nepal' magazine? If you're not, and you'd like to be, contact your nearest INF office [details on page 2], or sign up online [www.inf.org/signing-information] and let us know you'd like to receive 'Today in Nepal'. Please include your name and address. If your personal details are incorrect or you would like to be removed from the mailing list please let us know.

new faces



■ Clare Grimble



■ David and Kylie Colville with George, Oscar and Bronte



■ Tegan Lloyd Williams



■ Matt and Liz Watson with Will and Annabelle



■ Samuel Budhathoki

Please pray for INF's 'new faces':

Clare Grimble arrived in early June and after language study in Pokhara took up the role of Community Based Rehabilitation Physiotherapy Support and Education Advisor. She's working across different areas of mid-western Nepal and will be based in Nepalgunj. Clare previously served with INF from 2003–2008.

David and Kylie Colville with George, Oscar and Bronte returned to Nepal in March this year. After three months' language training David began teaching at Kathmandu International Study Centre [KISC] and Kylie has joined the INF Communications Team. The Colvilles served in Nepal during 2008–2009 at KISC with Interserve.

Tegan Lloyd Williams will be joining the Primary Study Centre [PSC] in Pokhara after initial language training. She also hopes to initiate music therapy at Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre.

Matt Watson has returned part time to the INF Communications Team to do design and film. He'll remain based in New Zealand. Matt, Liz and their two children [Will and Annabelle] previously served with INF in Nepal between 2008–2013.

Samuel Budhathoki joined the Nepal Country Office in Kathmandu in May. He returned to Nepal after 12 years living in Singapore and Australia, to work with INF's Partnership Sanjaal - working with, and encouraging, Nepali churches to support returning migrants.

Please pray for all our new arrivals:

- that they have good health and adjust well to their new surroundings
- that they find satisfaction and fulfilment in their work

who's who

international mission personnel in INF

■ Australia

Jan Adcock
John Adcock
Alex Barwick
Rohan Barwick
Roz Brain
Rowan Butler – I/S
David Colville
Kylie Colville
Kate Dalitz – CMS
Brittany Darvas
Matt Darvas
Jenny Davis
Phil Davis
Leigh Filmer – CMS
Tamara Filmer – CMS
Peggy Franks
Kirstin Hawkshaw – CMS
Catherine Price
Declan Price
Tim Nicholson – I/S
Val Nicholson – I/S
Marleen Roche – I/S
Paul Roche – I/S
Gordon Russell – CMS
Ruth Russell – CMS

■ Austria

James Chinnery
Sandra Chinnery

■ Brazil

Celinda Castro Daniel – APMT
Denny Daniel – APMT

■ Germany

Christoph Eisert – FW
Damaris Eisert – FW
Tina Gomer – Provide
Ulli Gomer – Provide
Christina M – Provide
Thomas M – Provide
Artur Neumann – FW
Eva Neumann – FW
Heike Priebe – FW
Micha Schmid – DMG
Irmgard Spittler – FW

■ Netherlands

Pauline van Ooijen – GZB

■ New Zealand

Deborah Gough
Julie Lincoln – SIM
Matt Watson

■ Sweden

Ulla-Britt Engelbrektsson – ISW
Peder Eriksson – ISW
Ulla Eriksson – ISW

■ Switzerland

Salome Berger – WEC
Alois von Flüe – WEC

■ United Kingdom

Alan Barker – BMS
Megan Barker – BMS
Karen Baxter
Cynthia Chadwell – BMS
Ian Chadwell – BMS
Lois Dingley

Jackie Durrant
Hilary Fergusson
Neil Fergusson
Shirley Heywood
Sue Kemp
Elizabeth Lee – BMS
Tegan Lloyd Williams
Susie Moore
Andy Saunders – BMS
Jenny Saunders – BMS
Andrea Thomas
Clive Thomas
Ali Wilkinson

■ United States

Becky Hagen – WMPL
Paul Hagen – WMPL

■ Office staff

Sofie Fritz [UK]
Iris Keenan [UK]
Peixin Liu [UK]
Alice McMurtrie [UK]
Rosie Pitman [UK]
John Reynolds [UK]
Lynda Scotson [UK]
Phil Smith [UK]
Selena Courtness [Australia]
Russell Hancock [Australia]
Jin-Sim Lee [Australia]
Phil Morris [Australia]
Laurie Spady [North America]
Min Thapa [North America]
Rodger Vickers [New Zealand]

Farewell



Mick and Debbie Langford
[TEAR] 2009 - 2014



Susanne Hutter
[FW] 2006 - 2014

INF thanks these departing colleagues for their service. Please pray for them as they move into new areas of work and Christian ministry.

Returned Nepalis

Increasingly, Nepalis who had moved overseas for work or study are returning to Nepal to serve their own people through INF.

partner missions
listed on page 2

INF children [+ year of birth]

Olive Barwick [2009]; June Barwick [2012]; Justin Chadwell [1999]; Lucy Chadwell [2002]; David Chinnery [2001]; Tom Chinnery [2004]; Katlyn Chinnery [2007]; Samuel Chinnery [2011]; George Colville [2005]; Oscar Colville [2007]; Bronte Colville [2010]; Anton Eisert [2007]; Emil Eisert [2007]; Emma Eisert [2007]; Mikayla Filmer [2009]; Jasmine Filmer [2010]; Caleb Gomer [2014]; Nathan Gomer [2014]; Shari M [2007]; Tara M [2010]; Sami Jeevan M [2013]



Want to give a REALLY GOOD GIFT?

THE NEW INF GIFT CATALOGUE - OUT NOW.

INF's really good gifts are a great way to celebrate special occasions with family and friends. The 28 gifts include your favourites plus new items such as clean drinking water, a Christmas party for Nepali migrant children and advocacy training for women.

To order a printed catalogue, call or email your nearest INF office [details page 2].

YOU CAN BUY GIFTS ONLINE AT WWW.INF.ORG/GIFTS

