



# considering service

For many expatriates, the change in life and work dynamic is a big challenge, often to their sense of personal identity. Therefore, you need to be well-grounded in your **God-given identity**. Your time in Nepal will benefit from an ability to revise your understanding of 'achievement' or 'success'.

Building good relationships with national colleagues, and to be a valued part of the team, may be the key achievements. Such objectives are just as valuable as the more traditional task-focused outcomes (e.g. productivity).

## **Extracts from INF's 'Selection and Service Criteria' policy**

In keeping with INF's vision and values, and in consultation with Nepali leaders, the following are some of the desirable attributes. We are looking for people who;

- *are responding to a sense of calling.*
- *are spiritually mature, willing and able to combine their faith with their professional work.*
- *are flexible (able to work outside their own culture).*
- *are sensitive to the traditions, feelings and culture of Nepalis and are committed to learning and adapting to local ways of working.*
- *are ready to give their advice, but who are willing to follow the lead and direction of others.*
- *competent in their roles and have an ability to pass on, and develop, these skills in others.*
- *have compassion.*
- *are able to see the big picture / overview.*
- *are not people who have a need to take the lead'.*

## **WHAT PREPARATION DO YOU NEED?**

As with all things, being well prepared makes the transition to living and serving in Nepal a better experience. We encourage you to view this stage of enquiry and exploration as the start of **a journey** where every step, and every twist and turn, is an important part of your learning and growth. As part of this journey, please consider **all** areas of your life and the kind of preparation you need to meet the following aims:

### **Mind, body and spirit**

To develop the right heart and mind to be effective in an alien environment - to be able to do more than survive; to grow in maturity and thrive. For this, self awareness and the practice of spiritual disciplines are very helpful along with a healthy appreciation of the need for quality rest and a wholesome lifestyle.

### **Practical living**

To have some preparation for the lifestyle changes that are likely – this may simply be adjusting to shopping without your own transport or cooking only with basic and seasonal ingredients; or strategies for coping with extremes in temperature, managing with cuts to the electricity supply or the internet and to dealing with reduced privacy.

### **Culture**

To understand the primary concepts of culture and be equipped to work and live inter-culturally i.e. to 'relate & integrate' with those who are different to yourself. For this you need a good understanding of values and worldview and have an ability to understand and embrace other people's ways of doing things – whether that's nationals or other expats in your team.

### **Missional**

Preparation that enables the you to communicate (through words or deeds) the love of Christ, to minister to others and to ensure your own spiritual health. For this, a good understanding of the biblical basis of mission, of exegesis and hermeneutics, and contextualisation will be helpful.

### **Professional**

To develop professional skills and qualifications suitable for the role and to satisfy visa requirements. In addition, the skills and attitudes that will enable you to be effective in a culturally diverse environment. To have appropriate expectations, a desire to build the capacity of others and to be able to transfer your skills.