



A MESSAGE FROM SHIRLEY HEYWOOD

Prayer letter 59
August 2020

S Heywood
Gilpin Cottage, Starnthwaite Ghyll,
Crosthwaite, Kendal LA8 8JN
(Until early Autumn 2020)

or

c/o INF
PO Box 1230 Kathmandu, Nepal
E-mail address: sheywood@inf.org

Dear Friends

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever - Hebrews 13 v 8



Greetings to you all from beautiful Cumbria where I am living in my little cottage, next door but one to my mother. I came home at the end of June, concerned for my mother who was having health problems. Thankfully she is now much better and we are enjoying having time together sharing a bubble!

How long will I be in UK? There are still no regular international flights into Nepal. I was able to leave in June on a charter flight, just after my working visa was renewed.

Nepal, as part of lockdown relaxation, is planning to allow international and domestic flights and long - distance road travel from 17 August. There are however rising numbers of cases now in Nepal, still thankfully mainly asymptomatic, but there is pressure on government to introduce measures to control the spread of infection. India has deferred reintroduction of international flights so I am waiting to see whether Nepal will follow their lead. I would like to be able to return in early September if this will be possible and then have another UK break at Christmas but of course plans and hopes must be held lightly in these uncertain times.

In Nepal the economic results of the pandemic and lock down are enormous. 2020 was to have been Nepal's Year of Tourism and loss of income from tourism has been devastating in both urban and rural communities. Added to this there has been a severe monsoon with flooding and landslides leaving many without food and shelter. Thousands of Nepali people have returned from India and other countries.

Overseas earnings sent back to families in country has been a major source of income for Nepal and now this income is lost and there is no work for those who have returned. There is desperate need for some earnings from tourism in the remaining months of the year.

INF in Nepal has been making some difficult decisions about how to continue to provide services to the poorest despite reduced income. Please pray for wisdom for our leaders as they make and implement the necessary changes and seek the funding that is needed.

The Fistula centre, which has been in use as isolation centre for hospital staff who were in contact with Covid-19 infected patients, is now empty and being prepared to receive fistula patients again. The Fistula outreach team have begun work within their home districts and after 17 August will be able to move out into the districts where outreach has been planned in this year. Patients waiting for treatment have been contacted and there are new suspected patients identified. Our fistula team had hoped and planned this year for an increase in the numbers of women coming for fistula repair but for now, with the pandemic, lock down measures and funding challenges we wait to see what will be.

In February we were joined for a week by a young gynaecologist working at the United Mission Hospital in Tansen. She is interested to join the team in Surkhet and learn fistula surgery. Timing will depend on the situation in Nepal, but we hope that she will come to Surkhet from October or November this year. This is a really exciting answer to prayer.

While at home, my sister Jackie interviewed me about God's calling on my life by, as part of an on- line service at Wokingham Baptist Church for 2 August – a service based around the calling of some of the disciples and raising the thought – God does not call the equipped, He equips the called. That has certainly been true in my life and if you are interested you can find the half an hour service on Wokingham Baptist Church YouTube – Following Our Calling (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY1mLZQG3W4>).

It was a blessing to me to think back over the years when I have seen God making things happen in my life. Now, as there is yet another period of challenge and uncertainty to pass through. How wonderful to be able to look back, give thanks, and encouraged by the faithfulness of God wait in patience until it is time to move forward again.

From today's reading in My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers, 5 August, I share a thought "A Christian is someone who trusts in the knowledge and the wisdom of God, not in his own abilities. If we have a purpose of our own, it destroys the simplicity and calm, relaxed pace which should be characteristic of the children of God." Oh, how I wish I could learn that lesson!



The nurses at the closing of the training with the tutors and Kanta Prasad Subedi, INF Health Service Co-ordinator

Prayer requests

- Please pray for patience, wisdom and hope for the future.
- Please pray for INF with the urgent funding needs and the changes that must be made.

- Please pray for the team at the Fistula Centre, thanking God that all our staff are safe and well and our nursing staff were able to benefit from a training as Skilled Birth Attendants during the months the Fistula Centre was closed.
- Please pray that the opportunity for me to return to Nepal will come in God's time.
- Please pray for Dr Shuvechchha, still working in Tansen, as she prepares to move to Surkhet.
- Please pray for the many women still awaiting surgery.
- Please pray for our Fistula Outreach team as they begin the work again. Pray that their teaching may be clear and compassionate so that not only those needing treatment are identified and given courage to come for treatment, but also that the message of prevention will be heard, bringing forward the day when Nepal will be as free of obstetric fistula as the more fortunate countries of the developed world.

With my thanks to you all for your prayers and support and encouragement.



Shirley

To find out more about INF and for all donations contact; www.inf.org.uk; **International Nepal Fellowship UK, 24 Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6QX; Tel: 0121 472 2425.**

This letter is sent out by Peter and Judith Bradley – shirleyletter1@gmail.com - 9 Harvard Road, Isleworth, TW7 4PA; Tel: 020 8560 1850. Please inform them of any change of address or email.

For security reasons please avoid comment on Nepali politics or Christian witness in any communications to me