



A MESSAGE FROM SHIRLEY HEYWOOD

Prayer letter 62
Easter 2021

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Dear Friends



Greetings from Surkhet! As I write it is Easter Day. The Lord is risen. Halleluiah!

I returned to Nepal on 12th February and spent 10 days in quarantine. With a negative Covid 19 PCR test I was able to go out and visit friends but waited in Kathmandu until my visa was renewed. This all happened wonderfully quickly so that my old visa expired on 28th February and the new visa for a full year was stamped on 1st of March. All my fears of getting back to Surkhet but not being able to work on a tourist visa vanished. In Nepal now there are few cases of corona virus and life is free of the restrictions I lived with in UK.

Another answered prayer - I was able to have Covid vaccination two days before I flew and I will be able to have a second dose of the same vaccine in Surkhet towards the end of this month, with the rest of the hospital staff and fistula centre team. Nepal has limited supplies of vaccine but after first vaccinating health workers is working through the age bands and is now offering vaccination to anyone over the age of 45.

Two days after I arrived in Surkhet we interviewed Dr Shuvechcha Shresth for the post of gynaecologist with priority for the Fistula Centre.

She joined us last week and it is wonderful to be working with another doctor and I look forward to seeing her gain skills in fistula repair and the care of the fistula patients.



Our outreach workers have been doing an excellent job, developing relationships with the hospitals and government offices in our target area and working with communities. They have found several women needing surgery and these ladies have begun to arrive in Surkhet.

Thanks to additional support from Fistula Foundation, we have funds to test all the patients and relatives with Covid PCR test and only after negative result they are admitted into the fistula centre.

So, in the fistula centre we operate as a loose “bubble” but still being careful to wash hands, and use sanitiser.



Two of our outreach workers have moved to other posts within INF. We have interviewed and appointed two people who will soon join us for orientation before starting work in provinces five and seven.

Salome has now arrived back in Switzerland for her home assignment. Before she left and before we started surgery again, we celebrated this new beginning with a picnic with the whole Fistula centre team.





Our lock down fistulas- three ladies with babies 6-7 months old who reached hospitals in time to save their babies lives, but sadly too late to prevent the fistula.

As you can see there is so much to praise thank God for in the progress at the Fistula Centre. With the increasing flow of patients and with the appointment of Dr Shuvechcha I can now really look forward to a time when the Fistula centre will be run by the government hospital, a sustainable and quality unit providing compassionate and excellent care to the women suffering from fistula.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Please pray for: -

- Dr Shuvechcha, as she settles in to work at the Fistula Centre and the gynaecology department at the Provincial Hospital, that she may feel happy and welcome and quickly feel at home with us.
- For the outreach team, especially the new members, that their work may continue to be blessed, that women needing surgery may be identified and communities will learn how obstetric fistula can be prevented – that, one day, Nepal may be “fistula free”.
- For Salome on home leave, that her time with family and supporters may be blessed and that she may be refreshed and inspired anew.
- For our patients, that they may find peace and healing in the fistula centre and that God’s name may be glorified.
- For the preparations for handover to the government hospital in the years to come, that relationships remain strong and that we can do all that is needed to make the Fistula Centre ready and sustainable for many years to come.
- For me, that God will give me the wisdom that I need for right decision making and keep me trusting and obedient. I had hoped that I can return to UK twice each year to be with my mother. I don’t know how this will work out with the continuing restrictions so I value your prayers for myself and my family.

- For the Nepal government, for wisdom in decision making as the corona virus case numbers rise in India, our neighbour.

May the risen Christ fill you with hope and joy.

With my love and thanks

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shirley', with a small yellow highlight above it.

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.**

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