



A MESSAGE FROM SHIRLEY HEYWOOD

Prayer letter 66

May 2022

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(Until early August 2022)

or

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Dear Friends

Seek you first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matt 6 v33

I write from my cottage in Crosthwaite, and it is wonderful to see the flowers, hear the bird song and enjoy lovely sunshine away from the humid heat of Nepal and I feel very blessed.

I have left the Fistula work in the capable hands of Dr Shuvechchha. She has been accepted as a Fistula trainee by FIGO, the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She thoroughly enjoyed her four weeks basic training at the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. While I am away, she will operate for those with uncomplicated fistula and will be busy with the general gynaecology service at the Provincial Hospital as well as being involved in fistula screening camps. Please pray for Shuvechchha and the rest of the team, that this time of extra responsibility will help them grow in confidence. Pray too that the Lord will bring patients who can be helped and healed while I am away.



Just before I left, we were busy planning for the International Day to End Fistula on 23rd May. The theme for this year is “End Fistula Now: Invest in Quality Healthcare, Empower Communities!” Obstetric Fistula is a development and public health issue but it is also a human rights issue, one that grants everyone the right to health and a life of dignity.

UN Member states adopted a resolution to end fistula by 2030. This is an enormous challenge and for many countries seems a faint hope but we believe Nepal could

achieve this. Nepal has made huge progress in the development of health services and infrastructure in the past years leading to reduction in maternal mortality and birth injuries. The covid pandemic did bring a rise in maternal deaths but now that the country is returning to normal, we hope that the earlier progress will resume.

We plan to have lots of awareness- raising activities throughout the western half of Nepal including street theatre, community group events, distribution of cards and banners and fistula leaflets to hospitals and health posts, a radio interview with Dr Shuvechchha and a message on radio news with information about fistula and the free service at the Surkhet Fistula Centre.

This year INF will celebrate 70 years of service in Nepal and throughout the year special events will be marked as part of the celebration. International Day to End Fistula will be one of these events and it is encouraging to have the support of our INF colleagues in Mugu, Bajura, Jumla, Kalikot, Rolpa, Kapilbastu, Banke and Pokhara.

The INF Nepal senior management team have been joined by Dr Arun Budha as Hospital Director and Sean Sokhi as Community Director. Please pray for them as they develop their roles and work with Krishna Adhikari to lead INF Nepal and seek God's guidance for the future. The renewal of the five-year clinical agreement between INF and the government is in process and the five-year agreement for community activities has been signed with granting of 30 visa posts. We thank God for this and are grateful for the hard work of Dhan Gurung and Dhakaram Budha for helping this to happen.

I will be trying to spend as much time with my mother as I can in the three months that I am home. She is finding life alone increasingly difficult as she is getting older and I am thankful that my INF managers are understanding and allowing me to have extra months with her. I will be travelling less than usual in this time. I would like to be able to meet with as many of you as would like this through Zoom and am organising some **'Meet with Shirley'** dates so that there will hopefully be a time that would suit any who would like to join, ask questions, hear about the work and pray together. I hope that in one of these times I can bring in Dr Shuvechchha so that you can "meet" her also.

Please pray for our fistula patients. I asked for a miracle for our patient Jaikali who has been dependant on oxygen since admission in January with heart failure exacerbated by covid infection. With severe malnutrition, severe hypothyroidism, chest and heart disease it was many weeks before we could operate and initially the wound did not heal. Now with catheter drainage there are signs that the fistula is finally healing and praise God, she is now free of oxygen and hopefully will be ready to go home before long.

*Below Left: Jaikali with Salome, nurse Kripa and hospital nurse Chetana
Below right, Jaikali with other fistula patients*



Left: Dil Kumari with some of our very young patients playing together. L to R- Parbati (19), Pratikchha (7), baby of fistula patient and Dipa (11) all three born with conditions causing urine incontinence.



Left: Kalpana is cured after a sixth fistula operation



Above right: Tara Oli recovers in the fistula centre after the safe delivery by caesarean section of her second child since successful fistula repair in 2018

Right: From Mugu district in the north and Banke district in the south, Suchana and Shehanaz found healing, hope and friendship in the Fistula Centre



Above Left: Rabia and her husband went to India and spent all they had on unsuccessful surgery for her fistula. Now she is cured and hoping to encourage other women from her local area to come for surgery.

With my thanks for your faithful support, prayer and friendship. My God bless you and your families.

With much love

Shirley

To find out more about INF and for all donations contact; www.inf.org.uk; **International Nepal Fellowship UK**, 196-198 Edward Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, West Midlands B12 9LX; Tel: 0121 472 2425; enquiries@inf.org.uk
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For security reasons please avoid comment on Nepali politics or Christian witness in any communications to me