



## A MESSAGE FROM SHIRLEY HEYWOOD

Prayer letter 71

15 March 2024

c/o INF

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Dear Friends

I am preparing to return to Nepal on 25<sup>th</sup> March and looking forward to being back at the Fistula Centre and celebrating Easter with the church in Surkhet.

2023 was a very good year for our outreach team with more fistula patients identified and coming for surgery and it was wonderful to see most returning to their homes well and happy.



While I have been in UK, I have moved into **Ghyllbank, Starnthwaite Ghyll, Crosthwaite, LA8 8JN** and am beginning to feel settled and at home there. My mobile phone number is still **07434 567249**. I pray that I will be able to sell Gilpin Cottage quickly and that the new owners will become friends.



Dr Shuvechchha's wedding last November was a very happy occasion, especially the third day when Shuvechchha and Tchering were relaxed in their Sherpa dress. Salome and I were very happy that we could be with them for this very special occasion.

She is away again at present as her mother has had surgery in India but she will return soon. We are both hoping for another surgeon to train as fistula surgeon so that the Fistula Centre will have a secure future, both providing fistula surgery but also a service for women suffering from other uro-gynaecology complaints.

The Provincial hospital continues to grow and will soon provide 500 beds and a range of sub-specialities to meet the needs of the people in Karnali Province. As I look back over the past 20 years, I have lived in Nepal I am so impressed and thank God for the progress that has been made within the Nepal Health Service, a wonderful answer to our prayers.

The team in Surkhet continue to make progress with plans for the handover of the Fistula Centre to the Government hospital and maybe this could even happen on May 23<sup>rd</sup> as part of our celebration of the International Day to end Fistula.

I will be back in UK between June and September and hope that I will be able to visit with many of you to share about the work in Nepal and plans for the future. Please let me know if you would like to see me and I would be grateful if those churches who support me could let me know the name and contact details of your missionary link person.

I have another two years contract which will take me to the age of 70. I am happy that I am still able to work and contribute in Nepal. It has been a comfort to me as I continue to adjust to life without my beloved mother.

Thank you for your prayers.

- Please pray for my return to Nepal and the coming months of surgery and hopefully handover. Please pray for me, that I trust God for the future which I cannot see.
- Pray that those needing surgery will be found and will be able to travel to Surkhet. Pray that our work will bring hope and healing and give glory to God.
- Pray for a good handover to the government hospital so that the Fistula Centre can continue to provide high quality treatment free of cost, for women with Fistula.
- Pray for continuing outreach and awareness so that communities will understand that obstetric fistula is avoided by safe obstetric care and that Nepal can move towards eradication of this terrible birth injury.
- Please pray for another doctor with passion to help women with fistula who can begin training in Surkhet.
- Please pray for my travel and preparation for time in UK.

- Please pray that Gilpin cottage will be sold quickly so that I can concentrate my time and efforts in Nepal.

I pray that you may all be blessed as we move through the season of Lent.

With my love and best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Heywood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'S' at the beginning.

**Shirley Heywood**

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To find out more about INF and for all donations contact; [www.inf.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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