



## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM SHIRLEY HEYWOOD

Prayer letter 73  
18 December 2024

c/o INF  
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Dear Friends

I do hope that you are looking forward to Christmas when we will celebrate together, all across the world, the birth of the Prince of peace and continue to pray for peace and goodwill on the earth. He is Emmanuel, God with us.

November has been a quieter month and we are waiting for more patients to arrive when the planting season is over. We have had patients from 5 to 50 each giving their own challenges.



Little Jharana was born with a condition that meant her urine leaked continually. I did suggest that surgery might wait until she was a little bigger but mother was desperate to try and get her better because her life was miserable, she had no friends and she even said she wished she could die. The operation was successful and Jharana went home very happy, making sure she hugged everyone at the Fistula Centre before she left.

Ganga, aged 50 was not so fortunate. After a very difficult repair of her large fistula, she was dry until the day the catheter was removed, but then started to leak again. She still went home smiling bravely. She will return in February when Dr Andrew Browning will be visiting us again. Please pray for her, that she may have peace as she waits and that the second operation will be successful.

The Fistula Centre Handover to the Provincial Hospital was duly celebrated and we continue to work together peacefully.

Shirley with the INF senior officers, right to left, Dhan Gurung, head of finance and admin in Kathmandu, Dr Arun Buda, Clinical Director, Krishna Adhikari, INF Nepal Executive Director and INF Nepal board chairman, Mr RC Timothy





A few days later Doctor Dambar Khadka's life of service in the government hospital was also marked with a long programme, many speeches, flowers, gifts and some tears.

Dr Keshar Dhakal, head of the gynaecology has been appointed as the new chief medical superintendent. He is a friend of many years so I hope we will be able to continue to work well together and support him as he takes on this new role.



Some of you may have seen the film we made several years ago about the life of a fistula patient. This has been very well used by our outreach workers informing the communities in a very memorable way about obstetric fistula. We decided it was time to remake the film and update slightly and since the people group, we are most concerned for are the Madhesi and Muslim communities in lowland along the Indian border, we decided that the film should be made there and should be available both in Nepali and dubbed in Hindi for those who do not speak Nepali. Last week the filming was done, in Nepalgunj and Surkhet, happily in beautiful sunshine and we look forward to seeing it and using it to take the message to more communities when editing and dubbing are complete.

My home life has been brightened by the arrival of new chicks. I have kept chickens here for 10 years and they entertain me enormously, as well as providing fresh eggs. Now 7 weeks old, they grow fast but it will be a while yet before they give eggs. I have been able to get the only survivor of the old flock back home now there is company for her.



Shirley with the patients who were with us through the Hindu festival Tihar

I thank you so much for all your prayers and I want to wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas time.

With much love



**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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