

Let us pray

Most UMN expatriates' visas expire on November 4th and the renewals are being processed. Please pray that all expatriate gratis work visa renewals will be provided on time, without any difficulties.

Pray for the UMN Board of Trustees meeting, which will be held on 3rd and 4th December 2008. The Board will primarily discuss the Executive Director search process, nomination process for new Board of Trustees and the next UMN General Assembly meeting which will be held in May 2009. Pray for God's leading as the Trustees discuss and make decisions about these important matters.

Pray for the ongoing search of the next Executive Director for UMN. The person selected by the Interview Panel after the Assessment Centre and Interviews in August 2008 withdrew so the search is still ongoing. We need special prayers at this time for God's intervention in this search process.

We praise God that all UMN HQ staff successfully completed the Linux training. We continue to pray for training in the Clusters.

Please pray for the newly appointed Integral Mission Officer who will be actively involved in training and assisting churches in the Clusters to be involved in development issues. We are at the moment keeping our focus on churches in Rukum, Doti and Bhajang.

There has been a change in the Finance Team leadership recently; Michael Hawsworth has returned to the UK and Nicola White has taken over the leadership as the Finance Director. Please pray for Michael and his wife Maureen as they settle back into life in the UK and for Nicola in her new role. Please pray for UMN's internal audit work, which is essential to maintain the financial integrity and transparency of the organisation.

Pray for UMN's involvement with the Nepal lobby group in preparation for the December 2008 UN Climate Change Conference in Poland. Pray that we will be able to learn more on this issue of global concern, and also contribute meaningfully to the conference.

Four areas of our work, Conflict Transformation, Disaster Management, Education and Food Sovereignty, are in the process of developing new long term funding proposals for the years 2009 – 2012. Pray for the provision of necessary funds as more attention needs to be given to this work.

Please pray for the mid term review of the strategic plans of all our areas of work, this review is also an opportunity to incorporate new challenges and reflect the changing needs of the country

Praise You Lord

Praise God for expanding the UMN family. We have four new expatriate staff with expertise in Climate Change, Advocacy, Enterprise Development, Peace Building and Strategy and Policy. Please remember them and their families in prayer as they complete their language and orientation programmes and settle into the life and work in Nepal. We have other expatriate families joining us in January.

We give thanks to God for Dhana Lama who has been recently appointed Assistant Director, Kathmandu. Continue to pray for her as she completes her orientation and settles into her new post. Dhana previously worked as the Oral Health Programme Director.

Nov-Jan 2008-2009

UMN PRAYER

United Mission to Nepal

Dear Prayer Partner,

Namaste ! Greetings from Nepal.

We want to reiterate that UMN is profoundly grateful to all of you, for prayer and prayerful giving to the work in Nepal. How else could we have done so much and how else could so many people enjoy God's gift of life, health and livelihoods.

Major political changes, post conflict situation, natural calamities all have combined to present unprecedented challenge to all nation building efforts in Nepal. We continue to look to Him for real peace, progress and development to come to this land.

In August, collapse of a historic, large dam brought about terrible calamity to Sunsari in East Nepal. 50,000 people are displaced and 3000 huts and houses destroyed. We pray with you that UMN will be able to bring a good deal of relief for the hungry and the distressed as we work through our partners.

The annual UMN family gathering was held on September 29, to October 1, where about three hundred and fifty UMN staff with spouses and children came together to celebrate work and friendship and remind ourselves of our mission and vision.

We want to wish everybody a special Christmas and we pray that you will have a blessed time with your family and friends. Let us remember once again that He came that we may have life and have it to the full.

Many blessings !



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BAJHANG

We praise God for His guidance during the staff recruitment process. We now have an energetic Team of six. The orientation and partner selection process will proceed after the Team reaches Bajhang at the end of October. A selection committee, which may also include government line agencies, will soon be formed for this purpose. Pray with us as we seek to work for the needy people of Nepal with other genuinely interested groups.

DHADING

Give thanks that we successfully held basic trainings on HIV and AIDS with two of our partners in North Dhading, a very remote area. Pray for opportunities to work more in the north of the district where there is extreme poverty.

Pray for the new association of churches in the south of the district as they seek to identify practical ways to show the love of Christ to their neighbours.

Praise God for the Interfaith Inclusive Dialogue Programme that was held successfully between the Christian community and the Buddhist community. We hope to continue to develop good understanding among these communities.

DOTI

We were able to select six potential partners for six of our Areas of work. Pray for us as we get involved with these partners in other activities like helping them fully understand their own strengths and weaknesses and the needs of the target groups they seek to serve.

MUGU

We give thanks that a small Team was able to return to the Cluster and is working with local community representatives and partners on the evaluation of partnerships. Integrated community focused programmes are also being developed.

Please pray for the new acting Team Leader in his dual role that he will be able to effectively build good relationships with local government and community people, as well as lead the Team in a positive manner.

RUKUM

Some of our partners are in the process of initiating new activities in the communities where they work. We pray for God's guidance as they take this next step and that their work in the communities will bring about real transformation in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Also pray for God's wisdom as new partners are chosen, that those selected will share our vision and mission for the communities where we work.

RUPANDEHI

We give thanks for the first locally organised Forgiveness and Reconciliation seminar held in Rupandehi by our partners. Continue to pray for the ongoing process of reconciliation both in churches and the community.

Please pray for peace and harmony in the plains, where divisions and tension exist at all levels of society and frequent allegations, assaults and reprisals continue to occur. Threats and some explosive devices have been set off targeting I/NGOs working in this geographic area and demands have been made for all non-Madhesi people to leave the plains. Pray for security of UMN staff and our partners, and that our work will not be disrupted.

SUNSARI

Local government and development organisations in Sunsari district are still grappling with meeting the needs of those affected by the floods and reconstruction plans are underway. Pray that those affected would know and experience God's compassion towards them. Pray too for God's wisdom and guidance for the government and NGOs working to rebuild affected communities and villages.

Four technical officers have joined the Sunsari Team. May God's blessing be upon them as they settle and begin work in Sunsari.

A Prayer for UMN in a time of Change

Heavenly Father we thank you for guiding UMN all through its 54-year history.

Thank you for the leadership of Jennie Collins these past 7 years.

We ask your Blessing on her as she makes plans to move into a new sphere of service in 2009.

As we begin the search for a new executive director we ask for:

A quiet confidence to edge out any anxiety
A deep unity among Board, Supporting Partners and Leadership Team to replace any sense of apprehension,
And a prayerful openness to take away any sense of self-sufficiency.

We pray that the person of your choice to lead UMN on the next phase of its journey will hear your call and respond in joyful obedience.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

Amen.

A prayer written by a UMN staff member.

Nepalgunj support office

UMN's support in Nepalgunj is fully functional, helping staff in the four Clusters situated in the far west of Nepal with technical and logistical support. We praise God that this is making the work a lot easier and more convenient. Continue to pray for the Nepalgunj staff as good relations are established within the Team. Pray particularly that the Nepalgunj Team would understand the needs of Bajhang Cluster and support the new Team there meaningfully and effectively.



Courtesy: Pratigya R Khaling, World Vision International Nepal

CLUSTERS

Displaced people crossing to safety after the floods in Koshi river