

# UMN News

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60  
UNITED MISSION TO NEPAL  
1954-2014



युनाइटेड मिसन टु नेपाल  
UMN

*Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society*



## Dear friends,

Welcome to this edition of **UMNews**, in which we celebrate 60 years of continuous service to the people of Nepal. On the 5 March 1954 in Nagpur, India, the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) was formed. Initially composed of eight diverse mission groups, UMN quickly grew, both in its members and its contribution to the country of Nepal, in the areas of Health, Education, Rural Development and Industrial Development.

This edition of **UMNews** gives a glimpse of the contribution UMN has made during those 60 years. The list of past and present projects (*pages 8-9*) indicate the huge range of this contribution – both technically and geographically. The impact of UMN's work of building capacity for the long term is demonstrated by the fact that, while UMN itself continues its work through our 53 partners in 10 districts through our clusters and through our two hospitals, over 30 NGOs, companies and institutions that have come out of UMN over the last 60 years continue their work too, and have grown and developed. Behind all these numbers and names of projects and programmes are, of course, the lives of tens of thousands of people in many, many communities whose lives have changed, and continue to change significantly for the better.

The dramatic changes that have occurred across Nepal are also reflected in this newsletter. Throughout these changes, UMN has also adapted to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of our on-going contribution. UMN remains committed to serving the people of Nepal together with all of its partners in Nepal and worldwide, striving towards its vision of "Fullness of Life for all in a transformed Nepali society". God has been with us thus far (*page 3, back cover*), and I have every confidence that as we put our trust in Him, He will walk before us into the future. To Him be the Glory!

**Mark Galpin**  
Executive Director

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**Cover Photo:** Ramesh Man Maharjan

**Back Page Photo** Raxaul, 1937. This group of border missionaries includes Ernest Oliver (second back row, with glasses) and Mildred Ballard (middle row, right, looking away from the camera).

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# THE UMN I KNEW, AND KNOW

**It was early in March, 1956.** We had just arrived at Bhaktapur on the 3 February 1956.

Bhaktapur was a very different experience for us. The houses were all made of bricks and every house was attached to the other. The backyard served as a dumping area for all the refuse of surrounding houses. It was both a relief and encouragement to fellowship with people like Nora Vickers and Betty Grimshrud and Tir Daju and his family. About a week after our arrival, we went to Shanta Bhawan, the Rana palace UMN had transformed into a hospital and temporary headquarters. Pastor Robert Karthak and I travelled to Kathmandu by local transportation – a lorry. It moved slowly on the dusty road, packed to the maximum. Everyone swayed along with the truck but, like true Nepalis, we enjoyed the new experience, for just 50 paisa.

Then we walked all the way to Shanta Bhawan from Bhimsen Tower. Thapathali Bridge, separating Kathmandu from Patan, was a very sturdy, narrow bridge made of iron. A policeman stood on either side of the bridge with red and green flags to control the traffic, since there was space enough for only one vehicle at a time. Soon we were right in front of our destination. It was difficult to miss, because there were no houses along the way. There was a magnificent gate with a lovely garden and a pond with a fountain in front of a huge building.

At the main door Sister Mabel McLean was waiting for us. Soon we met others, including brothers Daftan and Prakash, from our church in Kalimpong. We were shown our bedrooms, clean and nicely furnished. Shanta Bhawan also served as the residence of Drs Edgar and Elizabeth Miller. We met Drs Robert and Bethel Fleming and several others. The staff consisted

of people of different nationalities, and they were all busily working together.

By 1957, two churches had come into being – Putali Sadak Church and Dilli Bazaar Church (later Gyaneshwar Church). Services were on Sundays, so I worked at Shanta Bhawan Hospital as an interpreter for Dr Edgar Miller on Saturdays. The way he worked showed that he had come to Nepal to serve. He checked everyone thoroughly, and never hesitated to touch sick people. He worked from morning to evening, but I never heard him complain. I believe the same kind of service was meted out to all patients.

During the 1960s and 70s I served on small committees, mostly in education. I had the privilege of working with Howard Barclay, Secretary of the Education Department, and was appointed a member of the Tripartite Committee (representing UMN, INF, and the local people of Pokhara). A school was established, which later became the renowned Gandaki Boarding School.

I retired from my university work in April 1993, and had more time to spare. Norma Kherberg was appointed as the Secretary of UMN's Education Department. She had a real heart for Nepalis. I became a member of the Department and later a very part-time consultant. During that period, integrated education programmes, literacy and training for women were implemented. Lyn Jackson became the Education Secretary. During her tenure, shortage of food in remote Mugu district became a big issue, but that did not deter the team. Their faith and the undaunted effort enabled them to face this and other challenges successfully. To me they are representatives of all the workers at UMN. They treated Nepalis as equals, serving as leaders,

working with people, encouraging them and helping them by empowering them.

Meanwhile, Nepal was embroiled in many changes, particularly political changes. King Birendra's entire family was massacred, and Prince Gyanendra was crowned King. He dismissed the government and took the reins, only to be faced by a massive revolution. The King gave in. This was followed by an election of the Constituent Assembly. The Maoist party won a majority and formed the Cabinet. The Assembly took a significant step by abolishing the monarchy, declaring Nepal as a secular republic.

UMN too was in the process of change. To begin with, I did not appreciate the structural changes that were taking place. I felt then that UMN was disintegrating, but, in hindsight, I believe the decisions were absolutely right. UMN is now working in partnership with local NGOs and churches, with much success. The people being served are now experiencing more of the FULLNESS OF LIFE promised by our Lord Jesus to all humanity.

I still occasionally visit UMN HQ. While some still work busily behind desks, I am reminded of many compatriots working in different places throughout the country, rendering services to so many people. I thank the Lord for them, and for every individual who has served in UMN.

May we all erect the 60th Year "Ebenezer stone" here, and press on towards the future!

***Rajendra Kumar Rongong (PhD)***





"On a bright October morning in 1953, Dr Bethel [Fleming] attended the Delhi Methodist Conference... She listened, breathless, as a new appointment was read out, to go where no Protestant missionaries had ever been assigned before: "Dr and Mrs Robert Fleming to Kathmandu, Nepal!" For an instant the great audience sat in startled silence, then the entire assembly rose to their feet in a thunder of applause."<sup>1</sup>

This simple announcement marked a significant step in the process which led to the establishment of one of the first hospitals in Kathmandu, and the first one which aimed to provide high-quality, affordable care, even for the very poor.

Prime Minister MP Koirala opened UMN's first hospital, in an unused wing of the Teku Cholera Hospital, on 20 February 1954. Getting it ready had been a nightmare – the beds were sterilised with a blowtorch, and the walls had to be scraped clean. The move to the faded glories of the old Rana palace Shanta Bhawan (House of Peace) in 1956 was less traumatic. Its ballrooms became wards, and X-ray machines filled the trophy room. Then in 1983, with government permission, UMN built Patan Hospital to serve as the district hospital for Lalitpur District. The new hospital was run by a management board representing the government, the community and the mission. UMN ended its formal involvement with Patan Hospital in 2008. Income from the Patan Private Clinic still provides free or subsidised care for the poor.

<sup>1</sup> *The fabulous Flemings of Kathmandu*, by Grace Nies Fletcher, pp 70-71.



## UMN & LALITPUR NURSING CAMPUS - JOURNEYING TOGETHER

**As Shanta Bhawan Hospital expanded** in the late 50s, it needed more nurses and helpers to provide quality patient care. It was decided to train some local people already working at the hospital. UMN circulated a notice to the Christian community across the border in Darjeeling and Kalimpong, to call for applications.

Two local men and one woman from Kalimpong completed the first informal nursing education programme, and after three years of practical work were awarded a "Hospital Certificate" in 1957. Marginat Flemmy, a nurse-midwife from Ireland, founded UMN's Nursing School. In January 1959, a group of seven Nepali girls began nursing training at Shanta Bhawan Nursing School in Surendra Bhawan, Lalitpur (the present International Club).

The nurses used to live in Surendra Bhawan for their practical work. Sari-uniformed, they walked to Shanta Bhawan in line like school children! These students graduated in September 1962 – the first ever batch of Nepali nurses.



*The first group of nursing students to graduate in September 1962.*

The Nursing Campus remained closely linked with UMN until 2003. Separation from UMN was very painful, but it taught us how to implement past experiences we had learned from UMN. LNC grew and, in December 2003, became an autonomous institution with its own Board and Constitution. Many programmes were added, including a BSc and Masters in Nursing. In 2005 -2008, the campus across the street from the old Shanta Bhawan building was renovated and remodeled, with the kind support of the American School of Nursing Hospital Abroad (ASHA). UMN had initiated that application. Remarkably, the work was completed within a year! A new Bachelor of Nursing building was also constructed, thanks to FELM.

Sixty years ago, LNC started with just one programme and three people. The first batch of graduates in 1962 numbered seven. Now there are four different faculties, and 45 students graduate each year (Proficiency Certificate Level).

Thank you UMN, who made LNC able to become one of the best nursing training campuses in the nation.

**Rebecca Sinha**  
*Former Campus Chief, LNC.*

## UMN INVOLVEMENT IN HOSPITALS

1954-present	United Mission Hospital Tansen
1956-1982	Shanta Bhawan Hospital, Kathmandu
1958-2001	Amp Pipal Hospital, Gorkha (Now run by the community)
1958-2000	Anandaban Leprosy Hospital: building and secondments
1960-1974	Bhaktapur Hospital (Absorbed into the government hospital)
1961-present	Okhaldhunga Community Hospital
1983-2008	Patan Hospital



## ...AND TODAY?

**UMN continues to support** two hospitals in Nepal. In addition, UMN's Health Team manages a diverse programme covering Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV and AIDS Prevention and Care, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Here are some highlights from 2012-13:

- 400 toilets constructed and in use
- 22 Birthing Centres in remote and rural communities received basic equipment and support
- 33 HIV-positive people are receiving Community Home-Based Care
- 78 malnourished children "graduated" from nutrition centres
- 2,834 babies were delivered in our two hospitals
- Free care worth about NRP 19,423,586 (USD 195,413) was provided at Tansen and Okhaldhunga

# memories of the olden golden years at Mahendra Bhawan

**My journey with Mahendra Bhawan started in 1968**, immediately after I came to Nepal. Miss Franklin, the Principal, was looking for a trained, experienced Christian teacher. It was just the perfect, blessed opportunity for me.

In Nepal in those days, girls were not allowed to study. They had to do all the house chores: cook, clean, wash, then get married and continue to do all the chores in their husband's house. A few high-class Nepalese, understanding the importance of education, tutored their daughters, but at home.

I had heard a lot of amazing things about Miss Franklin and was already inspired by her.

In the male-dominated context of Nepal, Miss Franklin went door to door, talking about the importance of education and persuading parents to send their girls to school. She even went to high-class homes and convinced them. Gradually, things changed.

In the quest of empowering Nepalese women through education, Miss Franklin gave them the best of everything. She even went to India in search of well-trained Christian women teachers. Through her, I learned about the church in Nepal, and started attending. I met God's people, like Mrs Jermit Rongong and Dhananyu Shrestha – the first teachers to help Miss Franklin in her endeavors.

Mahendra Bhawan also provided a hostel for girls, where they were taught cooking, cleaning, tidying up beds and rooms and washing clothes. When they went home on vacation, parents were surprised to see their daughters transformed into well-mannered, polite, hardworking, and obedient people. Not only were they educated, they were efficient in house chores too!

Miss Franklin arranged for a weekly Prayer and Bible Study Class for Christian teachers. I used to look forward to these classes, as dear Miss Fredricks used to come to help make our classes lively. The school hall was always available for church, allowing many girls to learn about Jesus. We had to get their parents' permission, but many willingly let their daughters attend church services.

Miss Franklin had a heart of gold and was always ready to give, support and help wherever she saw the need. She accepted the daughters of church pastors and workers who couldn't afford school fees. Girls from Khokana were also brought to Mahendra Bhawan for schooling. Most of them became nurses after passing SLC. She was very good to me personally. Both my daughters were given a free education at Mahendra Bhawan. Hostel girls were taken to the dentist for check-ups, and Miss Franklin used to take my daughters too. She created extra work for me so that I could have an extra income for my family. I supervised the senior girls' study class after school.

Miss McCoombe was another great lady of faith. She prepared a small prayer room in Mahendra Bhawan, where many teachers went to pray during their off hours. After Miss Franklin, Mahendra Bhawan was supervised by great Nepali Christian ladies, like Mrs Martha Mukhia, Nemit Stiling, and Mrs Jermit Rongong.

After fifteen years of service, I had to leave Mahendra Bhawan as the Lord had a different calling for me. I took over an orphanage which had just started in Kathmandu. Using all the experience gained from Miss Franklin and Mahendra Bhawan, I ran the orphanage for nine great years.

When I meet former Mahendra Bhawan students and they thank me for making them what they are now, I can't stop thanking the good Lord for such a privilege. Some of the students have made it to high posts in important organisations. Some are elders and deaconesses in various churches. This makes me so proud to have been associated with Mahendra Bhawan.

Mahendra Bhawan has given a better life to so many girls. It has taught me to be a better teacher, a better mother and above all, a better Christian.

*Mrs Enid Sodemba*  
*Former Mahendra Bhawan teacher*



*Miss Franklin in the centre, with the school teachers.  
Mrs Enid Sodemba, front row, fourth from left.*



## A LITTLE HISTORY

**Mahendra Bhawan opened in 1957**, with UMN contributing strongly until the adoption of the government's new education plan in 1972. From 1973 until 1988, UMN provided expatriates as administrators, teachers, hostel and nursing staff. After that, scholarships for needy students continued to be available through UMN. The school still provides a quality education for both girls and boys, building on the great heritage provided by Miss Franklin and her team of dedicated teachers.



## ...AND TODAY?

**UMN continues to contribute** to the education of women and girls in Nepal. Each year, more than 500 women learn to read and write in literacy classes run by our partners. Women's groups discuss the importance of education, and encourage families to send their daughters to school. 374 girls around Nepal study on scholarships provided by UMN. Currently UMN works with 178 schools across Nepal, promoting child-friendly education. More than 350 teachers have been trained in these methods, and around 23,850 children from Grades 1-3 benefit.

# Mahendra Bhawan GRADUATES

DR REETA GURUNG (1974)

**CEO at Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, Kathmandu**

The important lessons I learned in this school were to respect any kind of work, to respect other people's time and mutual respect for each other. Physically I was not a very strong girl but this school taught me to be strong in all fronts of my life.



GRACE KHALING (1974)

**Operational Coordinator at Asian Development Bank, Kathmandu  
UMN Board member since 2013**

Miss Franklin was the Principal when I started in Class 5. I always worked hard to get good grades in my exams. I also learnt to play the guitar; I enjoyed singing and taking part in dramas and other fun-filled activities. Thanks to the service of dedicated Principals and teachers, the school has maintained quite a reputation and status in Nepalese society.



SUSAN MENDIES (1973)

**Director of Mendies Haven, Kathmandu  
Member/Joint Treasurer of the Executive Committee of AMBAN. (Association of Mahendra Bhawan Alumni Nepal)**

We were taught to be very strong and independent in Mahendra Bhawan. We had to study hard and at the same time do all the housekeeping chores by ourselves. The school has taught me to be practical, manage my time, multi-tasking and value everything that I have in life.

As a guardian to so many children at Mendies Haven, I hope to pass on the skills, principles and values that my school taught me at an early age.



# UMN'S NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

UMN has been involved in a vast array of projects and institutions over 60 years, covering the length and breadth of the nation. Most of those activities are listed here.

For further information, go to [umn.org.np/page/projects-history](http://umn.org.np/page/projects-history)

Projects and programmes in ***bold and italics*** are UMN's current work.

**1** **Sunsari, Morang**  
***Sunsari Cluster Programme***

**2** **Okhaldhunga**  
***Okhaldhunga Community Hospital***  
Rural Development Project

**3** **Ramechhap Nepal Resources Management Project**  
Khimti 1 Hydropower Project  
Community Development Project

**4** **Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur**  
District Clinics  
***UMN Headquarters***

Bhaktapur Hospital  
Mahendra Bhawan Girls' School  
Shanta Bhawan Hospital  
Lalitpur Nursing Campus  
Medical Supplies  
Lalitpur Community Health & Development Project  
Development Communication Productions  
Kathmandu Business School  
Patan Hospital  
Yala Urban Health Programme  
Community Development Health Project

**5** **Makwanpur**  
Community Development  
Health Project

**6** **Dhading**  
Resources Management Project  
***Dhading Cluster Programme***

**7** **Gorkha**  
Amp Pipal Hospital  
Amp Pipal Agriculture Programme  
Community Health Programme  
Education: Luitel School Development  
TB Programme

**8** **Lamjung**  
Community Health Programme

**9** **Pokhara**  
Gandaki Boarding School  
Rural Development Centre  
Gandaki College of Engineering and Sciences

**10** **Syangya**  
Paimey Clinic  
Andhikhola Hydropower Project & Irrigation  
Andhikhola Rural Development Project  
School Partnership Project

**11** **Palpa**  
***United Mission Hospital Tansen***  
Buling Dispensary  
Community Health Development Project  
Rural Development Project

**12** **Rupandehi, Kapilbastu, Nawalparasi**  
Butwal Technical Institute  
Butwal Power Company  
Tinau Hydropower Project  
Butwal Plywood Factory  
Gobar Gas Tatha Krishi Yantra Bikash  
Development and Consulting Services  
Butwal Engineering Works



**T** Butwal Wood Industries  
Himal Hydro  
Nepal Hydro and Electric  
Nawalparasi Hills Development Project  
**Rupandehi Cluster Programme**

**13 Pyuthan**  
Jhimruk Hydro Electric and Rural  
Electrification Project  
Jimruk Industrial Development - JIDCO

**14 Rukum**  
**Rukum Cluster Programme**

**15 Jajarkot**  
Jajarkot Education Project

**16 Jumla**  
Karnali Technical School  
Karnali Community Skill Training Programme

**17 Mugu**  
Mugu Education Project  
**Mugu Cluster Programme**

**18 Bajhang**  
**Bajhang Cluster Programme**

**19 Surkhet**  
Surkhet Project

**20 Dailekh**  
Dailekh Education Programme  
School Partnership Project

**21 Achham**  
Community-Based Organisational  
Development For Empowerment

**22 Doti**  
**Doti Cluster Programme**

**23 Dadeldhura**  
Dandeldhura Agriculture Project

### National Projects

Forestry/Agriculture Programme  
Rural Youth Training Programme  
NGO Support Unit  
Nepali Organisations Unit  
Nutrition Programme  
Mental Health Programme  
Oral Health Programme  
HIV/AIDS Sakriya Programme  
Training and Scholarship Programme  
Non-Formal Education Programme  
Teacher Training  
Library Training  
Training and Development Programme  
Special Needs Programme (scholarships)  
Advisory Group on Nepali Women  
Disaster Preparedness Programme  
Medical Supplies (with INF)  
Village Leather Training Programme

### Secondments

Anandaban Leprosy Hospital  
Melamchi Water Supply Project  
Kathmandu University  
Hydro Consult Pvt. Ltd  
People, Energy & Environment Development  
Association  
Institute of Medicine & Ministry of Health  
TB NET Support Programme  
Tansen Nursing School  
Human Development & Community Services,  
Lamjung  
Gorkha Primary Schools  
Ryalachaur School, Pokhara  
Ministry of Education/Textbook and Curriculum  
Development  
Basic Primary Education

### Expatriate Support

Kathmandu International  
Study Centre (with INF)

**Tutorial Groups**  
**Language and Orientation**  
**Programme**

### Other Activities

**Tri-Agency Partnership,**  
**now Regional Inter-Agency**  
**Partnership**  
**Partnership with CARNet**  
**Partnership with Micah**  
**Network Nepal**



# AMP PIPAL “CLUSTER”

## UMN's first

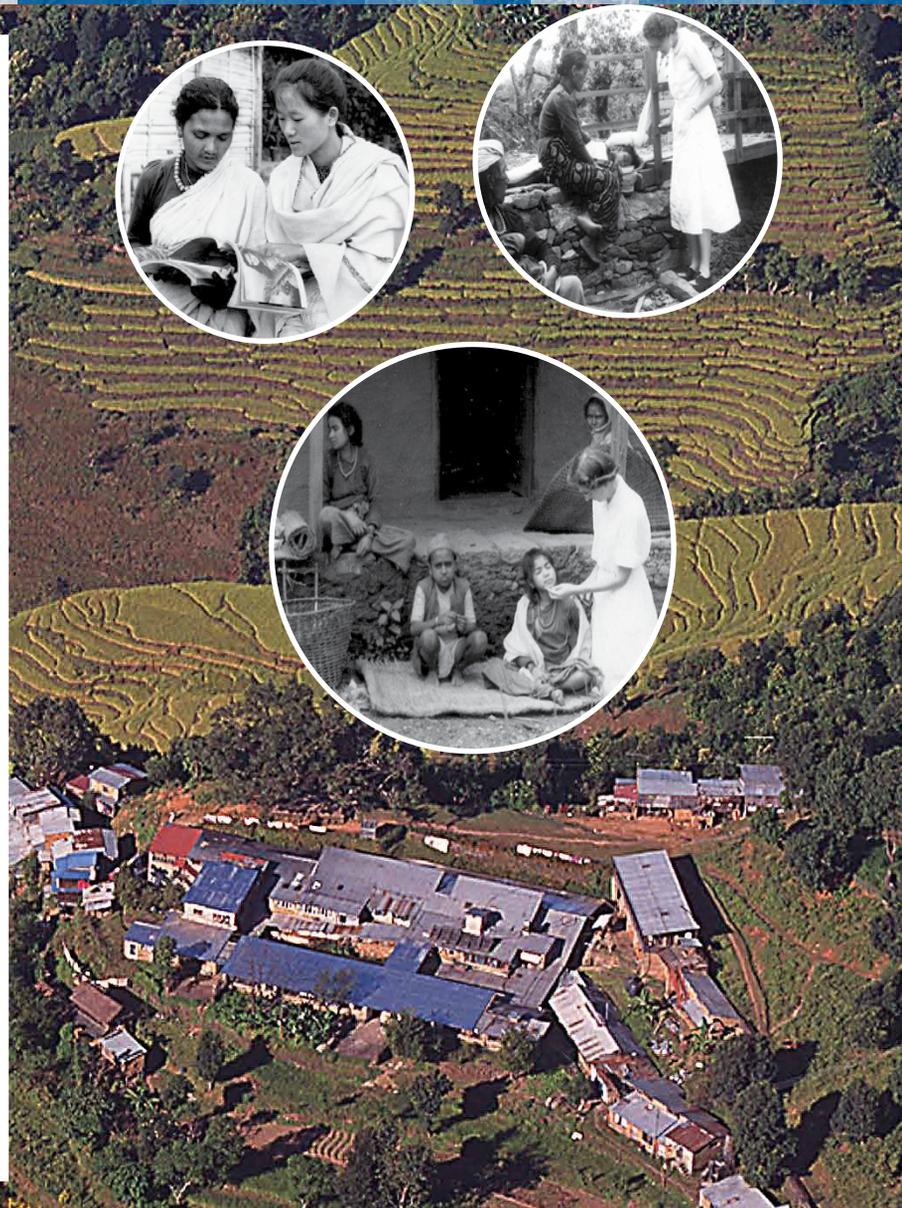
**Most people would think** that UMN's “cluster approach” began in 2005. But really, having a group of activities in one geographic area has been part of UMN's thinking from the beginning. You could argue that UMN's work in Amp Pipal, Gorkha District, was UMN's first “cluster”.

In 1956, Jonathan Lindell joined UMN with the brief to establish a community service project somewhere in rural Nepal. He spent nine months trekking through the mountains to find a suitable location. After 70 trips to government offices, he was finally able to negotiate an agreement, and the Gorkha Community Service Project began in May 1957. Fifty-one leaders from 12 local villages drew up a covenant, which designated land on which to locate.

The first team in Amp Pipal lived in tents, cooking their meals in a shelter made of tarpaulins and matting. An early priority was education, and over the years UMN personnel served in many local schools, trained teachers and conducted non-formal education classes. UMN developed Luitel High School into a highly-regarded institution. Agriculture work included improving farming techniques, providing seeds and insecticides, and animal husbandry assistance and training.

Amp Pipal is of course remembered as the site of one of UMN's four hospitals. A simple dispensary begun in 1958 grew into a 15-bed hospital by 1969, under the leadership of Dr Helen Huston. Community health work reached out to remote villages. UMN ran the hospital until 2001, when lack of qualified medical personnel forced it to withdraw. The hospital is now run by the local community.

Jonathan Lindell records that “the undertaking was a thoroughly captivating enterprise from the very first day and called out the very finest gifts and energies from the members of the team.” (*Nepal and the Gospel of God*, p193.) Subsequent UMN rural projects drew heavily on the experience in Gorkha, and the project's legacy can still be seen in our “clusters” today.



## MUGU CLUSTER PROGRAMME

Established 2004



**UMN's work in Mugu district** began in 1999, but changed to become one of the first cluster programmes in 2004. This remote district has always been a challenge, difficult to access and with limited communications.

At first, Mugu's programme was based around adult literacy, but it soon became clear that health and food security were important priorities. Progress has been slow, but today:

- Many more women give birth inside, some even in Birthing Centres, with the help of trained birth attendants.
- Fresh vegetables are available in many bazaars, even in winter, thanks to improvements in agricultural practices.
- Child Clubs develop young people's leadership potential, and spread health messages in families and villages.
- 83 Dalit (low caste) girls are studying in school, thanks to the Dalit Girls Scholarship programme. Four more Dalit girls are completing higher education in health-related fields and will return to serve their villages.

When UMN (and later INF) began to work in Mugu, there were no known Christians in the district. Today, seven small Nepali-run churches exist in various locations.

A recent evaluation of the programme in Mugu points to the need to focus on social transformation, something UMN and its partners are keen to do in the next few years.

## BAJHANG CLUSTER PROGRAMME

Established 2008



**One of UMN's newest clusters** is Bajhang, a very poor district in the far west of Nepal. In Bajhang, traditional practices discriminate against women, low caste people and people with disabilities, and community conflict is common. UMN's Peacebuilding partners seek to challenge unfair attitudes and practices, and develop more just, harmonious communities.

Farmers in Bajhang struggled to grow enough to feed their families, but improved agricultural techniques, like simple greenhouses, irrigation systems and new varieties of rice, have helped improve food security. Now, fewer men have to make the long trip to India to work as daily labourers. This in turn will reduce HIV infection in the district.

To improve education, teachers in UMN's partner schools have been trained in child-friendly teaching and learning techniques. Schools are much more pleasant, thanks to improved classroom management. A Nutrition Centre is helping mothers learn how to feed their children better, with locally-available foods.

Churches in Bajhang are few and small, but we trust that our Christian staff can be an encouragement to them as they seek to serve God in their community.



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Like

1,765



@umnnepal #UMN #Celebrate60



youtube.com/umnnepal

## Welcome to UMN!

Each year, UMN accepts 10 young Nepali Christians, providing opportunities for professional practice as well as training in more general development and personal skills. A fresh batch of interns has just started in UMN. They will initially be involved in visiting different teams and getting oriented to the work of UMN. It is always nice to have a team of enthusiastic young people helping out, learning and contributing where they can. We warmly welcome the 2014 batch of UMN interns and wish them all the very best for their time here.



## Know our leaders

**Congratulations to the new Team Leaders** of UMN. The new Health Team Leader is Sushma Rajbanshi. Cluster Team Leaders for Mugu and Bajhang are Nabin Raj Moktan and Trejendra Budhathoki respectively. We pray that they would enjoy their new role in leading the teams and fulfilling the vision of UMN.

## No to violence!

**ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE** is a global call to women survivors of violence and those who love them to gather safely in a public place to demand justice. It is a call to break the silence and release their stories through art, dance, marches, songs or whatever feels right.

So, on February 14, 2014, a group of UMN ladies clad in UMN T-shirts marched around town with banners and placards to support this international event. Initiated by the Peacebuilding Team, the ladies were proud of their presence among the many hundreds who were out in the streets doing their bit.



## What a gas!

**Dr Rabindra Kumar Shakya, Vice Chairperson, National Planning Commission, awarded UMN** with a Certificate of Appreciation for our contribution towards the development of the Renewable Energy Sector in Nepal. UMN has been involved in biogas development, hydropower and micro-hydro power projects and solar technology, particularly in rural communities. This involvement traces its origins in biogas development to the work of John Finlay in Butwal during the 70s-80s. This special award, collected by Peter Lockwood on behalf of UMN, recognised UMN's pioneering work in establishing and developing biogas technologies in Nepal.



# The mail must get through!



“I feel blessed...”

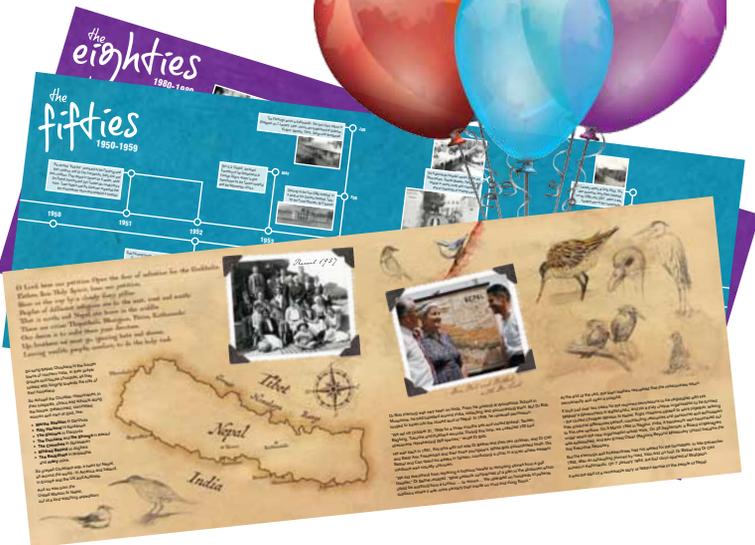
**Pradumna Dhakal is the longest serving UMN staff member – 31 years!** Anyone who knows Pradumna will remember his smile and an enthusiastic attitude. A grandfather to five grandchildren, he thinks it is now time to spend more time with his family, so he will say good-bye to UMN later this year.

His journey with UMN began in Jumla in 1981, when the Jumla office was just starting. His first responsibility was to handle mail and send it to Jumla from Surkhet. He has adventurous memories of when he had to walk to Jumla during the monsoon season. Twice a month he walked up and down the hills of Jumla, making sure the mail and parcels were safe from the rain. In 1982, he was posted to Nepalgunj, where he continued to handle mail that came in from Kathmandu and sent it to Jumla.

Pradumna was also involved in some construction work, both at the Okhaldhunga hospital and the nursing quarters at Patan Hospital, supervising the purchase of hardware and looking for the right team of builders. He was also part of the Khimti Himal Hydro project for a while. Wherever he went, he says, he always had wonderful supervisors and encouragers.

He has many stories from all the remote places that he worked in. One that he remembers fondly is when around five thousand smokeless stoves were taken up to Mugu and Jumla in 2000 – an organisational nightmare!

Many people have asked him why he worked with UMN all his life. Pradumna says: “I feel at home with UMN; I knew I would not get this supportive environment anywhere else. I feel blessed to have been a part of UMN for all these years.”



## Celebrate 60!

**For 60 years, UMN has been serving** the people of Nepal, in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. UMN's contributions to the development of Nepal have been enormous – from schools and hospitals to hydropower and biogas. These days, UMN builds the capacity of local organisations to work effectively with their own communities, towards “fullness of life for all”.

Celebrate 60 takes you on a journey through time, highlighting UMN's projects and achievements over the years. You'll meet pioneers, like the Frederickses, the Flemings, the Olivers and the Lindells. And you'll see how UMN has been “making Christ known in word and life” through the decades.

Contact UMN for your copy at [communications@umn.org.np](mailto:communications@umn.org.np) or write to us at PO Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal.

EUR/GBP 3.50; USD/CAD/AUD 5, to cover postage and handling.





**Praise God for UMN's 60 years of service** to the people of Nepal. Bob and Bethel Fleming, co-founders of UMN, used to talk about The Plan – God's plan for UMN and for Nepal. Pray that God will keep us faithful to His Plan, even though we can only see the next step.

**Pray for Mahendra Bhawan School** (page 6) which is in its 57th year now. The number of girls enrolled has reduced. Please pray that the school would continue to give quality education and that the Board would take the right steps in solving the problems. Pray for the Education Team in UMN as it presses on in changing people's lives through the light of education.

**With the onset of the dry season**, the Nepal Electricity Authority has once again increased the load-shedding hours. The power supply has increased the power outage to 12 hours per day. Last year power cuts reached 18 hours a day. Normal life and all business sectors of the country are affected by this. Please pray for the Nepali people struggling in this dark situation. Pray also for UMN's Site Management Team as they work hard at keeping our lights on and our computers operating.

**Though the Nepali Government** has pledged zero tolerance to violence against women and girls, strong actions are yet to be taken against those involved in violence, and discrimination against women. Poverty, cultural beliefs and practices, patriarchal society, early marriage, the dowry system, lack of education for women and lack of control over resources are the main reasons for violence in the Nepalese society. The fight against violence against women is a long ongoing battle; many women and girls are still suffering silently. We thank God for the awareness and changes that are taking place in communities. Pray for the organisations in Nepal that are working to tackle women's issues to give women dignity and security.



**UMN's cross-cultural teams** provide opportunities for suitably skilled expatriates to work with Nepali colleagues, sharing technical skills and demonstrating God's loving concern for all people, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable.

Expatriate team members do not receive a salary or remuneration from UMN directly, but are self-supported volunteers, or supported by a sending mission or church in their home country. If you are interested in any of these (three listed below) positions, or if you would like to ask about other opportunities for service in UMN, please contact Valerie Lockwood at [expat.recruitment@umn.org.np](mailto:expat.recruitment@umn.org.np) to learn more. Send your CV or resumé with your email.

### PRIORITY NEEDS

#### Surgeon – United Mission Hospital Tansen

General Surgeon with full postgraduate qualifications, currently registered with his/her own national regulating body. Work involves dealing with both elective and emergency general surgical cases and also teaching and mentoring junior Nepali doctors.

#### Climate Change Advisor – Kathmandu, with frequent travel to regional and remote areas

A person willing to work flexibly to explore, research, plan, implement and monitor interventions for clean energy and/or climate change.





# donate

## UMN's 60th Anniversary Appeal

For sixty years, UMN has been serving the people of Nepal, in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. Join us as we celebrate that milestone, conscious of God's presence with us over that time, and confident that He will continue to work through us in the future.

**Give 60 - \$60, £60, €60** (or more!) - to help UMN's work with families and communities in Nepal that struggle with poverty.

Go to [umn.org.np/give60](http://umn.org.np/give60) for more information about UMN's 60th Anniversary Appeal.

### How to give:

- Make out a cheque or money order payable to United Mission to Nepal.  
Tick the box on the enclosed envelope indicating how you would like your donation to be used.  
Post it!
- Use your credit or debit card and give via PayPal.
  - Go to [umn.org.np/give60](http://umn.org.np/give60) and click on the **Donate Now** button below the area you wish to donate to.
  - You will be redirected to the PayPal page. Use your PayPal information to donate from your Paypal account.
  - Or click on **Don't have a PayPal account?** to make a payment using your Debit/Credit card.



## EDUCATION

- Phonics books for 1 teacher and a class, with training for the teacher.
- A library pack of Nepali story books.
- Some basic equipment for a school or Early Childhood Development Centre.



## HEALTH

- Equipment items to support a birthing centre in a remote village.
- Emergency foods and clothes for a child from an AIDS-affected family.
- A free mental health camp.



## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

- An improved cooking stove to reduce timber use and smoke inside the house.
- Seeds, equipment and training for a farmer.
- Funds for a poor family to set up a small business.



## PEACEBUILDING

- A set of Braille books for a blind student from Grades 1-3.
- Set-up costs for a community mediation centre.
- A grocery kit for a trafficked woman or survivor of domestic violence to start a tea stall.





SAMUEL TOOK A LARGE STONE AND PLACED IT UPRIGHT...  
HE NAMED IT EBENEZER (THE STONE OF HELP), FOR HE SAID,  
“UP TO THIS POINT THE LORD HAS HELPED US!”

1 Samuel 7:12



*Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society*

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