



May - Jul 2010

*Please pray for safety for the cluster staff traveling to and from clusters. There are frequent blockades and road accidents and, with the monsoon approaching, the danger of landslides increasing. Also continue to pray and give thanks for the cluster staff as they work separated from families in often difficult situations.*

**Bajhang**

We need prayer for the selection of one new partner for Bajhang, for wisdom in choosing the right organisation to work with in geographical and technical areas that complement the existing set of six partners.

Also pray for the annual review that needs to be completed by the middle of July.

Pray for the people of Bajhang as they deal with other weather-related hardships: fires, sudden storms, and increase in diarrhea outbreaks.

**Rupandehi**

Please pray for the recruitment of a new Health and Gender Officer for Rupandehi. Pray for the process of recruitment that will be done during May and that wisdom will be given to choose the right person.

**Sunsari**

Please pray for the staff of one of our faith based partners, Nawa Jiwan Samaj Sewa (NJSS) as they give home based care to 15 people living with HIV and AIDS. We thank God for their compassion and desire to give hope to infected people. Pray for their clients and families.



*A girl in Sunsari takes a buffalo back home after giving it a wash in a village pond.*

**Rukum**

A number of our programmes are going to be completed by the middle of July, please pray that we would have them done on time and that these will bring positive change in the target community.

One of our partner organisations is still struggling in maintaining transparency in its leadership and finances. Pray that our input and mediation could bring about good results in the organisation.

**Doti**

Bishal Shrestha will be working as the Team Leader for Doti from May. Pray for his orientation and for him as he adapts to a new role and situation.

Pray also for greater understanding and awareness in the community of the programmes in which UMN and our partners are involved.

**Mugu**

Pray for our partner organisations as they work on finalising their five year strategic plan. We have been coaching them in the areas in which they need help during this process. Pray that this will be done on time. Pray particularly for the Mugu team. Mugu is a very challenging district to work in, pray for their health, safety in travel, motivation at work and for a positive team spirit.

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for standing with us in prayer. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

Nepal is in the process of getting a new constitution by May 28, 2010. Political agitations are likely to take place if this does not happen. Please pray for the country's peace during this period, and that the new constitution will help the country to move forward in the right direction.

A number of churches are involved in 40 days of prayer for the political leaders, peace and stability of the country. We request your prayer support for this nation and for the churches that are praying for real and positive changes in Nepal. Please visit [www.prayerfornepal.org](http://www.prayerfornepal.org) for more information.

All UMN staff contracts will be up for renewal in July 2010. Sadly due to the financial situation and the comparative high cost of running the corporate part of UMN, we have had to take the decision not to renew contracts for a number of support staff from July. Please pray for these staff as they leave UMN, that they will be able to complete their time in UMN well and that they will all be able to find new jobs and good opportunities for their future.

Thank you for your constant prayers for Nepal and for UMN's work.

Many blessings.

*May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations on the earth.*  
*Psalm 67:4*

Pray for about 70,00 people who are living with HIV and AIDS in Nepal. Pray that they would be inwardly released from fear, anxiety, self-stigma, hopelessness, despair and depression; be healed of their emotional and spiritual wounds. Pray for believers who are ministering to those who are sick including those with HIV, and pray that more believers would feel called to demonstrate the Gospel in this way. Also pray that church youth groups in Nepal would be sensitised to the issues facing HIV positive teens in order to become more accepting and welcoming towards their peers living with HIV.

The Health and Gender team has lost a number of staff in the last year. Please pray for the stability of staff and for the recruitment process for several posts during May. The Health and Gender team is also working on some proposals for more funding as their major funding source lasts only until July 2011. Please pray for the provision of funds needed for the health work done among women and children in Nepal.

Some time during May or June, the Social Welfare Council will conduct a final evaluation of UMN's work over the past 5 years. It is necessary to have this completed before they will accept a proposal for the next 5

years follow on agreement which is due in November this year. Please pray for this process and that the General Agreement and Project Agreement with all the needed expatriate visas will be signed in good time.

We are moving towards a new strategy from July onwards. Please pray that all that we will be doing continues to be acceptable to our current funding partners and that we will find new partners to fund our growing work.

Pray for Tansen Mission Hospital which is receiving pressure from a patient's family trying to claim medical compensation, even though there was no negligence by the hospital. Please pray for protection and a just outcome. Pray for staff in Tansen and Okhaldhunga hospitals as they sometimes have to deal with difficult situations like this one. This is a nationwide problem in the health sector especially.

I find myself constantly amazed (and often awestruck or horrified) at the challenges our partners face as they advocate for the rights of poor and marginalised people. In Sunsari I provided advocacy coaching and support for two groups – one working to address cross-border looting and violence, and the other striving to help people who are still displaced by the massive flooding of the Koshi River in August 2008. "The sky is our roof, the ground is our bed, and sand is our food," they told me.



Ben Thurley  
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These partners need wisdom and tenacity (the cunning of snakes and the gentleness of doves?) as they seek to hold authorities accountable for maintaining security and providing livelihood support for vulnerable communities. Please pray for the communities, and also ask God to give local authorities, leaders and institutions – such as the police – a commitment to work in transparent and accountable ways for the well-being of the poor.

My colleague Raju and I are also working to influence the Government at the national level to implement effective policies to tackle the emerging problem of climate change in Nepal. This is a difficult area, and we need prayer for wisdom and coordination across the Government.

## Strategic Plan...the next step

In February the Leadership Team approved our new Strategic Plan. This has been shared with staff at the recent Learning Review in March and has been positively received. The next step in the process is to develop local plans within each cluster office. A planning team has been identified and our technical staff will be visiting clusters to discuss long term local plans through May and June. In addition we are working on defining the new organisational structure required to deliver the strategy and making preparations to support transition to new teams from the middle of July.

We thank God for our staff's desire to be involved in developing local plans and see transformation across our cluster locations.

Pray for wisdom for the planning teams as they identify programmes over the next 5 years and for sensitivity as we plan new organisational structures and transition to new teams.