

PARTNER PLAN

Joel Githinji - Nepal March 2013

United Mission to Nepal
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Greetings from Nepal

My family would thank God for all of you and for your support in prayers and financially. Agnes is recovering well since she was operated and of late she can walk upstairs.

The formation of the current election government in Nepal is led by Chief Justice Khilaraj Regmi. Nepalis hope they will know the date when they will elect the new government.



In Nepal theological institutions now embrace to respond to HIV. The HIV course was launched and a four day training of facilitators was conducted. The HIV course will be implemented in Believers Church Minor Seminar, Kingdom Bible School, Shepherd Bible School, Nepal Methodist Theological Seminary, GFA Bible College, YWAM Frontier Mission, NKIC, Nepal Ebenezer Bible College and Evangelical Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The course content is about facts on HIV and AIDS, gender and sexuality, biblical perspective, church response, pastoral counselling and capacity enhancement. The course will prepare the students to mobilize and be able to face challenges posed by HIV in churches and communities. It was agreed in the training that church can replace fear with hope, ignorance with knowledge, blame with respect and shame with dignity.

UMN's publication, HIV and your Community, was launched and has really helped pastors and church leaders engage their churches with the issues and formulate a practical response. The booklet makes this process available even to small churches in remote areas.

The HIV review meeting that was attended by church leaders from 5 districts of Nepal and was about sharing skills and experiences of churches engagement with society on HIV issues, and how churches demonstrate more of the Kingdom of God in their interaction with society. It was great to hear stories of how God's people in Nepal are taking seriously their call to help the least and the poorest. Churches are providing counselling and home-based care, giving nutrition advice, training people in income generation skills, providing scholarships and stationery for school children, helping people access the treatment they need. But above all, they are saying to people devastated by disease and discrimination, "We care about you, because our God cares. You are important to Him, and you are important to us."

Please pray for us as we continue with the ministry, for the political situation to improve in Nepal.

Joel, Agnes, Grace and Francis

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