

PARTNER PLAN

Joel Githinji - Nepal May 2012

United Mission to Nepal
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Greetings from Nepal

My joy is to keep on reflecting on my calling to enhance community health resilience in remote areas and walking with the body of Christ devastated by HIV and AIDS. Little do people know about how small the HIV virus is and its impact on people and their families. It has really changed the way people relate, interact and engage with each other. The virus continues to wreak havoc; men and women including children are not spared either. There is still urgency to continue educating the community and care for people living with HIV and AIDS.



When I visited villages, I was overwhelmed with the passion and hope exemplified by women and men living with HIV—each one of them with a unique journey, a new phase of life living openly and positively with HIV and AIDS in a community still struggling with HIV and AIDS related stigma and discrimination.

I am encouraged that young people in schools, Bible College students, church leaders, and congregations have heard our story of how UMN continues to work with communities devastated by HIV and AIDS. I am encouraged that through my visits and interactions, God will continue to awaken people to the realities within our midst.

I want see people living with HIV and AIDS receive the support and care that they deserve. Stigma or no stigma, they deserve care and support from the people. What better way than this, to show Christ's love and break the yoke in the midst of all the questions and struggles. Are you ready to face the reality? Are you? Can you extend to others the grace you so badly need yourself? "I can do all through Christ Jesus who strengthens me!"

We celebrated a wonderful Easter Sunday in Patan Church and shared some Easter reflections by Pastor Dr. Mangal Man Maharjan who gave the Easter message, preaching on "Jesus Christ came and died for all!" His message concluded with the challenge to all those present to make (or reaffirm) the decision to follow Jesus. Then we ate! It was a great time of food and fellowship!

We are grateful to Church of Scotland support in our AIDS ministry and your prayers. My wife Agnes teaches in Patan Church Sunday School. Francis plays drums in school as well in Church. Grace participates in intercessory prayers, support children in Sunday school in Patan Church and she is learning to play guitar.

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Prayer items:

Pray that

- God may give me wisdom as I visit and encourage people living with HIV and their families.
- God will continue to steer peoples' hearts so that they can be receptive to HIV realities. Pray that my remaining visits will be guided by God. Pray for good health for my family.
- Church of Scotland will continue to support UMN work in Nepal and that the churches in Nepal will continue to witness, interact with marginalised and to those in hard to reach places.
- The church will fully be awake and reclaim her place as advocate and restorer of broken communities.
- God's servants will be bold and compassionate to all.
- Halting the spread of infection will require concerted effort from everyone.

Embrace AIDS, embrace life and give a shoulder to lean on!

God bless you all

Joel



Nepali children are wonderful and friendly