

PARTNER PLAN

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Greetings from Nepal

Thank you so much for praying for Nepal! You are such a blessing from God to us. I made several trips into remote areas and God protected me at every turn.

I have always enjoyed encouraging, coaching, mentoring UMN staff and partners in their work. Church leaders in Nepal are becoming aware of the need for a much more concerted effort addressing the stigma, silence, fear, denial associated with HIV while others need support for treatment and care for those living with HIV. The youth from churches from different districts who completed their exams had opportunities to reflect and understand about life skills, spiritual, social impact of the AIDS epidemic and the Christian call to respond with compassion. The bridge course was for one month organised by Koinonia Patan churches in Kathmandu.



There was a national conference in Nepal on Integral Mission and Social Justice that was attended by Christian NGOs, Bible Schools and church representatives. It was followed by an expatriate retreat organised by UMN and INF and Rev Joel Edwards from UK was the speaker in both meetings. It was interesting to learn how advocacy as an approach is now becoming useful in helping churches to speak on behalf of the poor and ensure social justice at every level.

The implementation of an HIV course in the Nepal Baptist Bible College went well for theological students who are about to graduate. They were impressed to learn about how social issues including HIV, developed confidence and made commitment to share information and mobilise their church communities.

I visited Rukum District which is in a remote area of Nepal. We had consultation and training for church leaders on governance, church and community mobilisation process. We had an opportunity to train youth from different churches on HIV and they were motivated through bible study and reflections. There are 53 people living with HIV who have disclosed their status in Rukum District. Migration for labour work is one of the vulnerability factors that leads to HIV infection. UMN's project on HIV and food security is implemented through women's groups in Rukum, Rupandehi and Doti Districts.

Pray for

- My travel to the US in June to visit my family and for our safety
- HIV work that is expanding in Bhajang District
- Churches to reach out to the youth, equip them with skills and knowledge that will enable them overcome life challenges.

God bless you all
Joel, Agnes, Grace and Francis

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