

PARTNER PLAN

Joel Githinji - Nepal June 2015

United Mission to Nepal
PO Box 126
KATHMANDU
Nepal

Greetings from USA and Nepal

I was happy to meet my family again in the USA. They were eager to hear stories of my visit to Scotland and my work in Nepal. Since Francis and Grace spent most of their life time in Nepal, they have started to attend a multi ethnic fellowship on Sunday evenings organised by Pastor Dr. Manoj Shrestha and Rev Cho. We visited a number of Nepali families and in one of the schools we learned of the challenges facing the Nepali youth and their parents, while settling in the USA. Some organisations have setup counseling outreach services in those schools and in communities especially to reach the immigrants.

Francis will be in Grade 11 from September this year and his dream is to become a Neuro-Surgeon. Grace is currently doing her summer classes in Baltimore Community College. Grace wants to pursue a Bachelor Degree in Nursing. Agnes has been attending training for her skill and career development. We spent time visiting a few families from Kenya and Nepal. My family was also invited to attend Anniversary celebration for Middle River Baptist Church in Baltimore. My stay in the USA was prolonged as I was required to have a US Re-entry permit that took 2 months. This gave me courage to continue for another 2 years in Nepal.

I was in USA when the earthquake struck Nepal. My family was in touch with Nepali friends and UMN staff. 14 out of the 75 districts in the country were severely affected. So far more than 8000 people died and over 750,000 houses have been destroyed. Another earthquake measuring 7.3 in magnitude struck worsening the situation in affected districts causing additional buildings to collapse. Some 150 people were killed and many others injured as a result. Aftershocks continue to be felt across the country further increasing the trauma amongst those affected. Kathmandu remained quiet as many people had left the valley, however it is now beginning to return to normal. Many people are still living in tents; children are slowly resuming their classes though classrooms were destroyed. There is an urgent need to provide shelter to the affected families.

I visited Dhading this week and worked with local staff and volunteer in the management of Gauladi Warehouse from where the relief items are dispatched to remote areas. We loaded 10 trucks with relief items for Lapa and much more to be airlifted by UN Helicopter. So far United Mission to Nepal (UMN) has distributed relief food and non-food items to 10,000 households in Dhading District. The long term plan for the reconstruction is underway. The UMN will have an integrated approach in responding to the needs of the affected population especially in the areas of dealing with psychological trauma, hygiene, treatment, nutrition, children protection and education. The Churches that were trained by UMN on Disaster Preparedness and Management were involved in relief work and we hope that the increased involvement will be an opportunity to establish new relations with communities in most areas. I will continue to support in relief work and develop capacity of churches in such engagements, write reports and proposal to ensure partners' projects have resources to continue their work. In collaboration with Mica Network we will continue to conduct a review and do HIV training in the Bible Schools. I will visit and monitor the ongoing partners' projects, strengthen home based care programmes and represents UMN in some meetings. I will work closely with a newly recruited UMN Programme Manager for HIV, UMN Risk

PARTNER PLAN

Management Advisor on Disaster Risk Reduction activities and Integral Mission Officers based in the Districts.



Dispatch of relief food and non-food items to Lappa from UMN'S Galaudi Warehouse In Dhading District

I thank Church of Scotland for your prayers and support as we continue to serve the poorest of the poor in Nepal.

Prayer requests:

- Pray for the Government of Nepal and other stakeholders as they continue to reach the affected people in remote areas.
- Pray for people who have lost their family members and friends during the earthquake in Nepal.
- Pray that resources will be available for UMN to continue with relief and the long-term reconstruction work
- Pray for my family in the USA and my parents in Kenya.

Joel, Agnes, Grace and Francis

PARTNER PLAN



T: +44 (0)131 225 5722

121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN

F: +44 (0)131 226 6121

E: world@churchofscotland.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SCO11353