Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND

Monthly Bulletin
APRIL 2017

Stephen & Laura COULTER

NEPAL

Location: Kathmandu

Mission: Peace Building and Mental Health Ministry

We returned to Nepal at the end of February, thankful to God for time at home reconnecting with family and friends and for our deputation work which took us to churches near and far. It was a good experience to meet so many Presbyterians interested in and praying for the work in Nepal.

Since our return, we have been getting back into our work at United Mission to Nepal (UMN). Laura met with Micah Nepal recently to hear how the new mediators' work is progressing. The 18 new mediators who were trained in foundation level mediation skills are a diverse group representing the Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian religions. It was good to see the participants work so well together. They showed a real desire to know more about mediation and to enhance their skills. Laura received encouraging feedback from some participants:

"Having trained mediators from different faiths and political groups is very important to resolve faith and political conflict which are very tough in nature to settle," a Hindu leader said.

A mediator from the Muslim community shared: "If conflict occurs between Muslim and Hindu communities, trained mediators from both faiths will work together and resolve it. This training helps us to know our role in interfaith peace building as faith leaders."

Micah Nepal is currently facilitating monthly meetings where these new mediators can share their mediation experiences and learn from each other. Laura will meet them in April to hear how they are getting on. She is also planning a two-day training on workplace mediation for senior UMN staff in early April.

Stephen is continuing with his counselling and mentoring work to a number of people both inside and outside UMN. He is also planning a cluster visit with his manager to meet with UMN's pyscho-social counsellors and hopes to build on training which they delivered to this group in December 2016.

Photo: Mediator Training

Prayer Points

- Pray for the new Micah Nepal mediators, for good support and mentoring as they begin mediation work.
- Pray for Laura delivering a workplace mediation course from 3rd to 4th April to senior UMN staff - that it will go well and that, as a result, the staff will feel equipped to deal with workplace disputes.
- Pray for our travel around Nepal and for safe journeys and continued good health.