

Peter and Jayne Fleming

Location: **Kathmandu, NEPAL**

Mission: **Integral development and teaching**



We are all continuing to live our daily lives with countless uncertainties – when will lockdown end; when will school reopen; when will I get the vaccine; will another variant come; when can we go back to church, work, visiting family?

We have been asking all of these questions and also “When can we go back to Nepal?” Right now the answer is still unclear. We in the rich world find this uncertainty so frustrating – we like to be in control.

Two things have occurred to us in these times. Firstly, for the majority of people in poor countries life has always been like this. In Nepal for example, floods, earthquake, landslides, localised disasters, political unrest and violent actions, food shortages, have been endured over many decades. Secondly, when faced with “momentary troubles” we must “live by faith and not by sight”. (See 2 Corinthians 4v16-18 & 5v7). We can only leave our situation in God’s care, trust him and try to do what is right.

We are glad to report that Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC) has reopened its doors a few days ago and classes have started. This is with vastly reduced numbers and under very careful safety regulations, but it is a beginning. United Mission to Nepal (UMN) staff are now moving around the country and all offices are open. This morning (26 January – three years and one day since arriving in Nepal!), Peter spoke with the cluster team leader in our most isolated area of Mugu. Work is progressing again and thankfully the entire area has been well protected. There have been no Covid-19 deaths. There were 35 infections, but all have recovered. Peter’s closest colleague Jiwan is in another area and actively in



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contact with church and community leaders and helping run training courses in the coming days.

The pandemic does continue to be a real concern in Nepal and along with that the greater poverty because of the restrictions on life. However UMN is experiencing even greater uncertainty and potential restrictions on its work. Five year General and Project Agreements must be signed off by the government. These are proving very difficult and the entire work of UMN depends on these. Without them there will be few if any visas offered to expatriate workers like Peter. This is probably the biggest uncertainty of all just now. We are continuing to work from home doing what we can and trying to live by “faith and not sight”.



Prayer points

- We are very thankful to be safe at home and living with some of our family which is a real blessing.
- Pray that it will be possible to return safely and soon to Nepal.
- Pray for the educational work of KISC and for the development work of UMN.
- Pray that uncertainties over visas, agreements, and direction of UMN's work will be resolved.