

Peter and Jayne Fleming

Location: **Kathmandu, NEPAL**

Mission: **Integral development and teaching**

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What a change a month can bring! The Indian variant of Covid-19 has taken hold in Nepal and the country is in a critical condition. Infection and death rates are now significantly higher than ever. United Mission to Nepal (UMN) is appealing to supporters around the world for help to provide greater oxygen supplies to hospitals where the need is critical. Please pray that financial support will come and that they will be able to distribute it quickly to the areas of greatest need. If you would like to know more about what is being done by UMN, please use this link <https://www.umn.org.np/news/957>

Ramesh Thing, Cluster Team Leader in Rukum, asks for prayer for the recovery of patients with Covid-19 in Rukum East. The District Hospital has no ICU beds, therefore patients with severe symptoms of Covid-19 have to be evacuated by helicopter which very few can afford. Even when someone is taken to Kathmandu for treatment, there may be no hospital bed available there. Many hospitals are turning away patients due to lack of oxygen. Those with severe symptoms are less likely to survive.

There is also a shortage of vaccines as promised supplies from other countries have not been delivered. It will only be when a large proportion of the population is vaccinated that the pandemic will finally be controllable.

Some UMN staff have contracted Covid-19, pray for healing and for the mental health of all our staff. Peter is involved every week with the 'Staff Support Group' which is providing an opportunity for everyone to share stories of how they are coping and offering a listening ear and a caring response to any who want to share more confidentially. Many of the staff are locked down far from home and family which is adding to their sense of isolation.

We can give thanks for some progress towards settling UMN's General Agreement with government of Nepal. Most of the required signatories have given their assent. Once finalised, that leads on to settling the Project Agreement which may also be difficult, so please keep on praying. Future visas and work are dependent upon everything being finalised.



Prayer points

- Pray that support will be available to buy oxygen for hospitals in need.
- Pray for healing and recovery of the UMN staff who have contracted Covid -19.
- Pray for vaccines to be made widely available throughout Nepal.
- Pray for the ongoing work of communicating with government departments at a very difficult time.