

UMN News

ISSUE 50 | MARCH 2016



Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society

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OUR SUPPORT COMES FROM MORE THAN 30 ORGANISATIONS FROM 12 COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



AUSTRALIA



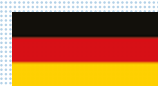
CANADA



FINLAND



FRANCE



GERMANY



HONG KONG



IRELAND



NETHERLANDS



NORWAY



SWEDEN



UNITED KINGDOM



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

53 EXPATRIATE EXPERT VOLUNTEERS
are working together with
549 NEPALI STAFF
helping to

RUN 2 HOSPITALS and SUPPORT 53 PARTNERS ACROSS NEPAL



EDUCATION



HEALTH



HOSPITALS



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



GOOD GOVERNANCE



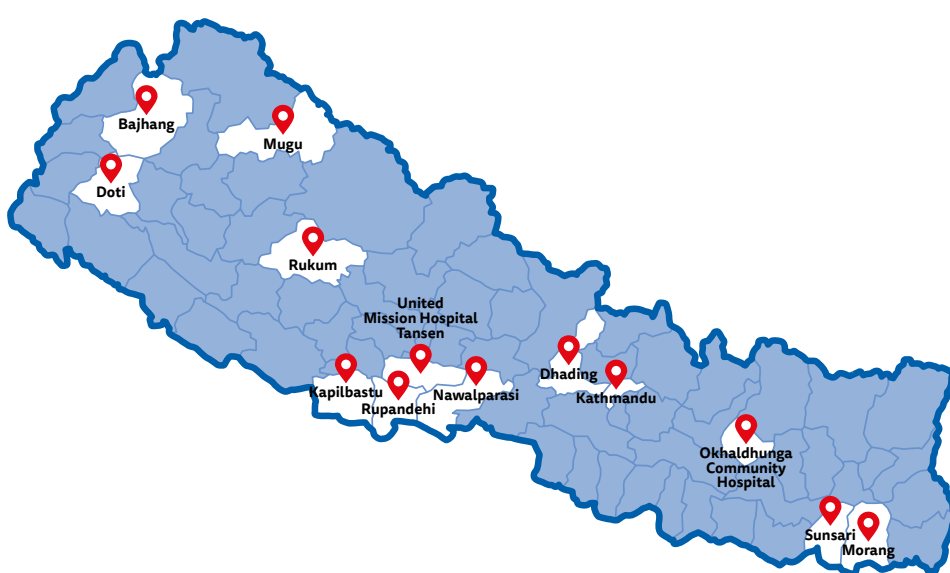
PEACEBUILDING



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



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Produced by: the Communications Team, UMN
Editorial Team: Vijeta Shrestha and Lyn Jackson
Design: Phil Rawlings and Ramesh Man Maharjan
Cover: Phil Rawlings
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Dear friends

Welcome to our 50th edition of UMNNews! First published in 1991, UMNNews has played a key role in our communication with UMN supporters around the world, encouraging and enabling their prayers and wider support. For this special edition we've gone back to the beginning, and reflected on how things have changed.

Ed Metzler, the UMN Executive Director at the time, wrote an introduction on "Stability and Change". His article highlights the unchanging basic value of UMN as "service, following the example of Jesus", and argues that this focus provides stability when there is change all around. Is UMN's service still modelled on Jesus today? My answer is a resounding YES! This is reflected in our core statements. One of our values is "Love and Service" and our Mission Statement starts with the words "Inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ". Amidst the increasing professionalism of aid and development work, the focus on service, let alone love is often forgotten, and yet our motivation is critical to our effectiveness as a mission and development agency. UMN's hospitals are still known for the loving quality of service they provide, particularly to those living in poverty who cannot afford care elsewhere. Our cluster work is known for the remote areas we work in, the close relationships we have with our local partners, and the focus we have on the poorest of those who live in poverty. UMN's emphasis on loving service has remained the same.

Change has certainly been a constant. In 1991, Ed wrote:

"We have been privileged to live through a revolution that produced a new constitution and a newly-elected parliament."

Who would have thought that 25 years later, we would be saying exactly the same thing – another revolution, albeit a much more violent one this time; a new constitution; and several newly-elected parliaments over the last few years. Some things don't change, but just circle around and come back at you!

As the context has changed, UMN has responded to these changes. Ed's words in 1991 regarding the future direction of UMN were prophetic:

"We will support existing and new Nepali organisations that effectively enhance Nepali capacity for development, particularly in the non-government sector," he wrote. "In the future this could include church groups."

Our current programmes and new 2015-2020 Strategic Plan demonstrate the success we have had in fulfilling that mandate, including working with the church. Capacity development will remain a pivotal commitment into the future.

As I turn my own thoughts to moving on from UMN this June after seven years as Executive Director, the future is far from clear. But one thing that must, and I am confident will, remain the same is UMN's attitude and value of loving service. Change will certainly be an on-going feature of life and work in Nepal, and therefore both a challenge and an opportunity for UMN. In the tumult of the world, we know that the God of love is unchanging, but He is a God of change. What a privilege to have been changed by Him, through these last seven years, and to have been involved in bringing about positive changes within UMN and in the lives of the people we serve. Thank you for your prayers and support for UMN, for my family and for me over this time. I urge you to keep praying and supporting UMN as it continues to be an agent of transformative change in Nepali society, motivated by and modeled on the love and service of Jesus.

MARK GALPIN
Executive Director

The Editor's Lot

What's happened to that fish-farming story? It was due last week!"

We don't have any photographs for page 4!"

The page 6 story is too long – cut at least 200 words."

We can't use that photo on the cover, the resolution is too low."

What do you mean 'the printer hasn't got any paper'? What are we supposed to do –print it on clay tablets? That will treble the postage!"

Argh! The electricity's just gone off! I've lost the last hour's work!"

Mark is in Mugu and the internet there isn't working so we can't get his 'intro' until he gets back."

Welcome to our newsroom! *UMNews* may not be the *Daily Planet*^{*}, but we do our best to imitate the pressure and chaos of a great metropolitan newspaper. Sometimes, I think that even Superman would struggle to get the presses rolling on time. Four times a year, our intrepid team pours its energy into the publication you now hold in your hands (or are reading on your screen).

I've been the editor (the Perry White, if you're a Superman fan) of *UMNews* for nearly six years now; that's 22 editions, nearly half of the 50 editions that have been published since it began in July 1991. As it's my last, allow me to reflect a little on story-telling, editing, and sharing the Good News.

By now, you might be thinking: "An editor's lot is not a happy one!" It can certainly be frustrating, but in general, I love this job. Here's why!

- **You get to know everything** that's going on in the organisation (or almost everything). *UMN's* work is so diverse and affects so many people's lives; it's so encouraging to read the reports and hear the stories from staff, partners and communities. The hard part, of course, is choosing what goes in. What you read is just a taste of the many stories we could tell.
- **You get to "polish the diamonds"**. In every edition, we try to have different people writing for *UMNews*. Everyone has their own "voice", their own way of expressing things. As editor, I love to see things through their eyes, and use my own skills to apply the final touches, making their words really shine.
- **You get to work with great people.** Here's where I can recognise the skills of our team – Vijeta's writing and reporting, Ramesh and Phil for their creative design work, Prashanta who adapts it for the web and sends out the e-version, and Hasta, who does the practical stuff that gets your copy into the post for you.
- **You get to share the Good News.** When John the Baptist was languishing in prison, he sent two friends to check on what he'd been hearing about Jesus.

"Are you really The One?" they asked. Jesus replied, "Go and tell John what you've seen. The blind can see, the lame can walk. Skin disease sufferers are cured, the deaf can hear, the dead are raised. The Good News is preached to the poor" (Luke 7:18).

Here in Nepal, women learn to read; poor farmers' crops are increased. Malnourished children put on weight, and mediators build peace in communities. Those thought to be as good as dead get a new chance at life. All this, and so much more, is done in the name of Jesus. In this way, we share the Good News that God loves the most disadvantaged and distressed. And through *UMNews*, we share with you the Good News that God is active here, through His people.

Sometimes, it's hard to come up with new ideas, to find the energy and enthusiasm for another edition. But then super suggestions come out of team discussions. The stories start coming in, and the photographs show the smiles of people whose lives have been changed. The printer gets a shipment of paper and ink; the presses roll. And finally *UMNews* appears in a mailbox (or inbox) near you.

It's been a privilege to edit *UMNews* since 2010, and now I gratefully and confidently hand over the responsibility to my colleague Vijeta. Thank you, faithful readers, for your time and interest, for your prayers and gifts. You make our work worthwhile!

Now, where is that fish-farming story...

LYN JACKSON
Communications Director



Vijeta Shrestha, Communications Manager



Phil Rawlings, Information & Communications Technology Advisor, and Ramesh Maharjan, Communications Technical & Design Officer



Prashanta Shrestha, Open Source Web Developer



Hasta Bahadur Gurung, Communications Production & Logistics Officer

^{*} Made famous by Superman



Lyn Jackson, Communications & ITS Director

It is an amazing time-journey to browse through the publications I was involved in over the years as the UMN Information Officer, 1990-1994. (Luckily I had saved them and found them in a closet!)

When I started, *UMNews* was a typewritten newsletter for the expatriate community. I came to UMN about the same time as the first simple computers, and it is exciting to see how the use of a computer gradually changes the layout: larger headlines, columns, boxes, illustrations etc.

In the spring of 1991, possibly influenced by a new openness after the 1990 revolution, it was decided that UMN needed a proper external publication. To my delight, Michael Brown, a trained graphic designer from England, had arrived, and we soon became good friends and working partners. After a lot of thinking we decided that the new external publication should take over the old name *UMNews*.

Michael did a great job as Art Director for the new magazine. Not least, he spent a lot of time instructing and overseeing the printers, who were not used to the standard we aimed for: all photos should be nice and clear!

It was all in black and white of course. Full colour was not an option, but Michael introduced "duo tone", which means that we had one extra colour to play with. That enhanced the impression, but put an extra stress on the accuracy of the printing process.

It is a great honour for me to have been a small part of UMN's communications work, and I am thrilled to realise that the baby born in July 1991 now has turned 50. Congratulations!

OLOF KONNEBÄCK, SWEDEN

UMN Appointee 1990-1994

I first came to Nepal in 1998 on a short term assignment, but after getting to know the country and its people my wife Marie and I were persuaded that God wanted us to serve for a longer term. I was back in the Thapatali office in 2000. Putting together *UMNews* and other publications were among my top challenges and privileges.

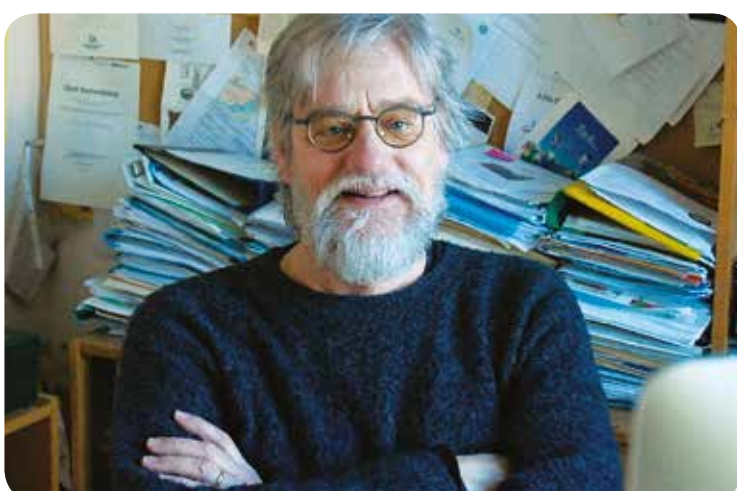
It was often a challenge, but first and foremost it was a privilege to work with these publications. It gave me deep insight into the many facets of UMN's work, an understanding of the width of UMN's contribution to the people of Nepal, and a chance to witness "God's love in action", as one of our slogans put it. I saw with my own eyes, and through the camera lens, the struggles and hardship of many Nepalis in remote, under-served areas, but also the hope in their eyes when someone stretched out a hand to help them change their own situation and transform their communities. It touched my heart.

The challenge for me and the communications team was to convey those experiences and feelings to people far, far away, who would receive a copy of *UMNews* in their mailbox. We wanted to touch their hearts too, to inspire them for praying, giving, and maybe going. That challenge remains the same.

Now, I myself am on the receiving end, reading these stories once they have been published and printed. And yes, I am still touched by them as I sit on my couch, 6,000 kilometres from Kathmandu. These stories are essential for me and many others to keep our deep interest in and commitment to Nepal, its people and UMN. So, keep up the good work!

STEFAN ÖSTMAN, SWEDEN

UMN Appointee, 1998-2003



DEVELOPMENT *and* TRANSFORMATION

"Halve world poverty by 2015!" With great fanfare, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were launched by the United Nations in 2000, and development agencies and activists around the world worked hard to urge governments to keep the promises they had made to the world's poor. Fifteen years later, we can see great gains – a decrease in absolute poverty, increases in literacy and child survival, improved access to water, sanitation and health, better gender equality. But still a long, long way to go.

Ed Metzler reflected on the gap between what we want to achieve and what actually happens in his Editorial in *UMNews* #2, January 1992.

It has become apparent that the results of economic development benefitted some more than others, and for most probably made little difference. There were still the problems of how humans related to each other with fairness and justice. Political attempts to achieve such equity have not been very successful."

As Christians, we know that true transformation can only come with deep, spiritual change within individuals, families, communities and whole societies – change in the way people relate to each other, to the Creation, and to God himself. We are aware that the development work we do is only part of the process; we trust that as we demonstrate God's love, his Spirit will open people's hearts to deeper levels of transformation. This has been UMN's experience over more than 60 years.

UMN's new 2015-2020 *Strategic Plan* reflects our desire to go beyond development towards community transformation. Here's how we think about this:

Community transformation is a long-term process of continuous positive change in which people move from a **Life of Poverty** towards **Fullness of Life**, at individual, family and community level.

Community transformation involves:

- ➔ Building on the strengths, skills, knowledge, capacities, assets, dreams and aspirations of the poorest of the people living in poverty;
- ➔ Working towards more just and equitable power relationships;
- ➔ Achieving lasting changes in worldview, values and attitudes of all in the community;
- ➔ Breaking down or overcoming the barriers that prevent people from moving towards **Fullness of Life**.

In practical terms, over the next five years we will continue to work through partner organisations, developing their capacity, both technically and organisationally. We will continue to work in the same geographical areas, though we are open to extending these should funding permit. And we will keep supporting programmes in similar technical areas. In this, we will support the efforts of the Government of Nepal to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which replace the MDGs.

But we want much more than this. Ed Metzler's words from 1992 still sum up our aspirations.

The challenge is not to lose sight of the ultimate goal of development, which is the transformation of the human community into what its Creator intended. This means that our thinking and efforts must include not only economic and social development, but also the human relationship to God. This requires great humility and openness. But to do any less would be to settle for mere development, instead of true transformation."



BUILDING and STRENGTHENING

UMN supporters perhaps wonder why UMN established good schools, hospitals and organisations in Nepal and then handed them over to Nepali management. It is great to receive this kind of appreciation and trust from communities in Nepal, and that is evident when they say "UMN should stay with us longer".

UMN's Vision, Mission and working approach are unique in the sense that UMN believes in building, strengthening and training Nepali people and organisations to the extent that we can confidently place project design, management and implementation in their hands.

In the early 1990s, right after the successful people's movement in Nepal, absolute monarchy came to an end and multi-party free democratic government emerged. UMN did some hard thinking as to what its role would be in the new political scenario, which was very different from the beginnings of UMN in the early 50s. In the first issue of UMNNews (below), Executive Director Ed Metzler's column reported that the Board

of Directors expressed a strong belief in building the capacity of Nepali people so that lasting and long-term projects could bless this nation. The present Board of Trustees, the Leadership Team and staff of UMN continue to stress this policy to the present day, even amidst a radically changed political context in Nepal.

Old issues of UMNNews not only confirm but emphasise UMN's role as a mission organisation that unambiguously wishes to strengthen and build the skills and capacity of Nepali staff and partners for the long-term good of this nation. In fact, UMNNews #2 (January 1992) was all about capacity development! The new 2015-2020 Strategic Plan does not deviate from this commitment. Without the development of capacity – organisational, technical and community-based – there will be no community transformation.

VIJETA SHRESTHA
Communications Manager



UMN is responding to this challenge of change. Last November the Board of Directors stated how they believe UMN should work in Nepal in the future. The statement affirms the long-standing intention to train Nepalis for the management of our work. We will support existing and new Nepali organisations that effectively enhance Nepali capacity for development."

Edgar Metzler, UMN Executive Director (1990-1998)
UMNNews #1, July 1991

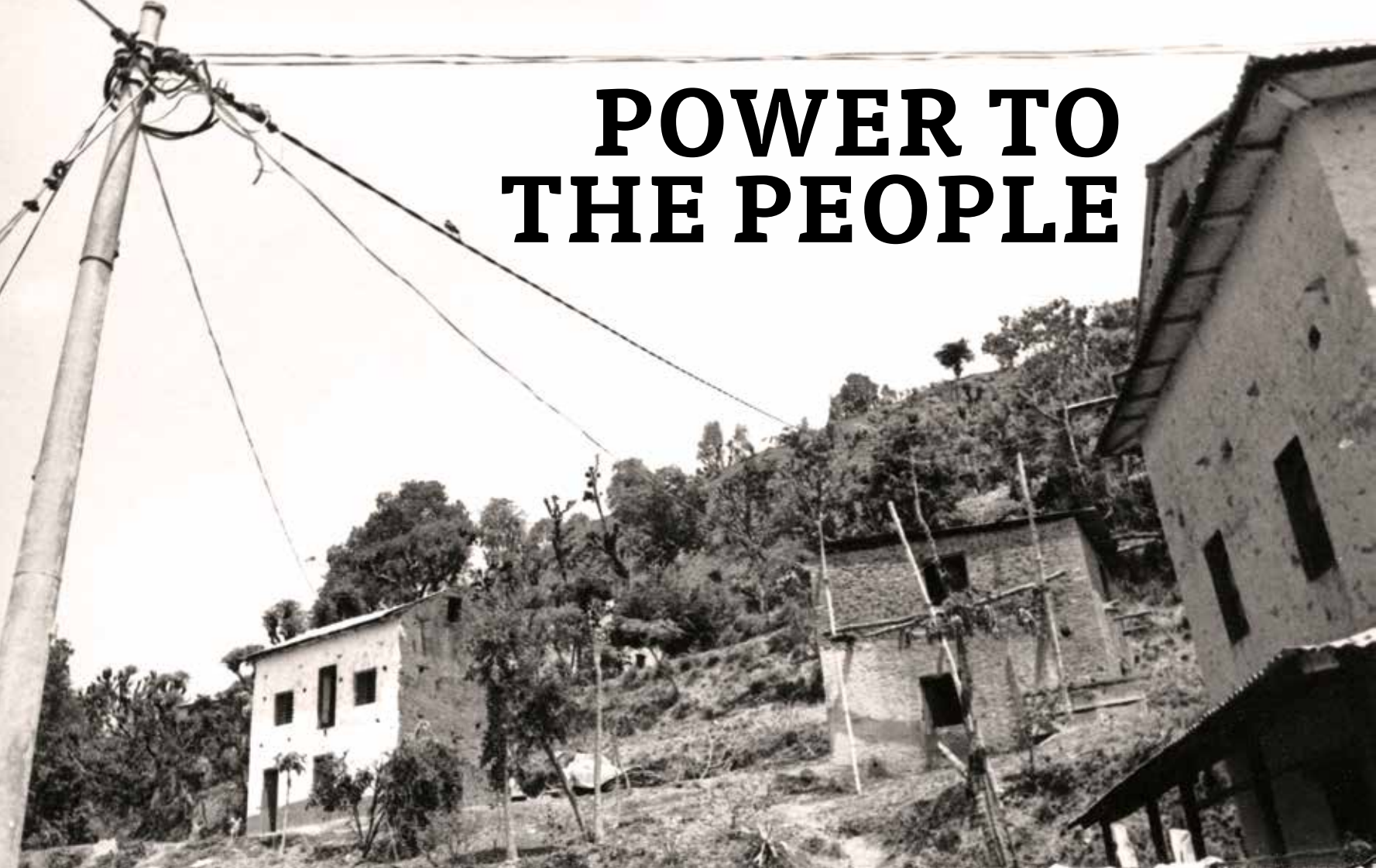
We believe that for the greatest long-term impact we should give highest priority to developing the capacity of Nepali organizations to respond to the needs of Nepal. In this way, UMN's demonstrated effectiveness in providing services to the poor, training individual Nepalis, developing Nepali companies and institutions, contributing to vital infrastructure, and modeling innovative approaches to meeting human need can be carried forward into the future by Nepali organisations."

From the United Mission to Nepal "Our Vision and Strategy into the 21st Century" document, 1996



YK Silwal, Additional Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Ed Metzler sign the general agreement document, November 1990.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE



Andhi Khola is now producing electricity. After ten years of construction work, the 5MW hydro-power station has begun to provide energy for lights, cooking, etc. A significant phase of the work in Andhi Khola is completed.

UMNews #1



Wandering up the main bazaar in Galyang, it was lit up like Blackpool! While my family back in Kathmandu were struggling with 14 hours a day of load shedding, here in the once sleepy village of Galyang in Syanga district, people were enjoying the benefits of 24/7 electricity. Twenty-seven years ago, I lived and worked in Galyang for UMN's Andhi Khola Project, and during my recent visit (January 2016), I was amazed at the change.

In July 1991, the very first *UMNews* proudly announced that after 10 years of construction, the turbines were finally spinning and producing electricity. Three Nepali Companies set up by UMN, Butwal Power Company, Nepal Hydro Electric and Himal Hydro, had combined to construct the necessary infrastructure for the Hydropower Plant at Galyang. But this project was not only about the construction of a hydropower plant – its goals were much bigger.

A lot of time and resources were used in training and building up the skills and expertise of local Nepalis in design, construction, manufacturing and project management. Back in the 1990s, the majority of people living around Galyang were subsistence farmers. UMN was renowned for its rural development programmes, and in the Andhi Khola project, the excess water from the power plant was used for improved irrigation. The

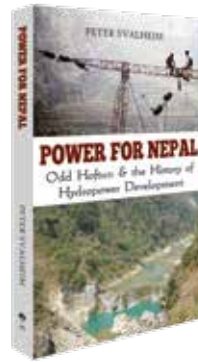
new irrigation canal was over 7km long, and provided much-needed water to the local farmers. Electricity was something new to the majority of the local people, and the third major goal was teaching people how to use this new resource. A team of ten talented and idealistic young Nepalis, recruited and trained by Dorothea Vestøl, visited villages and worked with communities to prepare for the coming of the power. This led to a whole range of community development initiatives.

During my recent visit, Mr Dol Kharel and Mr Thaneshwor Sharma from Butwal Power Company, which now owns and operates the Andhi Khola Hydropower Plant, happily showed me around the facilities. It was good to hear that it has been fully functioning throughout the years, and I was delighted to see the recently-completed upgrades. The headworks dam and desilting basin have been extended. A new vertical pressure shaft and three turbines have been installed in the extended powerhouse, and the tailrace tunnel has been enlarged and lengthened. As a result, the capacity of the power plant has nearly doubled from 5.4MW to 9.2MW. It was interesting to find out that a number of the BPC staff who started out as Butwal Technical Institute trainees at the age of 14 have worked their way up in running this plant. Dol, who is now the site manager, was one of these trainees.



Meeting Mr Khajendra Bhattarai, the current manager of Andhi Khola Water User's Association, was another highlight of my trip. UMN set this organisation up to run and manage the irrigation project using the excess water from the power plant. The original canal has been renamed the East canal after the completion of the new West canal nine months ago. Speaking with local farmers, it was obvious that the irrigation scheme continues to provide a much-needed resource for their farming, enabling the planting of crops during the dry season. Most of the houses along the canals had kitchen gardens which provide spices and vegetables to supplement family diets. In one location, a large nursery is producing saplings and shrubs used for slope stabilisation works.

The original rural electrification project piloted the installation of lights and the use of low wattage electrical cookers in rural households. Today's Galyang, however, is a far cry from this sleepy state. The guaranteed supply of regular electricity has allowed local businesses to form and flourish. There are now carpentry workshops producing sofas, wardrobes, cabinets and TV stands, metal fabrication shops making cabinets, gates, stairs and railings, as well as vehicle repair centres. I walked up one of the side streets where our drawing office had been located, and it hit me how



Odd Hoftun went from Pokhara to Tansen. When he passed by here and saw the rivers, he had a dream. He told about his dream. It became a rumour even then. Now the dream is fulfilled and the rumour has become true.

Local business owner Prem Raj, 2006
In "Power for Nepal", by Peter Svalheim



Blue Planet Prize

In December 2005, the International Hydropower Association awarded the Butwal Power Company the Blue Planet Prize for "excellence in socio-economic benefits and capacity-building" for its work on the Andhi Khola project. The IHA described the project thus:

"The pioneering approach, innovation, and application of technology all helped to reduce the costs of rural electrification, make electricity affordable for the first time to 22,000 low-income families. In addition, secure supplies of irrigation water have enabled the previously impoverished region to become a net exporter of food."

affluent Galyang had become. Opposite our office there used to be single storey godowns (small warehouses), used for storing ginger by middle men buying from local farmers and selling to distributors in Pokhara, Butwal and Kathmandu. Now there are multi-storey concrete framed buildings, with the ground floor shops predominantly selling gold and silver jewellery. It is a sleepy village no longer, but a bustling town.

One of the abiding memories of my visit was talking with a local woman, Sut Maya, whose late husband had worked for Himel Hydro in constructing the Andhi Khola power plant. She talked about the opportunities and facilities that UMN had provided, noting the fair distribution of resources. Her neighbours asked if I was from the Mission, and when were we going to come again. I departed from Andhi Khola feeling that UMN had made a real impact and left a lasting legacy to the people of Galyang.

As we started to roll, the driver fiddled with the car radio. He smiled and said: "They even have their own FM radio station!"

PETER LOCKWOOD

UMN Programme Advisor, formerly Civil Design Engineer with UMN's Engineering and Industrial Development Department (1988-89)

UMN GOES WEST



When the agreement for UMN to begin an ambitious Non-formal Education project in Jajarkot was signed in 1991, the literacy rate was around 14%; it was just 1% for women. But this project wasn't just about literacy. It aimed to "develop social awareness and the skills necessary for positive community development."

The Jajarkot NFE Project, launched in *UMNews* #1, was designed to cover all 30 Village Development Committee (VDC) areas in the district. At its height in 1997, it was conducting classes in 16 VDCs, and following up in eight. That year alone saw 196 toilets built, 1,550 kitchen gardens established, 220 public water taps repaired, 25 forest conservation projects carried out, 48 chautaras (resting places) rehabilitated and seven Village Reading Centres established.

In many ways, the Jajarkot Project was the fore-runner of the kind of community transformation work we still aspire to today. It aimed to build the capacity and confidence of communities, particularly women, to address their own development needs; it worked with whole communities, ensuring that the needs of the poorest of the people living in poverty were addressed; it invested in training to strengthen local skills in a wide range of areas.

Unfortunately, the security situation in Jajarkot deteriorated sharply, and the project had to be closed in 1999, having reached 28 out of 30 VDCs in the district. Subsequently, UMN has moved even further west – to Dailekh, Achaam and Jumla, and more recently to Mugu, Doti and Bajhang. These days, we work through partners, but still, we hope, integrating activities so that communities can grow and develop in a holistic way.

JAJARKOT REVISITED

"So Sila Dai, now you're an old man, when are you going to retire? You can live in my house." I nearly said yes; part of me wishes I had. Kali Bahadur has a great house with a spare room, where Indra, the Jajarkot NFE trainer lived with his wife and little son, who was a playmate for our own little boy, Gavin.

This was in November 2015, when Barb and I and two wonderful friends, Andrew and Jane, visited Jhapra, the village we lived in for three years in the early 1990s.

For Andrew and Jane it was all new. I envied them the opportunity to see it all for the first time. For me it was different – meeting old friends, and seeing their children, now adults with their own children. Since leaving this project, my continuing work to support education in Nepal has given me many opportunities to visit villages like Jhapra and get a feeling about what's going on. In many cases, not much, which is understandable, given the relentless need to plough, sow, reap and look after the animals. They do all that in Jhapra but also a lot more.

Kali Bahadur laughed when I asked him about the fish ponds he and others were building the last time I visited. It flopped. My friend moved on to show me the other new ideas he was trying out. In fact there is lot of new stuff going on all over the village. Farmers were dragging plastic pipes to water their fields, giving the winter wheat a boost. The village looked as

if someone had dumped black spaghetti over it. I saw at least two farmers chatting on their mobiles while they rested during ploughing with oxen.

That's what stood out – the willingness to try new things. Not everything worked, but the response is: "Let's try something else!"

I wanted to see things that I had invested time in: education for girls and young women, toilets, kitchen gardens. These are no longer special – they're commonplace. The head teacher doesn't know how I felt when I realized she was from the village, as are most of the teachers. "Of course all the children go to school. Why wouldn't they?" she asked, puzzled. She doesn't remember when there was no school, or the long debates lit by kerosene lamps about the possibility of having their own school. Years after we left, they build one, by themselves. Now the government pays for half the teachers; the rest are paid for by the local families.

Of course the project can't claim all the credit – that belongs to the villagers. We only brought ideas. For me, the most important was that in sharing an idea, you could talk together, understand whatever it was you were talking about, and then do something about it.

And that's what the villagers of Jhapra are still doing!

SILA DAI, aka REG NAYLOR
Jajarkot NFE Project Community Development Section, 1992-1995



IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

When I knew UMN was going to work in mid-western Nepal through Jajarkot NFE, I said: "Thank you God, and whoever made this decision. This is the right time!" When the government approved the agreement, my husband Dr KB Rokaya and I were so happy to hear the news.

The project started in Jhapra – a beautiful place, but not easy to go back and forth. After some time there was a group that was not happy; they even tried to disturb the work. Being the President of Jajarkoti Sewa Samaj, I was able to raise my voice on the behalf of the people. It was good that the NFE continued for 10 years.

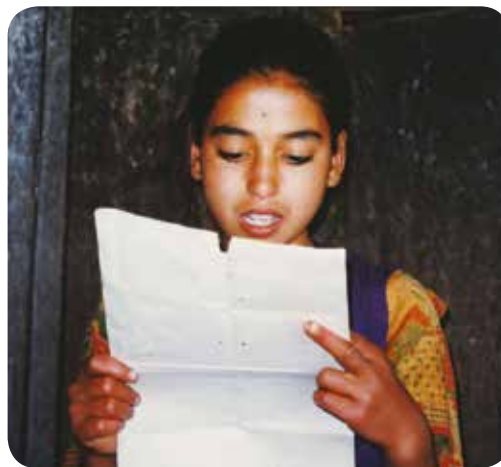
When I was in Jajarkot, I visited the women's groups with Shila Nepali in Suganauli at night. It was so good to meet people of all ages. They were very interested to listen until late at night. What a great time, to be with village people to share and learn from their valuable experience and wisdom!

Both men and women got job opportunities which empowered them economically, from high levels to the grassroots level as facilitators and motivators. This gave personal self-reliance and dignity, especially for women.



Families came to understand the value of education, and were motivated to send their children to school, specially the girls. I wish it could have continued longer. I was not able to do much, but was happy to be involved directly and indirectly, especially through prayer.

DRAUPATI ROKAYA



"Your project didn't come here to fix our problems, but to give us the skills so we could fix them ourselves."

A Jhapra villager, 2015



"I have learned some new effective NFE methods... To meet people from other areas and types of projects is very helpful. They understand things I don't know, and vice versa."

Bimala Shah, one of the first NFE facilitators, trained in 1992

"Through NFE classes I have learned many things that I can apply to my life and even teach others. I don't feel so useless anymore. Old habits can change, and people's lives can get better."

An NFE participant whose knowledge about the treatment of diarrhoea saved the lives of her sister and sister-in-law, 1996

“The more things change, the more they stay the same,” according to the proverb. Michael Brown, designer of that group of five silhouettes that are central to UMN’s logo and have been sitting and discussing together since 1993, shares their story.

In the early 1990s, I had the great pleasure of working with the UMN Communications Director Olaf Konneback, from Sweden. Olaf started *UMNews* as a large format magazine that documented various UMN development projects, along with successes and challenges. At this time, the challenge of updating UMN’s corporate identity and logo emerged. The original UMN logo depicted Bhimsen Tower in Kathmandu (destroyed in the 2015 earthquake), with Nepali script turned into western style lettering. We felt that the urban connection along with the “make-believe” lettering was out of step with UMN’s values as the organisation evolved.

The process of designing a new logo began with UMN’s values and mission statement, clarification of the contexts in which the logo needed to work and the audiences involved. An important audience group were rural Nepali beneficiaries of UMN projects in areas where literacy rates were low. So a logo with a strong visual presence was needed.

A series of about ten pictorial images depicting development activities were drawn and tested with a range of audience groups. The challenge was to find an image that embraced the diversity of UMN’s work. We also needed to avoid images used by political groups, such as the sun or ploughs. From these, three were chosen and further refined. United Mission to Nepal was added in both Nepali script and English, with the Nepali coming higher in the design for prominence.

Further pilot testing led to the selection of a final design. This showed community interaction involving female and male participants, something that all UMN activities could relate to. It also suggested the values of capacity building, participation and local ownership, which were all key principles of UMN’s work. The logo first appeared in *UMNews* #4, 1993.

Introducing the new logo was not easy, as people are always resistant to change. However, it was easy to explain, and the changes justifiable. A few years later, after Olof and I had left UMN, the logo was amended. A sun was introduced and the text altered. These changes conflicted with our original research and design rationale, but change is constant and new people have new ideas, keeping UMN going forward.

MICHAEL BROWN
UMN Appointee 1990-1995

CHANGING, and STAYING the SAME



Change is Constant

The first reworking of the logo developed by Michael occurred in 2003, with changes to the text and the addition of the orange rising sun. The intention was to update the fonts, and introduce colour. According to *UMNews* #15, “the sun is positive, and conveys hope for the future.” The designers intended that it would remind folk of UMN’s direction, “towards the hope and anticipation of a new dawn.”

With the help of graphic designer Phil Rawlings, we “freshened up” the logo again in 2011 (*UMNews* #31), changing the shape to a more usable portrait rectangle, and just using the bold letters “UMN” to make the logo more visible in small sizes and from a distance. A custom font was made especially for the logo and then later used for the mast head of *UMNews*.

That little group of five figures is still there though, still representing capacity building, participation and local ownership, as Michael and his team intended.



UMNews #4 carried this photo (inset) of four staff members wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the new logo. Three have left, but Rajanee Nyachhyon (right) is still with UMN. Here (2nd left), she joins Hasta, Dhana Lama and Phil, displaying the four logos UMN has used over its 61 years.

UMN HOSPITALS SERVE MORE



“Will the UMN hospitals survive economically?” was the question under this headline on the cover of *UMNews* #1. Beleaguered Health Directors and Hospital Directors have pondered this since 1954! The story under the headline discussed the increasing patient demands, particularly at United Mission Hospital Tansen, and reported on the recent expansion programme. The new Medical Ward was to provide an additional 25 beds, bringing the total to 127 beds. “That means we can treat more than 5,000 inpatients each year,” explained Hospital Director Dr Risto Gobius.

At that time, UMN operated four hospitals; at Patan, Tansen, Amp Pipal and Okhaldhunga. It provided medical care to 17,000 inpatients and 300,000 outpatients every year. “The need is enormous,” commented UMN Treasurer Lynn Miller. “Unfortunately, we find it difficult to raise enough funds for this ministry.”

Since then, UMN’s involvement in running hospitals has reduced, with Amp Pipal Hospital handed over to the community in 2001 and Patan Hospital handed over to the Government in 2008. However, UMN’s hospitals in Tansen and Okhaldhunga continue to provide an invaluable service to their local communities. In total, they provided care to 17,631 inpatients in 2014-2015 – more than through four hospitals in 1991 – though the number of outpatients was less at only 127,663. Together, the two hospitals provided NRP 28,179,983 (USD 271,837) in free care to those who could not otherwise afford treatment.

One of the reasons is the continued expansion of both hospitals. A skim through Friends of Tansen reveals almost continuous building work there: new housing for doctors and nurses in 1996; a Maternity wing in 2004; Orthopaedic and Paediatric wards in 2006 and an Emergency building in 2008. The Carl Friedericks Building, providing accommodation and classrooms, opened in 2014. And that’s not counting renovation and rewiring, alterations and minor additions. In 2015, a huge new water tank

was built under the old tennis court, to protect the hospital somewhat from recurring water shortages.

Meanwhile in Okhaldhunga, an ambitious building programme is nearing completion. The new TB Ward, Outpatients’ Department, Pharmacy and Dental building were opened in 2014-2015. The main building, containing a Maternity Ward, General Ward, Intensive Care Ward, Children’s Ward and operating theatres, will be completed early in 2016. The new buildings will be very “green”. A biogas plant will provide gas for cooking; organic waste will fertilise the kitchen gardens; a reed bed will treat wastewater, and an impressive array of solar panels is already reducing reliance on diesel generators and the unpredictable mains power system.

UMN hospitals “serve more” in other ways too. One of these is training. Courses for Skilled Birth Attendants, Anaesthesia Assistants, Pastoral Care staff and Mid-Level Practicum for health care workers are among the ways in which UMN hospitals continue to fulfil their commitment to train Nepali health professionals. UMN partners with the Nick Simons Institute to provide postgraduate training for doctors (MDGP), and pioneered a Paediatric Nursing programme. Meanwhile, the Community Health Department in Tansen and the Public Health Unit in Okhaldhunga are involved in many grass-roots level training programmes in schools, and with women’s groups, community health volunteers and other community groups.

“Will the hospitals survive economically?” Financial sustainability is probably too much to expect. However, generous donations from individuals and organisations have enabled UMN hospitals to continue to provide high quality care to those who need it, and cannot afford it. Again and again, God’s faithfulness has been proved. Needs have been met, funds found, equipment purchased or provided, and buildings extended. Through His grace, UMN hospitals continue to “serve more”.



Tansen Hospital site, 1959



Odd Hofton at the new hospital in Tansen



Building work at Tansen is continuous



Installing the new water tank in 2015



Okhaldhunga building in the 80s



Okhaldhunga Community Hospital, 2000



The new building at Okhaldhunga, 2015

EARTHQUAKE UPDATE



"Winterisation" is a new word among development organisations in Nepal. After the earthquake, the monsoon soon followed, and its impact on people living under tarpaulins was a matter of great concern. Now, it is the winter. How are the poor families surviving? How can we help them during these cold months? Any help given toward making their tents/shacks a little more resistant to the harsh winter conditions is winterisation.

This year, families in the hilly regions are facing the bitterly cold Himalayan winter in temporary shelters and shacks, huddled together under tarpaulins and tin sheets. Mothers are trying to keep their babies warm and dry under leaking roofs. Sadly, the reconstruction has been held up by political instability and the border blockade in the south, leaving the northerners literally out in the cold.

In response to these difficult circumstances, UMN's Disaster Response Team delivered 4,668 warm blankets and sleeping mats to 2,334 families in Jharlang, Lapa and Ree in North Dhading.

SHELTERING IN A CAVE



This cave is what Bam Bahadur Tamang, 61, of Lapa VDC, calls home. He and his wife Mijam have been staying here since a landslide caused by the earthquakes of April last year destroyed their village. Fourteen other families were also forced to find some kind of shelter. Their son and his family are in a temporary camp in Demjong. They are all still too afraid to return to their own land, because of the risk of further landslides. "It is very hard to sleep at night," says Mijam. "We are very scared, so we sleep near the opening. If there is another earthquake, we can easily get out and run away."

Bam Bahadur and Mijam received two blankets and two mattresses from UMN, as part of the winterisation project. This is helpful, as the cave is cold, and the winter is very harsh.

But Bam Bahadur and Mijam's troubles are not just about shelter. They lost 16 goats out of 32, and two cows during the earthquake and landslide. Their small plot of land is also gone. Because they could not produce food this year, they are relying on emergency rations. The water supply has also been damaged, as the landslide washed away the pipeline and they have to walk one hour to bring drinking water.

They have heard that the government will be providing funds to help them reconstruct their house, but they do not know when. Bam Bahadur asks: "When and how do we rebuild our house? When will the government money come? Is there anyone to support us? We need help!"

Even though they live in the cave, this elderly couple served our UMN team a cup of black tea and popcorn, and asked if we were coming back to see them. The warm clothes we brought were much appreciated.

DURGA BAHADUR THAPA
Psycho-social Support Officer



THANK YOU, UMN!

Bommaya Ghale is a young mother (just 19 years of age) with a newborn child. She and her husband Gaja Ghale live in an extended family with nine other family members. Now they are in the temporary shelter in Demjong with about 66 other families. Demjong in Lapa VDC is a very cold place, located at a high altitude. It is very difficult for them to cope with the severe cold of the winter in temporary shelters.

Warm clothes and blankets provided by UMN have helped her and her child to cope with the cold. She said it has been very difficult for them to stay in temporary shelter with newborn child. She was afraid of her baby catching cold or pneumonia. When she received warm clothes, she was very happy and thanked UMN for helping them to cope with winter.

DURGA BAHADUR THAPA
Psycho-social Support Officer





PRAY

Please continue to pray for the UMN Disaster Response Team. They are working hard planning, traveling, visiting people in need and of course constantly striving to try and restore earthquake affected communities.

Pray for families who are still living in temporary shelters this winter and who plan to eventually farm on their land again. Please pray particularly for UMN's mason training programme that will soon be underway in North and South Dhading.

Pray for the implementation of UMN's new strategic plan, and for the various teams as they work with it to fulfill UMN's mission and vision.

Pray for the on-going expansion and building project of Okahdhunga Hospital which is almost complete now. We praise God for his faithfulness and his provisions over the years which have made it possible for the hospital to serve the needy people in Okhaldhunga.



JOIN US

UMN's cross-cultural teams provide opportunities for suitably skilled expatriates to work with Nepali colleagues, sharing technical skills and demonstrating God's loving concern for all people, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable.

Expatriate team members do not receive a salary or remuneration from UMN directly, but are self-supported volunteers, or supported by a sending mission or church in their home country. If you are interested in any of these (three listed below) positions, or if you would like to ask about other opportunities for service in UMN, please contact Valerie Lockwood at expat.recruitment@umn.org.np to learn more. Send your CV or resumé with your email.

PRIORITY NEEDS

General Surgeons and ENT Surgeons – for United Mission Hospital Tansen, to deal with both elective and emergency surgery and to teach and mentor junior Nepali doctors. Flexibility, the ability to work in a resource-limited setting and an interest in teaching are required. For visa purposes, applicants must currently be registered with the national regulating body in their own country. Long-term applicants preferred.

Funding Advisor – required to initiate and develop fundraising from multiple donor channels, to assist in implementing UMN's funding strategy and to contribute to all aspects of funding activities. Should have previous experience, with good written, verbal and interpersonal skills.

Integral Mission Advisor – reporting to the IM Team Leader. Post holder will promote, encourage and facilitate Integral Mission, aiming to build the capacity of UMN partners, staff members and relevant Church communities. Significant experience in a leadership position with a relevant organisation and of working with local Churches in development required. Spiritually mature candidate with education in social development/theology fields.

Learning Policy and Strategy Advisor – required to strengthen UMN's small but expanding LPS team. In the upcoming strategic plan (2015-20), UMN will put a significant emphasis on learning throughout the organisation and, along with a passion for learning, we need skills in one or more of: research, technical writing, monitoring, evaluation, learning systems, knowledge management and programme design.



TELL OTHERS

FRIENDS OF UMN IS A REGULAR MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAMME

FRIENDS
of **UNITED MISSION to NEPAL**

Commit to a regular monthly gift, through your debit or credit card. The amount is up to you. UMN will send you an e-receipt each month, and an annual statement for your records. You will also receive UMNNews four times a year, and occasional email updates and prayer requests.

Regular donations like this are very helpful for us – they give us some certainty about income, and allow us to budget more effectively. We can make firm commitments to our partners when you are committed to us!

Visit umn.org.np/friends and follow the prompts to sign up as a Friend.



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HOW TO GIVE...

- ➔ Make out a cheque or money order payable to United Mission to Nepal. Make a note indicating how you would like your donation to be used. Post it! (to: UMN, PO Box 126, Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal)
- ➔ Use your credit or debit card and give via PayPal.
 - ➔ Go to www.umn.org.np/page/give-paypal and follow the instructions and you will be redirected to the PayPal page.
 - ➔ Use your PayPal information to donate from your PayPal account.
- OR
- ➔ Don't have a PayPal account? No problem, follow the instructions above and click on [Don't have a PayPal account?](#) to make a payment using your Debit/Credit card.

HASTA LAI BYASTA!*

AIR MAIL

Hasta is one of the longest serving members of staff at UMN. He has worked here for 28 years (including his time with DCP) and has been around for all 50 issues of UMNNews.



Q&A WITH HASTA

What is your role in the production of UMNNews?

I come in at the beginning and at the end of UMNNews. At the first stage I help to get the quotes from the printers and then we send the final print ready artwork to the printer. Then at the end, when UMNNews is delivered to UMN I manage the major job of labeling and dispatch.

What has changed over the years?

A lot has changed. Earlier, any correction in the final text was a difficult job. We had to make a new negative again. Any extra dots and lines had to be corrected with white ink correction pen. We didn't know what it would look like until the bulk arrived from the press. Now, we get a press copy, and it is very easy to make final corrections on the computer. Many staff members have changed at the post office counter over the years, but I am the constant.

Do you want to share any interesting story from the early production days of UMNNews?

In the earlier issues my major role was the dispatch of UMNNews. We printed around 7,000 copies then and they were bigger in size. I remember on one of our trips to the post office I had taken a motor scooter with a big load of UMNNews tied to the back seat. I usually took a bicycle otherwise. I don't know if it was the load or my driving skills, but I fell with the scooter to one side in the main road and I had to pick up all the copies and reload again.

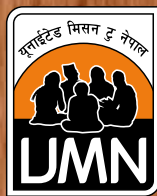
What do you like most about your work at the Communications Team?

I am involved in so many things that I have no time to think about what I enjoy. It is hectic sometimes, but although I am busy, I am happy. If you are not busy you are not working. I feel happy when old UMNers remember me and greet me when they visit Nepal, some of them even remember my name. I also feel so happy and relieved when we receive a publication from the press and the designers and the team are happy with the quality.



P.O. Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal

*Hasta lai byasta, roughly translated, means "Hasta is busy!". It is a play on the phrase "Hasta la vista!"



Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society

UNITED MISSION TO NEPAL

PO Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone: +977 1 4228118, 4268900

Fax: +977 1 4225559

communications@umn.org.np

umn.org.np