

Key to the

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UMN^{news}

United Mission to Nepal



*Let them give glory to the LORD and
proclaim his praise in the islands.*

Isaiah 42:12



November 2004

Dear Friends,

Looking back on the past couple of years as the planning for the UMN 50th anniversary gradually increased in intensity, I am so grateful for the many ways in which we have been able to give thanks to God.

Once again, I want to pay tribute to all the people, both in Nepal and in the celebration locations around the world, who worked so hard to make things happen.

As you read the following reports and personal reflections I hope you too, will be inspired and provoked to give thanks to God. Our slogan "50 Years In God's Hand" and the theme of "Life more abundant" have pervaded all our productions and presentations. My daily prayer is that UMN will continue to be a tool in God's hand to bring life-changing influences into the lives of Nepali people.

DS McConkey

David McConkey
Liaison Director
(UMN 50th Anniversary
Committee Chairman)

Latest News

Attack on Mugu

On the night of 31st October, the Maoists launched a major attack on Gamgadhi, the district headquarter of Mugu. Several government offices and those of a non-government organisation and a international non-government organisation were destroyed. There was one UMN staff member there at the time - Kirsti Kirjavainen. Maoists came to her apartment at midnight and took some cash, a camera and a phone. Thankfully, Kirsti was not harmed in any way and she gives thanks for prayers and support. Our office was not affected. Reports tell of only one Maoist killed and one civilian injured in the ensuing gun battle. Pray for the ongoing work of our Mugu Cluster team in the aftermath of this attack.

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Celebration of God's work - all united in Spirit.

The 50th anniversary celebrations in Sweden were a great success, the highlight being a reunion weekend in Örebro. Guests of honour were Loknath and Rosie Manaen. We started Saturday 6th March with a seminar in which Loknath spoke, mainly about the development of the Nepali church.

We were particularly delighted that despite being very old Jean Malm was able to take part in the celebration. He never served in Nepal himself, but in Northern India. He was instrumental in InterAct's (previously Swedish Baptist Mission, or Örebro Mission) involvement in the initiatives, which led to the forming of UMN. We had a wonderful varied programme with glimpses of the history of UMN as well as the future, and of InterAct's involvement.

An appreciated part of the programme was the interview with

Carna Elfgaard (who together with her husband Ragnar, who passed away last year, were InterAct's first missionaries to Nepal). Lennart Hambre, InterAct's Director, thanked all missionaries for their commitment over the years, in times of trouble as well as of joy, and praised God for the fruit that we have seen in Nepal.

After celebrating in Örebro, Loknath and Rosie Manaen and Stefan and Marie Östman made

a tour of churches and schools in Sweden. We met some 2000 people, had the opportunity to be interviewed by a Christian national daily newspaper and participated in a regional radio programme.

It is wonderful that we can celebrate God's work in Nepal in many different languages and places but all united in Spirit. May the work continue with great success for another 50 years!



Stefan Östman



Marie Östman, Rosie and Loknath Manaen, Stefan Östman performing the UMN anniversary song

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." *Matthew 5:9*

New Zealand's UMN celebration was held in March. A group met in Auckland to celebrate UMN's 50th anniversary. A highlight was looking at a selection of the archives photos: being such a small group, people were able to add their comments and stories to the photos. It was great having some photos of the new areas that UMN is planning to work in. It was also a good time of catching up with people for whom Nepal has been an important part of their lives.



New Zealanders catch up and celebrate together UMN's 50th Anniversary



Heather Millais



"The Word of God does not return empty."



Michael Askwith



The UK has traditionally been one of the largest sending countries of UMN appointees, through about six member bodies. So it was only fitting that an event be organised from 30th July to 1st August to bring together former UMNers from the UK and Ireland. The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire proved to be an excellent location for 300 people, including 60 children, to come together for a weekend of reminiscing, reunion, fun and

gave an epilogue, and all the talking with old friends began.

On the Saturday Asbjorn Voreland combined Bible study with stories of experiences in Nepal. Also on Saturday a "Focus on Nepal" featured Betty Young reflecting on 'UMN's beginnings'. Ann and David McConkey brought us up-to-date on the thinking behind the UMN changes and UMN's new vision and strategy, as well as current realities regarding expatriate personnel.

About a dozen UMNers shared an amusing series of reminiscences, songs, poems and stories, which managed to cement in our minds precious experiences shared by many of us. This was followed by a slide show on the Khimti hydroelectric project by Peter Harwood. On Sunday Asbjorn shared a second message, this time on the theme "*The Word of God does not return empty.*" The weekend was brought to a fitting conclusion with a wonderful communion service and message led by Neil Hall, with the music group led by Paul Drinkwater.

Important features of the weekend were the numerous tea, coffee and meal breaks, which gave many - but never enough - opportunities for informal chat and catching up; prayer groups each morning, and a series of reunions in cluster groups by period of service, and technical department.

And what did the weekend mean to participants? "*It was wonderful to meet with old friends and to feel inspired about Nepal again,*" said one participant. "*A little bit like heaven! Lovely to catch up with so many friends and focus on all that God is doing in Nepal,*" said another. "*I have felt privileged to be here, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,*" said a third. "*It's been incredible to remember all the amazing things God has done in Nepal and our lives, and to be a part of it,*" said a fourth. And one of the Nepali participants wrote: "*Congratulations UMN! Thank you all for what you have done in the name of Jesus*



50th Anniversary Reunion, Swanwick, Derbyshire

celebration of an organisation, which had meant something special in each of their lives. We were delighted that it was also a small international gathering with folk from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, U.S.A., Canada, and Nepal itself.

Bill Gould opened the proceedings on Friday evening, the anniversary video was shown, Neil Hall (formerly KICC pastor)

Then in the third part Bal Krishna Sharma and Bhab Ghale, both studying in the UK, gave us an encouraging update on 'The Church in Nepal'. During the afternoon an extra session enabled our five Nepali participants to answer questions on Nepal and the situation in the church.

After supper, Christine Stone, compèred a memorable "*Music and Memories: An Evening with Something for Everyone.*"



UK reunion organising Committee members from left to right: Michael Askwith, Bill Gould, Margaret Gould, Andrew Keenan, Rachel Keenan and Richard Clark.

Christ in my country. May the Lord continue to make the vision clearer, and to be led by His Spirit. May God bless you more and more in the future."

After a year of planning and preparation by a committee made up of Michael Askwith, Bill and Margaret Gould,

Richard Clark, and Andrew and Rachel Keenan, all accounts indicated that the weekend had been a very happy and successful event, blessed by sunny weather, in a beautiful environment. The target of 300 participants had been reached, and the feared shortfall of numbers and finances turned into a full coverage of costs. In addition, an offering taken at the Communion Service raised about £6,500 to be divided between the UMN Anniversary Appeal and the UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust. All in all, a great answer to much prayer and support by all.

In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:4

Australia is an awfully big place. So trying to organise a UMN anniversary event that gave as many people as possible the chance to participate was quite a challenge. We finally settled on Sydney.

Our weekend opened with Betty Strothers, one of the earliest pioneers of UMN, sharing her recollections from the 1950s. Betty served as a nurse at the cholera hospital, and later moved on to Shanta Bhawan. Other "old-timers" included Jean Raddon (from INF) and the irrepressible Howard Barclay. Rowan Butler's slide show took us right back to Nepal, and left us homesick for chickens on bicycles, and the temples of Patan at sunrise.

It was wonderful to have Jennie Collins with us. Her willingness to chat with folk, answer questions, and help us understand current issues was much appreciated. Her pictures and

comments about the celebrations in Nepal and in other countries certainly helped us feel part of the world wide UMN family.

On Sunday morning, Bishop John Reid began his sermon with the story of the boy possessed by a demon (Mark 9:17-29). He told how the disciples had tried to cast the demon out, but only Jesus was able to relieve the child's suffering. Jesus' words "This kind can only come out by prayer" reminded us of the many faithful Christians who had prayed for

so long – for years before 1954 – and challenged us to continue to pray, even in the face of difficulties and discouragement.

We ate Nepali food, wore Nepali clothes, sang Nepali choruses, and shared Nepali memories. In all our celebrations, it was great to remember the contributions of the pioneers of the past, but even greater to think that the next 50 years are also "in God's hand", and we are privileged to play just a small "bit part" in his mighty drama.



Lyn Jackson



The Eastern Australia UMN gathering in Sydney: Old-timers and younger folk celebrating together

"God gave us memories that we might have roses in December."

J.M.Barrie



Maija Holbrook



The weekend celebrations in Niagara Falls were a special time! We had lots of pictures on the walls from Nepal (sent from UMN specially for the 50th anniversary celebrations) and booklets etc. We also put a huge map of Nepal on the window, and turn-by-turn each of us put little sticky notes on various places in Nepal where we had worked. We shared some of our stories, experiences, people we knew and lots of

praise and prayer items. Also we had some Nepali snacks and real mango juice to top it off...

Some of the highlights during the weekend celebrations included watching the video "Life More Abundant", a slide show put together by Norman Holbrook and Harvey Kehl and another one from Jumla and Mugu. Sunday morning we had a small church service where we shared and prayed for many

people and projects in Nepal and for the whole future of that land. We also shared about people in Nepal who had touched and enriched our lives – what a blessing! Of course we walked down to the Falls and took some photos.

We thank all who made this celebration a special blessing. Even though some of the Ex-UMNers around Eastern Canada were not able to join us in the UMN 50th anniversary celebrations, they were there with us in our thoughts and prayers.

In conclusion, I would like to share the Bible verse that we founded our weekend on: 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

May God bless you as you follow and serve Him!



From left to right: Edna Clysdale (Tansen: 1962-1981), Helga and Nick Peters (Butwal: 1974-1980), Theo & Beth Beels (Kathmandu: 1977-1979), Arlene & Harvey Kehl (Tansen: 1959-1962), Jane Maass (behind Sohns) (Butwal: 1993-1994), Eun-Ja & Kun-Young Sohn (Kathmandu: 1998-2002), Maija and Norman Holbrook (Jumla: 1985-1990, 1996-1997, Kathmandu: 1998-2000).

Praise the Lord, all you nations; ...

Psalm 117:1



Dhananjay Pathak



In a beautiful town in Germany on a sunny day in September about 60 people came together to celebrate the work of UMN.

Making creative use of a Nepali doko (bamboo basket) for introduction, Richard and Kordula Kugele opened the introduction session of all the participants.

Dhananjay Pathak and Dr. K.B. Rokaya presented sessions on

UMN's development work and the Christian community's response to the human rights situation in Nepal respectively. These were followed by small group discussions.

In the Sunday service on the 26th Sept. Rev. Tobias Treseler, the Executive Director of Gossner Mission explained about the special partnership enjoyed by Gossner Mission and UMN. Bernd Krause, UMN Board

member translated Jennie's letter to him into German and read by Dhananjay Pathak in English.

Using a German translation the congregation joined in singing the 50th Anniversary song. Working with a translator, Dr. Rokaya challenged the congregation to consider "What God wants his people to be doing?"

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10



Carl Friedericks sharing memories of Nepal

Ron Stoufer opened the celebration, highlighting the theme of "50 years in God's Hand." Paul Kennel, President of World Concern welcomed everyone. The participants introduced themselves and shared one

Nepal memory each. Some recalled praying for the door to Nepal to open, while others mentioned their love for the Nepali people and how their faith developed through their experiences in Nepal.

Karen Stoufer explained UMN's mission and vision, and gave an update on the change process that UMN has been working through the last two years, including working more through partnerships, locations of new geographic working locations, the new governance board, and the changing envi-

ronment in Nepal (increasing maturity of the church, Maoist insurgency, and pending government legislation).

Dr Carl and Betty Anne Friedericks shared about their first visit to Nepal and the history of the founding of Tansen Hospital. UMN's 50th Anniversary Video was shown, Nepali choruses and hymns were sung and people prayed for Nepal.

At the end of the programme, a Nepali meal of rice, lentils, curry, samosas, and Nepali tea was served.



Ron and Karen Stoufer



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

The partnership between United Mission to Nepal and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission began back in 1977, when the first FELM seconded Board Appointees arrived in Nepal.

Countrywide campaigns

It is customary that FELM organises two annual country-wide fundraising campaigns in the spring and in the autumn.

Spring 2004 Equinox Campaign

The FELM spring campaign highlighted United Mission to Nepal in transition to indigenous ownership and implementation.

Mrs. Diana Prabha Pradhan, the leader of the Partner Transition

Team, was invited to be the chief guest. During two weeks of her stay in the country she was asked to give a number of presentations, and talks, meet officials and youth groups, and take part in congregational activities and services.

Important Interactions

Apart from congregational and social activities Diana met a group of Finnish Government officials.

It was a good meeting with an opportunity for intriguing discussion and Diana captured the officials with her fascinating and persuasive way of talking. The UMN history and current transition process were explained, and it was very important to FELM also to have such

indigenous representation to strengthen the support base in Finland.

Diana had an opportunity to hold press conferences, and personal press interviews. Diana was also interviewed on Radio Dei, which is a Christian radio channel. She proved her worth in being a true ambassador.



Leo Huostila



Diana Pradhan (centre) during her visit in Finland celebration

May your blessing be on your people.

Psalm 3:8



Grethe Raddum



Since UMN announced the year of jubilee, we in Norway thought we could fill the year of 2004 with celebration events. We started out in February at the annual Winter gathering for Norwegian Himal-Asia Mission. Odd and Tullis Hoftun had been asked to contribute with the story of UMN through 50 years, as they saw it. They gave a talk meant for us who knew UMN and could follow the details. We gave them a challenge: Would they be willing to visit cities and towns in Norway in a celebration/information round? They hesitated a little, saying that they wanted to test it out in the event planned for March 6th, almost on the date of the 50th anniversary. On March 6th, they gave a talk tailored also for

people who did not know UMN that well, looking back as well as looking into the future for UMN and Nepal. The venue for the celebration was a small town, and the prayer house was filled, so extra chairs had to be brought in.

So, Odd (76) and Tullis (75) agreed to take the challenge of crisscrossing Norway in the Fall, and started out on the 3rd week of August 2004, participating in the Sunday service as well as in a regional gathering.



They will visit 16 more places during the next three months.

In this way, we will not have one big celebration, but our hope is that we will celebrate and give thanks for the past as well as invite people to take part in the future of UMN. In Norway, Norwegian Himal-Asia Mission has been an important member of UMN, even though we are just a tiny organisation. The much larger ones, Normission, The Pentecostal Church and The Baptist Society, who have been or are associated members of UMN, are invited to take part in the local celebrations. We hope UMN and Nepal will become a positive news item as the celebration team visits altogether 18 different places in Norway.

Praise the name of the LORD; praise him, you servants of the LORD. *Psalm 135:1*



Khim Kandel



More than forty UMNers gathered in Alberta, Western Canada to celebrate UMN's 50th anniversary. On Saturday we shared a blessed time of singing some Nepali choruses followed by a short devotion led by Frank Younkin. It was very special for me to be in the middle of the Canadian Prairies singing praise in my own language with people who dedicated their lives to serve Nepal. One of the other highlights enjoyed by all was the anniversary video "Life More Abundant" which moved many to tears as they saw the country and people they love in this beautiful video.

The time of reminiscing shared by all was particularly interest-

ing and fun as many shared hilarious stories as well as accounts that brought tears of joy to our faces. A slide show with photos from many of the former missionaries, displayed amazing scenes of Nepal from decades ago. This was very interesting for me as many of these people had worked in Nepal before I was even born!!

It was a real honour to be with this group of dedicated missionary friends who made a commitment to serve the people of Nepal in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ 40-50 years ago despite the fact that it was not easy to work in Nepal in those days. It was so encour-

aging and inspiring to hear their stories, experience and struggles. They serve as a "cloud of witnesses" for all of us now who are serving in Nepal now and gives us great encouragement to continue to "persevere in running the race which lies ahead".

Let us hope and pray that God continues to transform Nepal through the work of UMN.



Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

To celebrate UMN's 50th anniversary, various events and activities were carried out in Nepal. These included: project events, programmes in UMN headquarters, reception and festival in Godavari Village resort. Highlights of the anniversary celebrations in Nepal are as follows:

UMN's Message in Newspapers

On the morning of 5th March 2004, four Nepali medium daily newspapers, two English medium daily newspapers and an English medium weekly newspaper published the following message:

"Today, 5 March 2004, marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). We are grateful to God and to all our partners in Nepal, including His Majesty's Government, and the many groups and individuals from countries around the world who have worked together with us over these past 50 years, in the areas of Health

Services, Education, Rural Development and Engineering and Industrial Development. We look forward to many more years serving the people of Nepal by working with His Majesty's Government and a variety of Nepali organisations."

UMN's Stamp Release

On the same day, His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Postal Services Department brought out a commemorative postage stamp to honour UMN's services over 50 years. One million of the Rs. 5 denomination stamps were printed. Later this piece of news was carried by the radio and broadcast on different television channels.

UMN headquarters organised a programme on 5 March 2004 attended by people from UMN's Kathmandu-based projects, programmes and partner organisations. The programme included speeches, songs and dances. Welcoming all to the celebration, Jennie Collins, the Executive Director of UMN said, "50 years ago this day UMN was officially begun. At

that time many people from different countries prayed and did a lot of work. They envisioned that the abundant life brought by God should also be experienced by Nepalis." 50 oil lamps were lit to mark the 50 years of UMN and Pastor Robert Karthak led the devotional.



Tutorial Group sing "Come & join our celebration. It is a very special day!"

Vice-Chancellor of Kathmandu University Prof. Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma said, "What I've found during my relationship over 25 years is that UMN knows more about Nepal than we Nepalese do. And some expatriates of UMN have reached and remained in the places for years to work where Nepalese couldn't." At the end of the programme Jennie Collins cut birthday cakes.

To mark the Golden Jubilee of UMN in **Butwal Technical Institute (BTI)** a programme was organised. Banners were hung across the main road outside BTI. Over 120 people who had been involved with UMN/UMN projects attended the celebration. BTI's Director, Raghu Nath Sharma, acted as chairman for the speeches. Tim



UMN's commemorative stamp release



UMN's 50th Anniversary Stamp



Participants at BTI celebration

Ruohoniemi was a great success as the UMN representative, as the older ladies took great delight in telling everyone that they had known him when he was just a little boy. Simon Pandey (National Churches Fellowship) and Mr & Mrs Mattai (long term Christian workers in Butwal) were among other speakers. Simon Pandey talked a little about the Christian church in Butwal. Mr Mattai had good recollections of working with Odd Hoftun, and Mrs Mattai rounded things off very powerfully with a reminder that UMN and most of the people who work for them have a strong Christian commitment.



Dr. Carl & Betty Anne Friedericks are felicitated during celebration in Tansen

to commemorate UMN's 50th birthday on 5 March 2004 in Pokhara. Matrika Devkota led the devotional. He read out the 50th anniversary prayer and spoke about the changes brought about and the challenges lying ahead. Then UMN Executive Director, Jennie Collins' letter was read out to the audience. The Acting Director of RDC, Arogya Bajimaya delivered his speech on UMN and its activities over the past 50 years. The 50th Anniversary video entitled "Life More Abundant" was shown. On this occasion two longest serving staff members Krishna Giri and Radha Baniya were honoured.

UMN's help. The mayor, a social worker and a journalist expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the service provided by the hospital.

Dr Digby Hoyal, expressed hope that the support given by UMN to the hospital will enable it to continue for the years to come. A cultural programme was shown and the long service staff who had retired were honoured during the celebration programme.

Mugu Education Project (MEP) celebrated UMN's 50th anniversary on 13th March 2004. Different programmes were organised on that occasion. Officers from the district government offices, representatives from local NGOs, leaders from the communities, and principals from government schools attended the programme. The local 'deuda' song and drama were presented which highlighted the work of UMN in Mugu. A small exhibition was organised to show the positive changes made with the hard work of UMN staff and community people. Programme Unit Director of MEP, Mr. Bhawani Sharma welcomed the distinguished guest and shared a brief history of UMN. Various speakers congratulated UMN for successfully completing its

On March 6, 2004 United Mission Hospital, Tansen organised a programme to mark UMN's golden jubilee. About 700 people were present to celebrate UMN's 50th anniversary. They included special guests from the district, staff, their families and children. Nirmal Prakash Lama, Personnel Manager, delivered a welcome speech. Senior Business Manager, Bhubaneshwor Devkota and Hospital Deputy Director Dr. Olak Jirel highlighted the hospital activities and



Rural Development Centre Group get together

Similarly, in Rural Development Centre (RDC), Bandana Khand, the facilitator, welcomed all the participants to the celebration



Kirsti Kirjavainen in festive mood during celebration in Mugu

50 years of service in Nepal. The services provided by UMN in different villages in Mugu were highly appreciated at the programme.

There was a lot of uncertainty in the weeks beforehand and several last minute changes, but finally the **Anniversary Reception** in the Blue Star hotel happened! It was a grand occasion, which everyone seemed to enjoy. Representatives from His Majesty's Government of Nepal, International non-government organisations, Embassies, churches, parachurch groups and UMN alumni from overseas participated in the reception. The anniversary song and prayer, the

launching of the anniversary book (Nepali), video show, and special thoughts from Dr. Rajendra Rongong and last but not the least encouraging speech from Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma from Kathmandu University altogether produced a wonderful and memorable event. Along with the historic display of the anniversary painting poster, the reception was a fitting way to give glory to God and to share all the good things that UMN staff have contributed over the last fifty years in Nepal. A press conference was held before the event.

The **Anniversary Festival** took place in the beautiful location - Godavari Village Resort in

Godavari. As well as a formal programme, there were informal times when Nepali and new expatriates were able to interact with the "pioneers of UMN", and to hear their experiences and stories was all the more

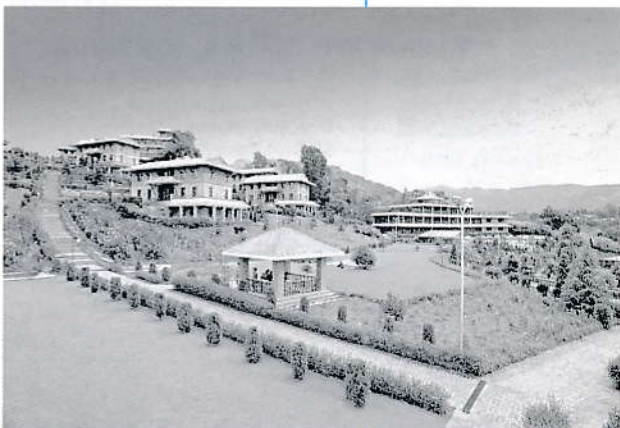


Jennie Collins welcoming participants during reception in Kathmandu

exciting and lively. Carl and Betty Anne Friedericks, Odd & Tullis Hoftun, Howard Barclay, Betty Young and Winnie Woodstra-Sanberg who had been in Nepal in the very early days, helped to make the festival a really historic occasion. There were times when we looked back with nostalgia (and some laughter) and other times when we were able to look ahead and realise the challenges there



Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma from Kathmandu University unveils the UMN's 50th Anniversary painting



Godavari Village Resort, site of the 50th Anniversary Festival

for us all. Yet, as we are so conscious of the "Fifty Years in God's Hand", it encourages us to believe that God will continue to hold us in his hand in the years ahead.

A time to celebrate - The UMN 50th Anniversary Festival



Angela Dickinson

A very special anniversary had a very special setting, the Godavari Village Resort, set in the valley of the Kothknu Khola, a valley still green and luscious, still home to many varieties of birds, still an oasis of peace where the presence of God with us was felt. Participants relished an unaccustomed level of luxury enjoying spacious rooms, abundant water, good sports facilities, tasty food and being cared for by attentive staff. After joyful reunions, conference members traveled back in time to the past: they appreciated the present and marveled at what God had done; and finally with excitement and hope they glimpsed into a possible future.



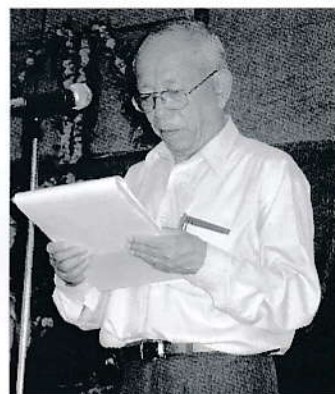
UMN past & present Executive Directors.- Howard Barclay, Michael Askwith, Jennie Collins, Norma Kehrberg and Edgar Metzler

"It was as if the door had been locked and the key thrown away," said Betty Young describing the days when Nepal was a land closed to the gospel. A group of second-generation members of UMN sang the hymn that was written in those days as a prayer to God to open the door. Norma Kehrberg described the history of the church. Rajendra Rongong shared the history of the church including how his family members were involved in the abortive attempt in 1913

to share the gospel in Nepal. It was a joy to have Carl and Betty Ann Friedericks who were among the founder members. Their family slides from 1954 shed light on living conditions in those days. Howard Barclay's memories of the life and death of Mildred Ballard were a challenge. In Betty Young's lecture we came to understand about the unique creation of UMN. Her account was supplemented by anecdotes from Ann Lycett. Who will forget a new orientation group who were mistaken for the multi-party system?

The present confronted us with evidence of what God has done in this land. Instead of summoning a speaker from outside Nepal, the Nepali Christians now ministered to the needs of UMNers, alumni and friends. "His Worshipers" introduced the first session, converting delightful traditional Nepali songs and dances into Christian worship. In the following days members of Putali Sadak, Gyaneshwor, Aradhana and Patan Churches led the worship and their respective pastors and elders gave the biblical exposition of Jesus' words "I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly." There was also a worship session led by Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC). Nancy Lindell said rather sadly, "I think that you all knew my parents better than I did." There was no KISC all those years ago. There was also a tinge of sadness as farewell prayers and good wishes were given to those leaving soon.

Then an exciting glimpse of a possible future of UMN was



Rajendra Rongong sharing the history of the church in Nepal

revealed. Executive Director Jennie Collins explained the need for an organisation to change, the process that had taken place and the decisions about locations and areas of work. Participants visited with the aid of slides all the areas of future work but special attention was given to the beautiful mountainous area of Mugu and the sharply contrasting tarai area of Sunsari for which keen cluster leaders have already been selected and work is expected to commence shortly.

The climax of the four days was a communion service. There was a wonderful atmosphere of worship. The choir led by Caroline Heggen sang superbly. Carl Friedericks, a veteran of the communist take-over in China preached from experience on Romans 8 v 28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

So many people played a significant part in making this conference special that when thanks were extended every single person attending the conference was required to stand up and receive applause.

A Nepal Reunion in Minneapolis

Nostalgia for Nepal was felt in the USA this Festival year as well. A group of mainly ex-UMNers gathered at the World Mission Prayer League office in Minneapolis (WMPL) on July 4th to celebrate with good daal bhaat and fellowship. Our time in Nepal represented 49 of UMN's 50 years!

We were blessed to have some non-Americans in attendance: the Pedersens from Denmark and the Irvines from Scotland. Theodore Manaen is now living in the Minneapolis area and maintains strong WMPL and Nepal connections.

Andhikhola Project was particularly well represented in the group, and it was fun to hear many stories from that era. Most of the group gathered to watch

the new UMN video and highlights from the Festival celebration at Godavari, and Gary and I fielded many questions on the changes that are taking place in UMN. Nepal and its people are still close to many hearts.

After spending most of the day together, a few energetic souls even walked down to the Mississippi River at 10 p.m. to watch Independence Day fireworks! It was a special reunion day that we did not want to end.



Stan & Dorinda Visness (Andhikhola, Amp Pipal 1985-90), Steve & Gail Erickson (Tansen, Nawalparasi, Andhikhola 1976-91), Dan & Margaret Spare (Andhikhola, Butwal 1982-97), Tim & Lisa Ruohoniemi (Butwal, Jhimruk, HQ 1989-now), Jens & Ellinor Pedersen (Khimti, Butwal 1993-2000), Dave & Miriam Ramse (Andhikhola, Ktm 1984-97), Matthew & Alison Ruohoniemi (Butwal, HQ 1987-98), Gary & Pat Halvenstein (Ktm, Andhikhola 1979-90), Tara Flaten (Okhaldhunga, HQ 1982-92), Clive & Su Irvine (Butwal, Ktm (1984-99), Joyce Ruohoniemi (Ktm, Butwal, Jhimruk 1956-95), Theodore Manaen (father of Loknath), Fran Swenson (Ktm, Gorkha, Jumla, Tansen 1955-87) and Mike & Diane Heindi (Butwal, Baitadi 1989-99)



Tim Ruohoniemi

The Palpalis celebrate UMN's Golden Jubilee

UMN's 50th Anniversary and the golden jubilee of United Mission Hospital, Tansen had good coverage in the local media in Tansen and the national newspapers.

Carl Friedericks looked young even at the age of eighty-four. Though he had lived in America for several years, he and his wife Betty hadn't forgotten the Nepali language nor the streets and lanes of Tansen. They knew by heart the names of their friends. On 11th June 2004, the Palpalis celebrated the jubilee as a great festival. There was a procession of between 500 and 600 people carrying placards including the media, intellectuals, bureaucrats and the residents of Palpa. As it went round the city, the

Friedericks couple looked as if they were a bride and bridegroom taking part in a wedding ceremony.

In Tansen, United Mission to Nepal provided electricity, health services, employment, skill training, built schools and conducted non-formal education. It also provided training to the forest users groups, food security to women, raised awareness about HIV/AIDS and provided enterprise support. It offered justice to the people who were trapped in injustice.

United Mission to Nepal is a friend of the Nepalese people. Nepalese people haven't forgotten the good things done for

them. Working together in partnership we must expand the services of the mission in the future. Last but not the least, congratulations to United Mission to Nepal on its 50th anniversary.



Purna Babadur Rana Magar



50th anniversary celebration in Palpa

Jubilee Memories



Betty Young

Come and join our celebration: IT'S A VERY SPECIAL DAY !

Come and share our jubilation: UMN IS FIFTY TODAY !

The Kathmandu Tutorial group children sang this UMN-adapted song with great gusto, the chorus accompanied by a variety of their instruments in perfect timing, and they completely stole the show. The occasion was the Kathmandu Valley celebration of our real Jubilee birthday, 5th March 2004, in a very enjoyable programme geared for the Nepali staff. Some of us had already witnessed the launching of the UMN 50th anniversary stamp that morning, and my thoughts through the day constantly went back to that small meeting exactly 50 years ago when UMN was established in 1954.

followed by a four day Jubilee Festival for several hundred past and present UMNers, member body representatives and visitors. The opening ceremony began with the reading of verses from Leviticus about the Old Testament Jubilee year, and the blowing of a genuine Israelite ram's horn. Jennie declared the Festival open, and thus began four days of celebration and thanksgiving, times around God's Word led by Nepali Pastors and church worship groups, looking back at past history and looking forward to plans for the future, lots of chatting with friends from years past and making new friendships, and plenty of good fun.

entertainment in true Nepali drama style. Some of the expatriates tried to match this on other occasions! And we took time to include in the programme the Jubilee prayer, the new history book, the Jubilee video and painting, etc. Congratulations to everyone who worked hard in preparation and who took part to make it a very special occasion.

As one of the oldies, it was a special joy to see quite a number of colleagues from the 1950s (I think a bigger group than from the 1960s!): Carl and Betty Anne Friedericks, Joyce Ruohoniemi, Odd and Tullis Hoftun, Nancy and Noni from the Lindell family, Winnie Sandberg and myself; also Howard Barclay (1960). Carl's message to us at the final meeting was so appropriate: his foresight is not good, but his hindsight is, and he has proved over and over again that "All things work together for good for those who love God", however hard it is at times to hang onto that verse (Romans 8:28). With that assurance in the Lord, UMN progresses into the next 50 years, doing things in a different way, but carrying out the God-given visions and aims of our pioneers from the earlier years. Thank God for His faithfulness!



Participants in festive mood during the celebration in Godavari

Then in May we enjoyed a very good Reception programme for local VIPs, with many UMN-linked folk joining in. This was

Four short sketches illustrating various aspects of UMN work has been turned over to the Nepali staff, and provided great

UK Reunion – a special weekend

We are still recovering from a really special weekend and continue to have much of it on our hearts. In spite of my many protestations and reservations about attending such large gatherings I would not have missed it for anything.... to see around 300 people celebrating years of friendship and a common bond of love for Nepal and her people was moving in the extreme and at the final communion service more than one of us had to make a hasty, if undignified, search for a hankie!!

All decades were represented, many hugs and remembrances shared, and cries of "all the Tansen people come over here".... or "all the Jumla folks for a photo please"....or more often "will you all please stop talking and move into the meeting hall.... we are late starting!", were heard more than once. What a marvellous atmosphere as the decades intermingled and what delight for me as I put faces to names I had written to over the years as Donor Secretary or come across in any one of the many things I seemed to become involved in.

It was a very light-hearted time with some serious moments of reflection and teaching from

Asjborn Voreland and Neil Hall who touched on the one subject we were all fearful and wary of... 'the changing UMN'. Believe it or not I had never heard Betty Young's talk on the early UMN and she gave a very good resume of the structure from the early days and through the changes, which personally I found enormously helpful. I think too that many of us were grateful to her when she shared that coming from the UMN Festival in Nepal she, with many of her contemporaries, had recognised... 'that an era was ending'. For the first time I felt that being able to say it publicly she had released in me/us the ability to share our own private and fought-over opinions that echoed this same thought.... without a feeling of guilt that we should feel so.

It does not take anything away from the 'new UMN' and of its credibility but it did mean we all celebrated in an unrestrained way our joy and delight in the service we had been able to so gladly give in the first 50 years that we were privileged part of....

Of course with so many there the talking went on long into the nights but even so we left thinking we had not managed to talk in any depth with friends



Jen and Roger Marston

we would have liked to.... a common problem I guess in these events. We were so pleased to have 'present UMNers' there to give us up to date word pictures of the work and political situation and really appreciated the effort they had made to be with us. It was a special delight to have Amrita and Chhoden Karthak, Hom Nath Dhakal, Bhab Ghale and Bal Krishna Sharma with us and their singing at the Saturday evening, along with the musical contribution from the Chevassut family were a never to be forgotten sound ...provoking in many of us deep nostalgia and longing...

Excerpts from interviews with some participants during the festival



Rishi Ram Paudyal



Andy Wood, Alumni: The festival is a milestone. It's a mark of everything that has happened in UMN. It's the time to look back and give thanks for the things that have been done. Not that everything has been right. We should learn from the mistakes.



Ed Martin, UMN Board Member: The UMN 50th anniversary celebration marks a significant milestone in the history of UMN. It's a nice time for present staff of UMN and the ex-UMNers to be together and have fellowship and celebrate the work that has been done cooperatively under God's command and leadership. I worked in Butwal Technical Institute (BTI) for three years (1971-1973) and I worked for

Development and Consulting Services (DCS) for two years (1975 and 1976). I have been on the UMN Board since 1990. Nepal and UMN are very significant for me because I began my professional career at BTI. At that time I was a fresh 22 year-old university graduate in engineering. My experience with UMN inspired me to do further graduate studies in international development and to continue working in that field.

Ian Colterjohn, Alumni: It's wonderful to see all the people here again, talking about the work of UMN and praying together. I remember my friends from when I was working at BTI. I had a lot to learn. I had learnt Hindi before. So when I spoke Nepali, it was a mixture of Nepali and Hindi. My Nepali friends were always very understanding.



Carl Friedericks, Alumni: It's an opportunity to meet so many old friends and to see the great work UMN has done in many fields since I left the work here in 1986. I most enjoyed working with so many people from different parts of the world including Nepal. And at the

same time seeing the church built from basically no members to the present large strong churches.



Betty Young, UMN Archivist: It's wonderful experience to celebrate the festival together. Well, it's just being able to get together not only just with the people of present UMN staff but the people who worked in UMN over these years. I've been with UMN for 45 years and my mind goes back to the past to see how people worked together for UMN. There were big Christian organisations with more money and there were also faith missions that usually didn't have much money and depended on people giving. It is wonderful to see how with God's help those two groups came together and how He led us in how to work together. Working with Jonathan Lindell through the 1960s was a good experience. He came as an experienced Director in 1960, he changed the attitudes of people and wrote policies and vision for the future. The policies and strategies of today are based on those approved in the 1960s and 1970s. That was milestone in UMN's vision for

the future. For example in 1970 one expatriate had been seconded to a school and another one seconded to Institute of Medicine. It was from that time that UMN moved strongly in that direction.



Ann Lycett, Tutorial Group Teacher, Tansen (previously a teacher at Mahendra Bhawan):

It's very good to look back over such a long period. It helps to get a big picture of ourselves and of our place in Nepal and the relationship with the Nepali Church. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet people from across the fifty years. It was a great privilege to be here when the Nepali church was very young and to feel a part of the body of Christ with them. And in the same way to be part of one body of Christ in UMN with people from around the world who I otherwise wouldn't have met. It's a great privilege to be in Nepal. It is a beautiful country with lovely people.

Shirley Gillan, Alumni: I was here from 1992 to 1999 working in Jumla and Kathmandu. It's very special to come again, meet people and celebrate. And also look to the future. As we look back we see that there is a lot to celebrate. When I was in Jumla we were running literacy classes. The women in Jumla have to work very hard. Despite that they

came to learn to read and write in the evenings. This was very encouraging and I found it very special because the women wanted so much to learn and they hadn't had that opportunity previously. The women had a sense of unity and cooperation.



Winfried Brugger, Alumni:

Meeting friends, colleagues, and meeting Nepali people has been the best part of the celebration. It's nice to come back to this beautiful country. Besides the celebration, my special interest is to know about the change process in UMN.



Jiwan Gurung, UMN Board Member:

It's a time to meet old and new friends and encourage each other. And the meeting held at this time could further help UMN move forward to the future vision. I have been to Jumla quite a few times and I was quite struck to see how the

Karnali Technical School run by UMN had given training to those people from less developed communities and how they were able to stand on their own feet.



Stefan Östman, Alumni:

I've been away for 10 months. It is wonderful to see the fruit of hard work. Actually, since I was involved in the preparation of the 50th anniversary in the beginning, it has been very encouraging to see how things have developed to the conclusion. It's such a nice experience to come as alumni without specific responsibility and to meet many old friends both Nepali and expatriates. The most memorable journey made was my field trip to Jumla and Mugu in 1998 before Mugu Education project was set up. That was an exploration visit. When I saw the difficult lives of people there, it touched my heart. Actually, that was one of the reasons why I decided to extend my stay in Nepal. It's great to see how Mugu people have hope for the future and how they have been able to improve their living conditions as a fruit of UMN's work.

UMN 50th Anniversary Appeal Fund Allocates Grants



Ellen Harding Collins

UMN established the 50th Anniversary Appeal Fund to provide a broad range of educational opportunities and to assist UMN's partner organisations with training, emergency relief and assistance. The Anniversary Appeal Fund Committee recently considered a variety of proposals and have allocated the following grants:

- New prosthetic limbs for Devi Prasad Neupane, the Palpa teacher featured in several 50th anniversary productions,
- Support for Dalit (low-caste) and poor students to study in Class 11 and 12, through the Educational Improvement Activities of the School Partnership Programme in Syangja District,
- Support for Mahima Child Development Centre and for community health training for women, programmes of the Welfare Association for Children, Tikapur, a Christian NGO in Kailali District, in far western Nepal. (See story on page 19),
- Medical books for Amp Pipal Hospital, and funds for a doctor there to receive ultrasound training at Tansen Mission Hospital,
- Scholarship for needy students at Nepal Bible Ashram, the first Bible School in Nepal, which
- includes in its curriculum health, agriculture and community development courses,
- Funding for sewing and knitting training offered by Sahara Nepal, a small Christian organisation that assists destitute and needy women in and around the capital,
- Funds to enable the Community Development Society in Ramechhap District to purchase roofing tiles for homes of 22 families affected by flooding,
- Scholarship through the Sahakarmi Samaj NGO for a displaced young woman to attend a two-year Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery course at Karnali Technical School in Jumla,
- Support for health awareness project focusing upon drug addiction and HIV/AIDS risk, targeting adolescents in Kirtipur; co-ordinated by the Nepal Methodist Council,
- Funds for workshop on HIV/AIDS and STDs, organised by the Chandra Jyoti Integrated Rural Development Society in Dhading District,
- Scholarship for a needy young woman in Tansen to pursue an education degree.

Previously the Committee granted funds for a need-based scholarship for a Tansen Nursing School student, and toward the establishment of an Educational Trust Fund through the Community Development Society to benefit children from conflict-affected poor and Dalit families in Ramechhap. The Committee is reviewing additional proposals for a variety of worthy causes, and will continue to award grants through March 2005.

We are grateful for the generous contributions to the Fund thus far, and thank all who have responded to the Appeal. Over 2,300,000 Nepali rupees (US\$30,500/£17,300) had been contributed to the Fund by mid-October. For those who have not had a chance to send a gift-there is still time! We encourage friends of UMN to consider raising funds to support this Appeal, particularly during the Christmas season. Ideas include: holding a Christmas fair or sale, taking a special Advent offering, or organising a benefit carol sing. UMN will gladly provide leaflets, posters or other materials to help with such efforts. More information on the Appeal can be found on: www.umn.org.np UMN will continue receiving gifts throughout the year and into 2005. Every little donation counts, and can make a great difference in the life of someone in need in Nepal.

Mina Kumari's NEW LIFE

Mina Kumari Kusmi was just a toddler when both her parents died. Relatives fostered her for a while, but they were poor themselves, and the extra burden was too much to bear. Where could they turn for help? Who would take a poor Tharu girl?

The local government officials recommended the Welfare Association for Children, Tikapur (WACT). Located in far western Nepal, WACT is a Christian organisation led by the Sharmas, a dedicated couple who once worked with UMN in Tansen in the 1970's. They opened their doors to four-year-old Mina Kumari, and WACT's New Life Orphanage Hostel became her home. She attends Mahima Child Development Centre, WACT's pre-



Mina Kumari Kusmi (extreme left) ready for school

school that recently received a grant from the UMN 50th Anniversary Appeal Fund. Mina Kumari is a thoughtful and intelligent little girl. She has many friends at her home and school. She enjoys sports, and

loves to sing in the Sunday school. Her dream is to become a nurse. By the grace of God, and through the love of WACT, Mina Kumari has been living a new life and has a bright future full of hope.

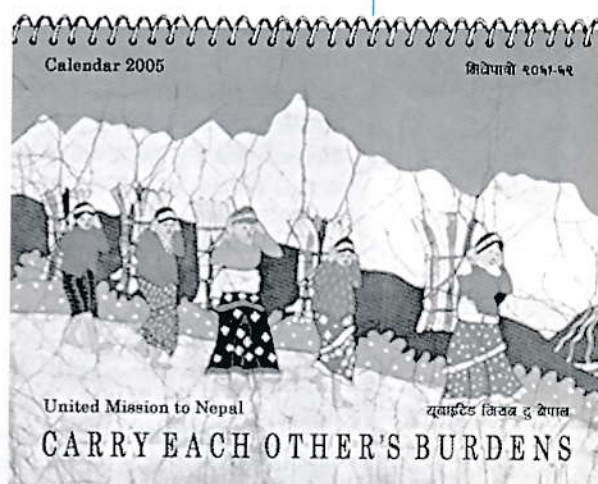
UMN 2005 Calendar

Our 2005 Calendar is being produced in the same design and format as the 2004 Anniversary Calendar. The theme for 2005, "Carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2), runs throughout the Calendar. There are 12 striking photographs, which show "carrying" scenes, literally and metaphorically. Each month focuses upon a different topic, some using UMN's areas of work. There is an appropriate photograph and an article by a

UMN staff member who is involved in the area of work being featured.

The calendars are priced at US \$ /Euro 3, £ 2 (excluding postage) and can be ordered by post at UMN Marketing Office, P.O. Box 126, Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal or by email at: marketing@umn.org.np

They can also be purchased from UMN's Stationery Office sales counter at a cost of Rs. 100.



UMN Annual Report 2003 - 2004

The Report this year is not sent automatically to our alumni but for anyone wishing to receive a copy they are available, please simply contact the Marketing Office and one will be posted. It is also available digitally or you can access it from the website: www.umn.org.np

UMN's current work



*Shaba B. Gurung
Programme Support
Director*

The process of moving away from direct implementation to building relationships and outworking the UMN Strategic Directions is well underway. Shaha B. Gurung – Programme Support Director brings you the news about UMN's work towards the future.

There is a sense of expectation and excitement in the air. Teams moved to Sunsari and Mugu in July and August respectively. We at UMN are excited to be launching out in this new way of working.

What are these locations like?

There are many contrasts between Mugu and Sunsari. Mugu is in the mountains while Sunsari is in the plains region. Mugu is one of the most remote districts of the country with low population whereas Sunsari is quite easily accessible for transportation and communication and one of the most densely populated in Nepal. In Mugu, there is a newly emerging group of believers while in Sunsari there are many churches and well-organised Christian Societies. The Christian community in Sunsari has a good level of internal cohesion and cooperation. They have maintained smooth relationships with local communities and organisations.



A scene of Mugu village

What sort of work will the teams be doing?

With the support of technical advisors the teams have identified potential areas of work in Mugu and Sunsari. The Mugu team will start working with partners in the areas of food and income security, education and women and children. They expect to address such issues as the need for indigenous groups to gain knowledge of and access to safer motherhood. Similarly the Sunsari team anticipates working with partners in the areas of education, HIV/AIDS, enterprise development and women and children. Their focus may include the use of child labour in factories and commercial sex workers on the

east-west highway. In both areas there are many households with a female as the head due to migration. There will be opportunities for issues of marginalized groups to be addressed. Let us pray for the wisdom and skill these two teams will need.

What next?

We are also looking forward to beginning our work in Rukum, Dhading and Rupandehi. Our experience shows that starting work in two areas at the same time is mutually supportive and cost effective. Magar and Tamang are major ethnic groups in Rukum and Dhading respectively. These ethnic groups, which have their own widely used languages are relatively poor and have low education rates. A few years ago there were churches in almost all villages in these two areas. Recently the work of many churches has been restricted. The security situation has also affected people's livelihood and their future. Therefore, our commitment to addressing the root causes of poverty, injustice and showing compassion is becoming more vital.



UMN Sunsari Office, Itahari

So is it all quiet in HQ?

Definitely not! There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes. We in the Programme Support Team (PST) have refined our principles for working relationships with partners, approaches and various forms of agreements for partnership and secondment. A poverty assessment tool has been developed and is being pilot tested. The structure of the PST has been revised with more clearly defined functions. The revised structure includes:

- ▶ Separate Teams for each new location,
- ▶ Capacity Building Team (CBT) and
- ▶ Technical Advisory Team (TAT)

The CBT helps to identify organisational development needs of partners and facilitate ways to address those needs. The TAT provides expertise and skill development in our main areas of work. Gradually, most of the CBT and TAT staff will be based fulltime in different location-based teams. All the teams will together ensure that advocacy and peace & conflict reconciliation are interlinked in each area of work. The structure also includes monitoring and evaluation for core poverty indicators. Additional key staff members for Mugu and Sunsari have been recruited. Each team has a Admin & Finance Officer, Team Leader with an Expatriate Counterpart and an Organisa-

tion Development (OD) Advisor. The Organisation Development Advisor's role is very crucial for identifying partners, establishing a working relationship with them and building their capacity to address the root causes of poverty and injustice. The OD Advisor will help the partners to benefit from the expertise of the Capacity Building Team and the Technical Advisory Team. We have also recruited a Capacity Building Team Leader, two Peace and Advocacy Officers and one Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

We give praise to God as we see each step unfolding towards the future work of UMN.

A Hearty Welcome to Sunsari



Inauguration of UMN Sunsari office

appropriate ways," said Jennie Collins. "The development of Nepal and its future is in the hands of Nepalis and we want to continue to help in its development," she added.

Tika Dutta Rai, Chief Executive Officer of Inaruwa Municipality in Sunsari district extended a hearty welcome to UMN and expressed appreciation for the work UMN has done in Nepal over the last fifty years.

Due to security reasons the official opening of Mugu office had to be postponed.

United Mission to Nepal (UMN) officially inaugurated its Sunsari office on 30th September 2004. Addressing the gathering the Executive Director of UMN, Jennie Collins, extended her best wishes on behalf of the UMN

Board Chairman, Gary Hafvenstein. *"Nepal has greatly changed in the last fifty years. The world has also changed. In these changing contexts we want to work to meet the needs of the people in*

Transition Update



Paul T Wright
Transition Director

There is reason for celebration in UMN Transition! Much has been achieved since March.

In the area of **Projects and Programmes** the former staff NGOs that came out of the *Mental Health Programme*, *Community Development and Health Programme*, *Nutrition Programme*, *Oral Health Programme*, the *Rural Development Centre* and the *Sakriya Unit* successfully implemented work that was planned, funded and sub-contracted to them by UMN and its donors. The District Development Committee of Lalitpur also agreed to partner with Shanti Nepal, a young Christian NGO, to continue the work of *Chapagaon Health Post*. We are proud that all these NGOs are now completely independent, successfully continuing work with the same ethos and with sufficient funding committed for at least the next financial year. *Lalitpur Nursing Campus* also completed its transition to complete independence with the transfer of assets in July.

Lamjung Community Health Programme (LCHP), residual activities of *Ramechap Community Development Programme*, and *Mugu Education Programme (MEP)* reached the end of their planned activities in July and they were phased out. The work of MEP will be continued through partnerships in the Mugu Cluster.

The closure of *Butwal Plywood Factory Pvt. Ltd.* and *Developing and Consulting Services* remain tantalisingly close for the **Institutions Transition Team**, but as yet incomplete. UMN has recently committed to the secondment of specialist

personnel to *Butwal Technical Institute (BTI)* beyond 2005 to ensure its sustainability. A survey to determine the exact nature of a sustainable industrial training facility in the future has just been completed and initial results are positive. A suitable new operator for the hand-over of BTI before November 2005 has been identified and logistics are being explored. The work of *Jhimruk Industrial Development Centre* will now continue beyond 2005, and some potential new owners to whom UMN will transfer its shareholding are being identified.

Out of 41 partners working with the **Partner Transition Team** at the start of the transition period, 12 completed their partnership by July 2004. We are actively seeking ways in which the skills and resources contained in the Advisory Group for Nepali Women, the Non-Formal Education Support Office, the Disaster Preparedness Programme and the Learning Centre can be transferred into the Technical Advisory Team. All these programmes will close in July 2005.

As programmes close or are handed over and UMN slims down, the **Support Services** based out of Thapathali are also scaling down. Future organisational needs are becoming clearer and a consolidated Support Services Transition Plan will be produced by December for implementation in the New Year.

In Expatriate Children's Education *Kathmandu International Study Centre* is pursuing independence facilitated through the Christian NGO Human Development and

Community Services (HDCS), although it is not proving to be easy. The *Tutorial Groups (TGs)* are suffering from a shortage of staff following the withdrawal of two applicants earlier this year. *Kathmandu TG* will continue beyond November 2005 as long as staff resources are available, and *Tansen TG* will be transferred to the hospitals transition programme once a hand-over agreement with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) is signed.

The Hospitals Transition Team facilitated a partnership agreement between UMN and HDCS to work towards the transfer of the Tansen and Okhaldhunga Hospital programmes to HDCS, with HMG/N agreement, in July 2005. Under this agreement joint governance, management and support functions have already begun and will continue until 2008. UMN is talking to the management of Patan Hospital about what UMN might do to assist them to secure a sustainable future. The Medical Supplies Department was finally handed-over to the UMN staff NGO Medical Supplies Management Trust, who will continue to operate it according to the original objectives of MSD.

We are encouraged by the 'great... cloud of witnesses' of UMN's work through the years being set up, and so we continue to run with perseverance the race that is set before us (Heb. 12:1). Thank you for running with us.

Centre for Mental Health and Counseling - Nepal

Transition to a successful NGO

CMC-N is an NGO, working nationwide in the field of mental health. It developed out of UMN-Mental Health Programme (MHP), which was founded in 1984 and phased out July 2004. But phasing out did not mean, that the work was completed. As in other countries, studies have shown, that there are around 12% mentally ill (around 2% severe) persons in the population, that means in a population of twenty million people, three million who need some kind of treatment. Service in Nepal is only available in some centres, especially in Kathmandu, hardly ever in the villages where most of the people live. Traveling far is expensive and knowledge about the possibility of treatment is low.

The staff of UMN-MHP therefore felt the need to continue the work in this area and to build an NGO. It was registered in May 2003 and is affiliated with the Social Welfare Council. In August 2003 it started to carry out most of MHP's former work in partnership agreement and cooperation, and since July 2004 it has been independent.

CMC-N emphasised networking and partnership with other NGOs and INGOs, to make itself known and to carry out work in cooperation with others. This increased recognition and requests for training. CMC-N is currently working in community mental health programmes in different areas of Nepal, training and supervising health-post staff, so that they



Celebration of CMC-Nepal's first anniversary on 28th of April 2004

can successfully deliver treatment of mental diseases in their community. The programme includes awareness-raising activities such as focus-group trainings for FCHV (Female Community Health Volunteers) and traditional healers, who then start to refer patients to the Health Posts and become a major agent to increase awareness and decrease stigmatization. WHO has now shown interest in this model for future implementation in the whole of Nepal. Research is being carried out. At the moment a school-mental health study is being conducted to assess children's health, a model-program for affected children will follow next year. At the moment the only child psychological service is still the Child Guidance Clinic in Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, implemented by UMN-MHP.

Another major part of CMC-N's work is basic counseling training and supervision of other organisations, like SAGUN/RICOD (working

with families of children who are malnourished and suffer from many psychosocial problems) and Anandaban Hospital (working with leprosy patients) etc.

Trauma counseling has an increased importance in a country struggling with guerilla warfare and many natural disasters (like landslides, floods). CMC-N is increasingly requested to provide service as well as basic training or training of trainers in partnership with other NGOs and INGOs.

CMC-N's transition to an independent NGO was successful due to the commitment of its staff as well as its members, who are mostly working in the psychosocial field and who are willing to contribute actively in its work.

UMN and HDCS sign partnership agreement

On a clear morning on the Summit hill overlooking Kathmandu, Jennie



*UMN Executive Director Jennie Collins
and HDCS Director Tirtha Thapa*

Collins and Tirtha Thapa as the respective heads of United Mission to Nepal (UMN) and Human Development and Community Services (HDCS) signed a Partnership Agreement on 23rd September, 2004. The signing of the Agreement was to work together to facilitate the transfer of the ownership and governance responsibilities of UMN's hospitals (Tansen and Okhaldhunga) to HDCS.

This will enable the hospitals to continue to operate in the tradition in which they were founded and has been the

culmination of much work and negotiation. The partnership will bring the hospitals into a Health Network in order to maintain the mission, vision, values and current services.

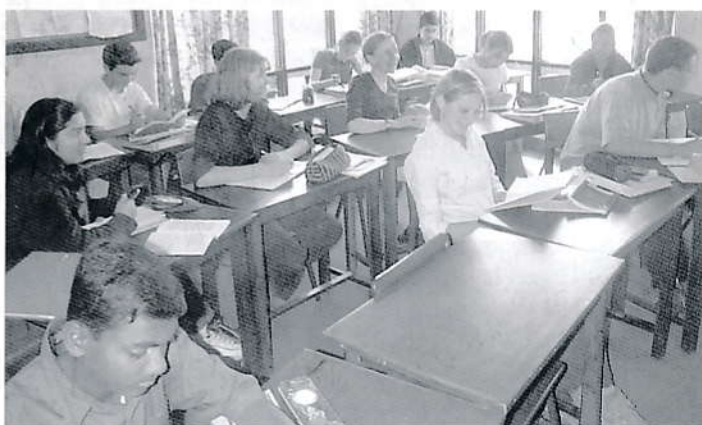
It was a time to give thanks to God for bringing this opportunity about and leading the two organisations to work together to continue to serve the people of Nepal in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. It was an opportunity to give thanks for the many people who had contributed and to seek God's continued wisdom and guidance for the process ahead.

KISC receives accreditation

Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC) was established in 1987 for the secondary education of expatriate mission families' children. We now have 80 students and 30 full time and part time teaching staff from different parts of the world. We also have 14 Nepali support staff. KISC has been providing excellent education for the mission and non-mission families with Christian values.

It gives us a real joy to share with you that KISC received accreditation from Middle States Association (MSA) USA last year. KISC is now the only international academic institution in Nepal with both MSA and Cambridge (U.K.) accreditation.

Therefore, we issued our graduating students with KISC high school diplomas accredited by MSA at the Blue Star Ceremony last June and given them an



KISC students in classroom

Advance International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma from Cambridge International Examinations. We would like to congratulate our first graduates with dual certificates, Carl Barker, Cara Corman, Chelsea Freeman and Sarah Collins. We want to thank all who attended and took part in this celebration.

We have received excellent results (July 2004) in the IGCSE and AS level examinations. Out

of 97 exams in IGCSE, 44% scored grade A or A*. Similarly, in AS level, out of 31 exams, 45 % received grades A.

The future KISC

KISC is now in transition. Please pray for our negotiations with the government and a Christian NGO to establish a new legal status. Pray too for a smooth path through the bureaucratic processes needed to become independent.

Book release and celebration of International Literacy Day 2004

United Mission to Nepal organised a programme "Book release and celebration of International Literacy Day 2004" on 10th September 2004 at Thapathali, Kathmandu. The Chief Guest of the programme, Honourable State Minister for Education and Sports/His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Bal Krishna Khand emphasised the importance of literacy and commended the work carried out by UMN. Similarly, Director of

Non-Formal Education Central Office, Sanothimi, Haribol Khanal appreciated the literacy work carried out by UMN in Mugu. "Let us work together in the future to educate more people, especially in the remote areas" he said.

During the celebration programme various books were launched. They included: "Non-Formal Education Training Manual" - giving guidelines to facilitators involved in non-

formal education programmes; "Gender and Sustainable Development" - A training manual telling about the importance of gender equity and giving guidelines for gender issues and concerns; "Muguko Samjhana Ra Geet Sangraha" (Remembering Mugu and A Collection of Songs) - a compilation of stories and songs of the people whose lives have been impacted by the literacy work of UMN in Mugu. Similar literacy materials in the Mugom language and writing books were also released on the occasion. These literacy materials in Mugom are the first written in the mother tongue of the Mugom people, a major ethnic group in Mugu district. This is an important step forward in helping these people learn to read and write.



Honourable State Minister of Education commending the work carried out by UMN



Congratulations to GBS!

The United Mission to Nepal would like to congratulate Gandaki Higher Secondary Boarding School (GBS) for their outstanding results in the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) exam this year (2004) with a 100 % pass rate.

Out of 113 students who sat for the SLC exam, 66 students passed with a distinction

(among 10 SLC toppers in Nepal, 4 students were from GBS alone: Prasanna Piya-Board 2nd, Shashank Bajimaya-Board 3rd, Susan Pradhan-Board 5th, Kiran Tiwari-Board 9th) and the remaining 47 passed in the first division. GBS had the largest number of students sitting for the exam this year and it has been one of the best results they have had so far.

Moreover, a girl (Usha Lamichhane) from GBS got the highest marks among girls in Kaski district. UMN was one of the founders of GBS in 1966 and has been involved ever since.

We wish GBS all the very best for the coming years and trust the school will continue to produce such exceptional results.



Kiran Tiwari



Prasanna Piya



Susan Pradhan



Usha Lamichhane

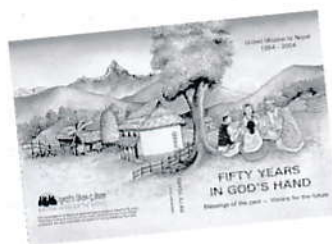
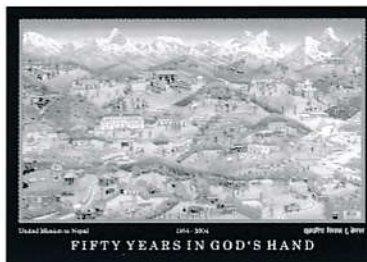


Shashank Bajimaya

50th Anniversary Products

UMN 50th Anniversary Products are still available and we would particularly like to draw your attention to the following anniversary painting poster:

"Anniversary Painting Poster" illustrating (as seen on the cover) the work of UMN has also been produced. The size of the poster is 35 cm by 50 cm.
Price: US\$/Euro 1, £ 0.75

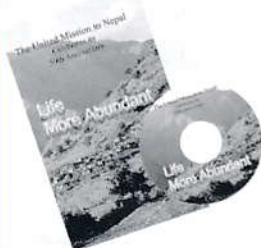
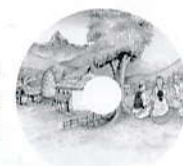


The book, **"50 Years in God's Hand"**, written in English and translated into Nepali has been produced to celebrate UMN's 50th Anniversary. In this book, you can learn about the history of UMN and understand the many different activities in which UMN has been involved throughout the length and breadth of Nepal. You can also read some of the moving "Stories to tell" by those people whose lives have been affected and enriched by UMN's work over the past 50 years.

Price: US\$/Euro 6, £ 3.5

The CD **"Golden Rays"** is a song written and recorded in Nepal. Whilst the words are a testament to God's work in Nepal, the music portrays the beauty of the people and culture of Nepal. The CD contains the anniversary song in Nepali, English and includes an instrumental background track.

Price: US\$/Euro 1.5, £ 1



"Life More Abundant" is a moving video in which a handful of people share their stories. The viewer will gain insight into the trials of daily life in Nepal and how these people's lives have been improved as a result of UMN's work. It is available in VHS-PAL/NTSC and DVD.

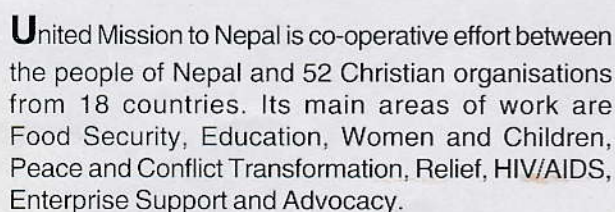
Price: US\$/Euro 5, £ 3 (VHS); US\$/Euro 6 (PAL) and US\$/Euro 10, £ 7 (DVD)

"Anniversary Appeal Leaflet" is written in five different languages. It describes the target areas in which we plan to utilise the anniversary appeal income. We hope to distribute the leaflet as widely as possible and would like to request you to help us to do this. This leaflet is free of cost.



"Poster and Postcards" showing the beauty of Nepal and of its people have also been produced and are available in sets of six posters (35 cm by 50 cm) and twelve postcards (12.5 cm by 17.5cm).
Price: US\$/Euro 3, £ 2 (1 set posters); US\$/Euro 1.5, £ 1 (1 set postcards)

If you would like to purchase any of these productions, please contact the Marketing Team at United Mission to Nepal, P.O. Box 126, Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal. Email: Marketing@umn.org.np



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यूनाइटेड मिसन टु नेपाल
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