

Number 5, April 1994

# UMN ews

United Mission to Nepal

## UMN'S FIRST FORTY YEARS

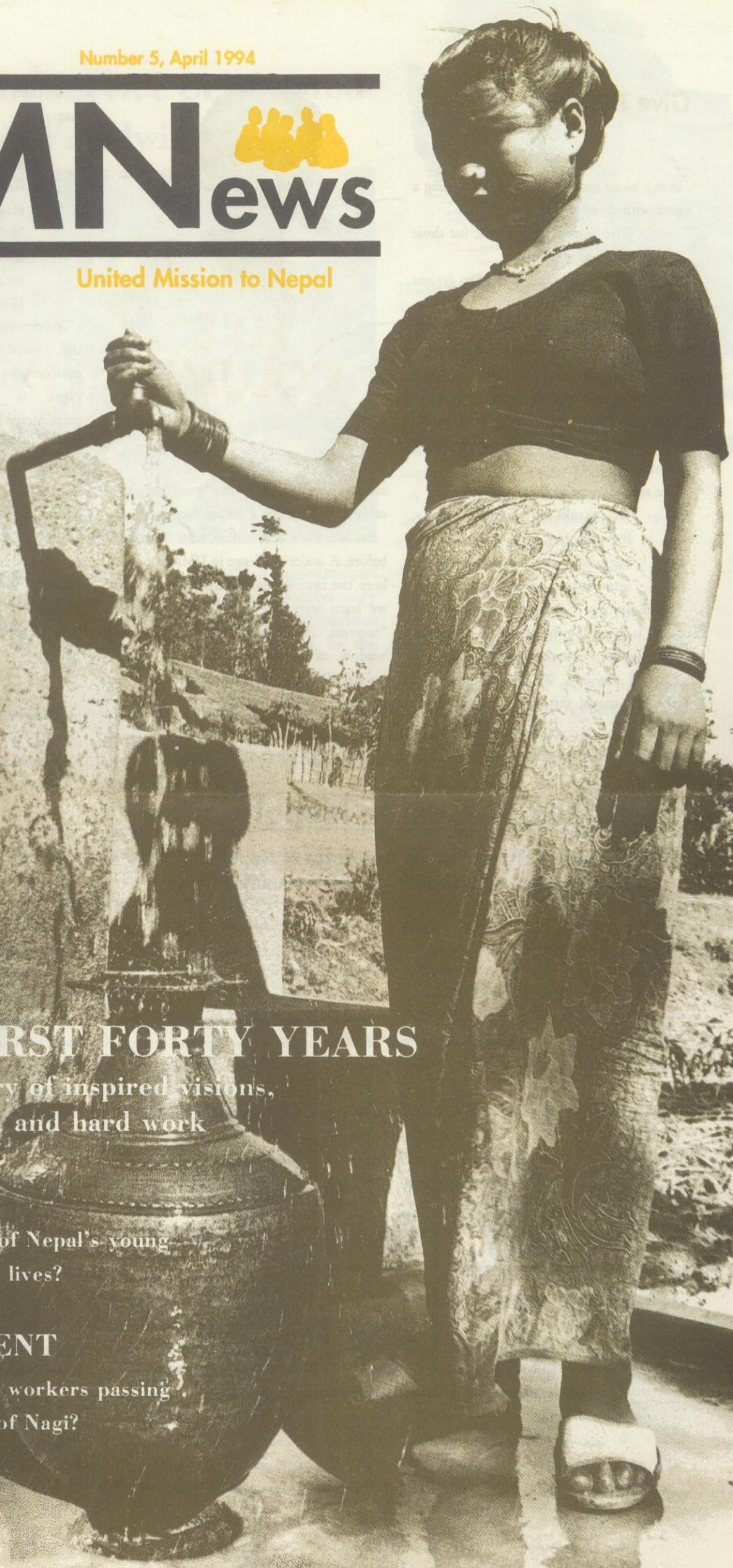
An amazing story of inspired visions,  
bold enthusiasm and hard work

### HIGH RISK

Why are thousands of Nepal's young  
mothers losing their lives?

### NO AGREEMENT

Why are the project workers passing  
through the village of Nagi?



## Give Thanks

In my home country, we sometimes sing a hymn with these words:

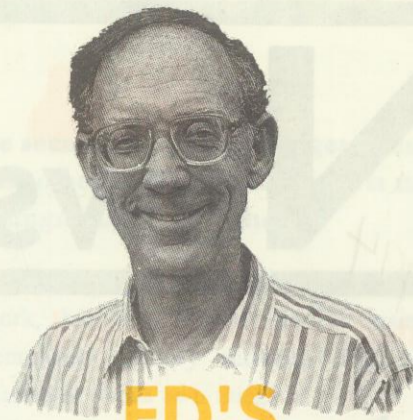
Give thanks for the past, for those  
who had vision,  
who planted and watered so dreams  
could come true.

During this 40th anniversary year for UMN, we have many reasons to be grateful. From those first pioneers, who gathered together and trained a loyal local staff, to the present far-flung and diverse activities of UMN, these past four decades of service are a remarkable story.

The second verse of the hymn is:

Give thanks for the now, for study,  
for worship,  
for mission that bids us turn prayer  
into deed.

We all live one day at a time. That day, of course, is shaped by the past. And our vision for the future will make a difference in how we spend this day. We will not enjoy or make best use of this day if we spend too



## ED'S COLUMN

much time wishing for the "good old days" or fantasizing about a distant future.

But we learn from those who have gone before. A major challenge in UMN is how to keep the institutional memory alive so that we learn from our experience and do not "reinvent the wheel". The accumulated wisdom of long-term staff is a valuable resource for those of us who have come more recently.

The third stanza of the hymn looks to the future:

Give thanks for tomorrow, full of  
surprises,  
for knowing whatever tomorrow  
may bring,  
We're given God's word that  
always, forever,  
we rest in God's keeping and live in  
God's love.

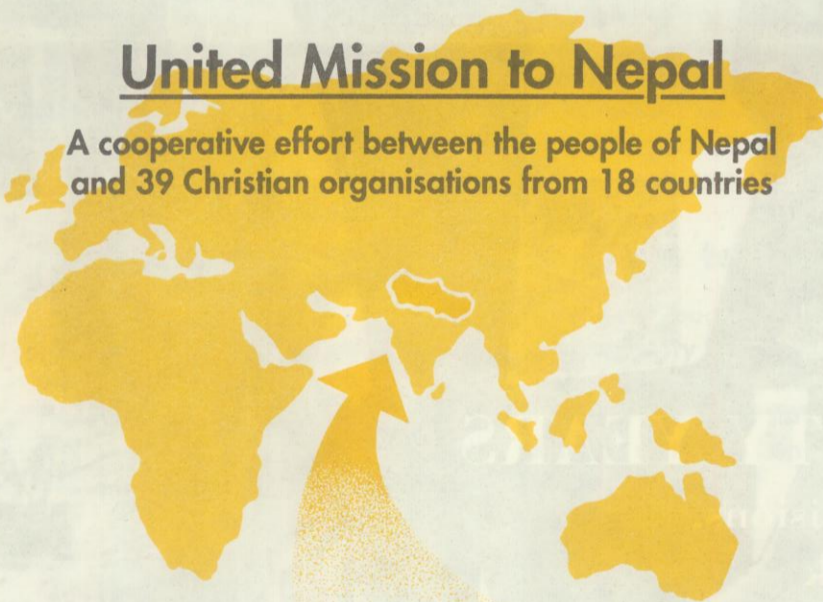
Tomorrows always have surprises. Certainly the social, political, and economic environment in which we work today in Nepal is quite different from that encountered by the pioneer founders in 1954. Their vision continues to challenge us as we discern what it means to be faithful to our mission in changing circumstances.

In another 40 years, there may still be a UMN. What will it look like? Will the vision of a truly indigenous organization be realized? Whatever the future, partnership between the people of Nepal and the worldwide Christian community will enrich both.

Edgar Metzler  
Executive Director

## United Mission to Nepal

A cooperative effort between the people of Nepal  
and 39 Christian organisations from 18 countries



### HEALTH SERVICES

Cares for the sick and promotes health through hospitals, community health and education programmes

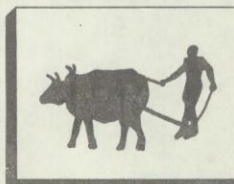


### EDUCATION SERVICES

Assists in the development of education at different levels through formal and non-formal methods/training

### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Facilitates private sector industrial development, appropriate technology dissemination and technical training



### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Assists rural communities in their efforts to improve their quality of life through awareness building, non-formal education/training and technical support

Expatriate volunteer professionals from many countries,  
working together with more than 2,000 Nepalis in 35 UMN-related projects

### UMNews

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Art Director: Michael Brown

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For photos, please contact the UMN Information Office.

Photos : Olof Konneback, except  
Cover : Michael Brown  
Page 3 : Palpa CHP (right)  
Page 4 : Archives  
Page 5 : Archives  
Page 8 : Michael Brown

# Forty Years of Service Celebrated in Nepal and Worldwide



**The United Mission to Nepal was founded by eight mission organisations from various countries on the 5th of March 1954. The 40th Anniversary Year of this unusual Christian development organisation began with various celebrations taking place in Nepal and many other countries in the beginning of March.**

At the Worship Service in the Headquarters garden on the 5th of March, around four hundred past and present UMN workers and friends paid tribute to forty years of service in Nepal.

Directed by archivist Betty Young, UMNers representing different areas of work gave lively accounts of the first years.

Senior pastor Robert Karthak acknowledged the separate identities of the Mission and the Church: "Although belonging to the same family, the Mission has always allowed the Church to develop its own theology and leadership. We are very grateful for that."

In his short sermon, Bishop John Reid from Australia highlighted the inseparable partnership of words alongside deeds, as vital today as it was in Jesus' ministry. This is captured in UMN's vision "to minister to the needs of the people in Nepal..."

Nepali and expatriate song groups participated with songs of different styles, including an old prayer song for Nepal.

Many stayed after the 2½ hours service, drinking tea, talking with old friends or watching the historic displays.

**UMN's existence was celebrated in many creative functions in the projects around Nepal:**

The ceremonies in the Rural Development Center in Pokhara included the official opening of the new training hall, in which the UMN video was shown to over 80

celebrants. Long-term employees and appointees received certificates. Each RDC section contributed to a much enjoyed entertainment programme.

A special exhibition on the work of UMN throughout Nepal was prepared by the team in Butwal. More than 200 staff came to the BTI canteen where they in addition to displays and the UMN video could watch a Butwal-produced video reflecting on the past and present of the Butwal activities.

The Jajarkot project had invited fifty local leaders and officials to a special programme at the project headquarters in Khalanga. After the formal meeting, slides, displays of books and NFE materials, and charts and graphs about the project were shown.

The Okhaldhunga celebrations started a couple of days early with a sports afternoon at the high school sportsground, when staff of all three programmes had a rare chance to meet and have fun together. The big feast at the guest house included speeches, music and a role play by the RD team, showing the growing self-confidence of low-cast NFE participants. Greetings from HQ in Kathmandu were delivered by Dorothea Friederici, who was one of the first expatriates working in Okhaldhunga 31 years ago.

In Tansen all UMN staff went out on a 2-hour procession through the city. Headed by a small band of traditional Nepali musicians, staff from the hospital, the Community

Health Project and HATS processed in department order carrying various banners. A number of other activities, including certificates to 32 people for more than 20 years of service, made the 40th anniversary a major event in Tansen.

A song contest was a special attraction in the Andhi Khola project celebrations. More than 100 people gathered on the new school playing field, also enjoying speeches of local dignitaries and a tea party.

Amp Pipal combined the 40 years celebrations with the 25th Anniversary of the construction of the hospital on the 6th of April. The chief guest was Dr Bal Gopal Baidya, member of the National Planning Commission. The 3-hour function in the morning was attended by close to a thousand people.

**Celebrations to mark UMN's birthday circled the globe over the first weekend of March:**

London: A CMS-related British Mount Everest Medical Expedition climbed the outside of the atrium of the Lloyds building in the heart of London. The expedition is promoting UMN's health work and attracted widespread interest in English media. A service of celebration in a nearby church gave thanks for the growth of Christian work in Nepal.

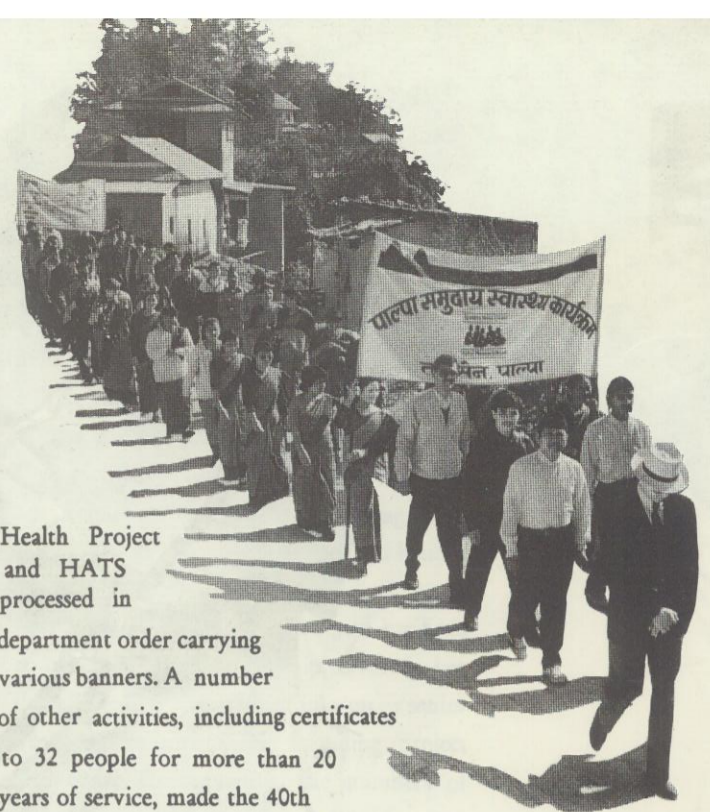
N. Ireland: 150 people came to a UMN reunion in Belfast. One of them was Dr Trevor Strong who was on the first trek into Kathmandu in 1951.

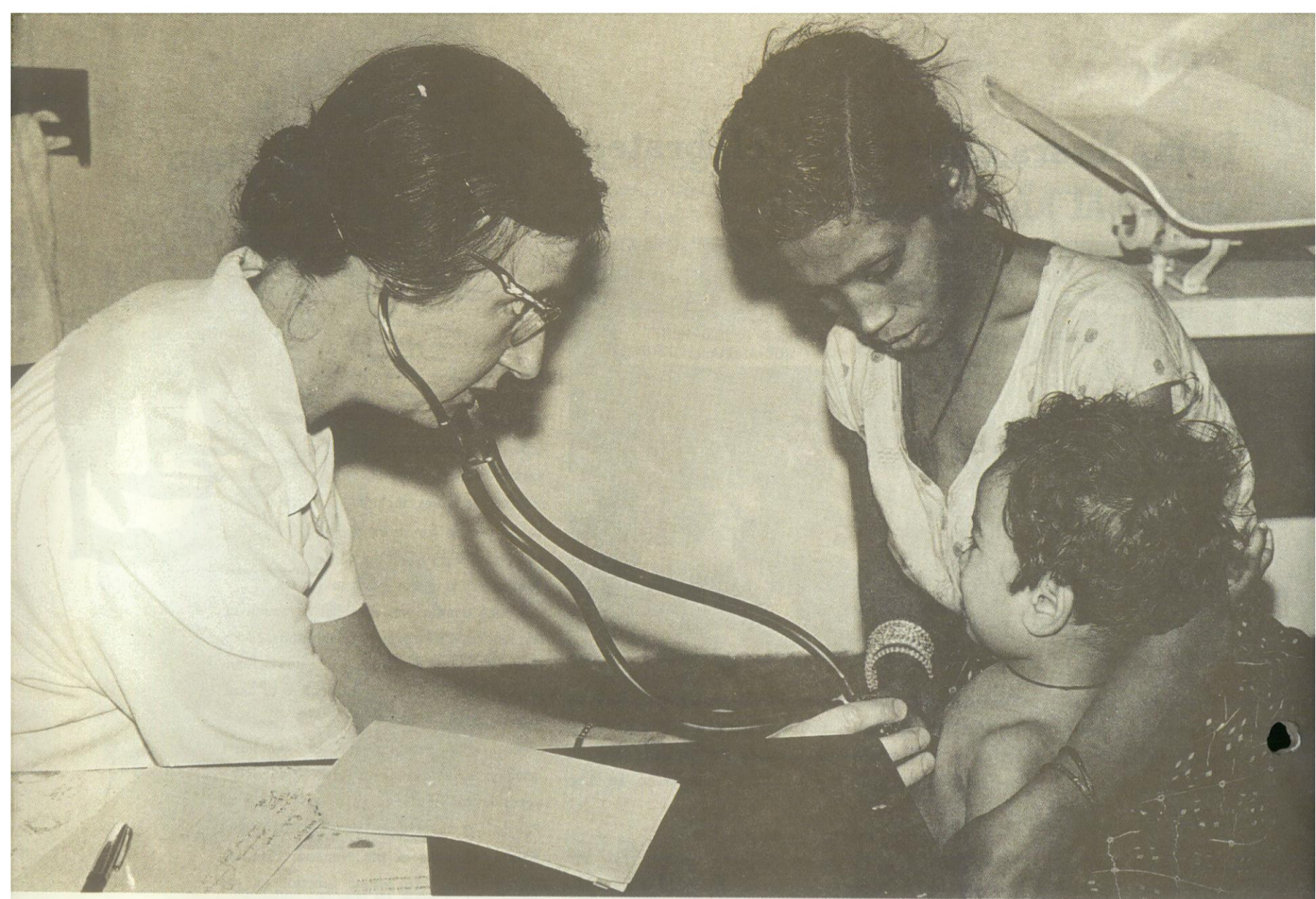
Minneapolis, USA: Fifty ex-UMNers and others ate daal-bhat together and saw the new UMN-video.

Thanksgiving services took place in the Cathedral of Bergen in Norway, in Holland, Denmark and Australia, as well as in many other countries.

Numerous congratulation faxes and letters arrived in UMN Headquarters in Kathmandu.

UMN pioneers Carl and Betty Friedericks commented that "we never in our wildest dreams foresaw the reality of the present day UMN". ●





## IT STARTED WITH A SMALL CLINIC...

**It's an amazing story. An enthusiastic lady doctor started a small clinic in Bhaktapur in the beginning of 1954. Forty years later, UMN is Nepal's largest Non-Governmental Organisation with multi-faceted projects in many places, supported by Christian organisations from all over the world.**

Mission workers along the borders of Nepal had curiously waited many years for admittance to the secretive Kingdom.

The chance came in 1949 for the American Methodist Bob Fleming, whose bird-watching expedition reached Tansen and some other places in the western hills.

Two members of another group, the Nepal Border Fellowship, were among the first westerners (except for the British Ambassador) to trekk into the Kathmandu valley in 1951.

These contacts led to an invitation from the Foreign Ministry to start medical work. The United Mission to Nepal was formally founded in the beginning of March 1954. But at that time the work had already begun...

The first ten years were overwhelming for the small group of mission pioneers. The Nepali people had been isolated for almost two hundred years and the needs were enormous in all sectors.

The early missionaries eagerly threw themselves into the many tasks and despite many difficulties, the mission grew quickly.

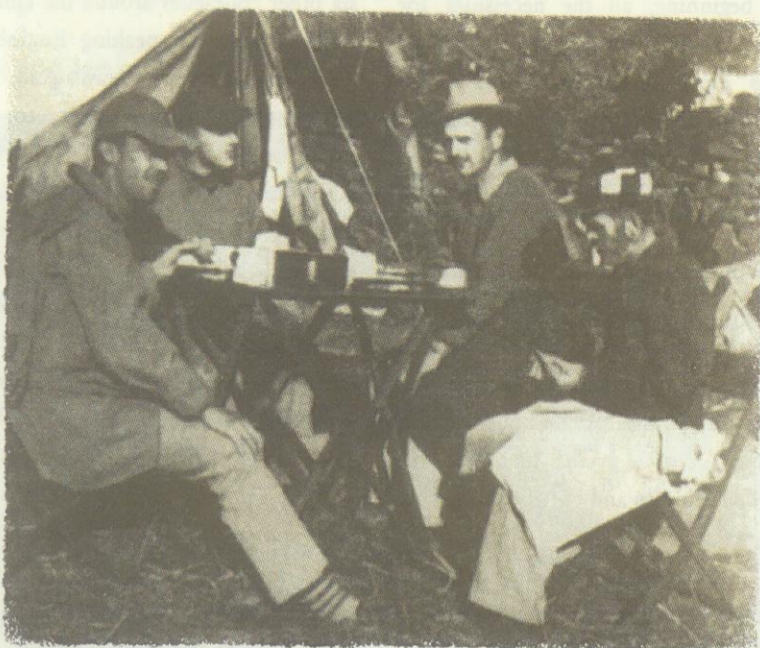
By the end of the first decade it had established hospitals with outlying clinics in Kathmandu and Tansen, a nursing school and a girls high school in Kathmandu, primary schools, teacher training, adult literacy and agriculture work in Gorkha district and a health and agriculture project in Okhaldhunga.

*Lady doctors have played an important role in UMN. The pediatrician Eleonor Knox is one of them. She was the first Australian to join UMN in 1959 and worked in Shanta Bhawan, Tansen and Gorkha.*

The number of co-operating organisations had now grown from the initial eight to twenty member bodies, providing about a hundred expatriate mission workers.

The health and education work being well established, UMN proceeded into a radically new involvement in the sixties - industrial development. This much debated step made UMN one of the first missions to recruit engineers in large numbers.

Butwal Technical Institute and its associated industries transformed Butwal on the plains into an engineering and industrial development center. BTI's on-the-job training was a totally new idea and its graduates were among the earliest trained technical workers in the country.



*On the first bird expedition in 1949, Bob Fleming (right) and his friends Carl Taylor, Harold Bergsma and Robert Bergsaker trekked in central Nepal for three months.*

Out of BTI grew a number of private companies, serving as vehicles for industrial development - another concept pioneered by UMN.

UMN's long-term commitment to utilize Nepal's abundant hydro power potential started in 1963 with the Tinau Power Project in Butwal, the first hydropower plant in Nepal to have a tunnel and a power house blasted out of the rock.

Important additions to the education work were the nationwide Training and Scholarship programme and the Gandaki Boys School, both started in the mid-sixties.

The third decade of UMN's history saw a closer relation with the Government in all fields, especially in training. There was an increasing emphasis on professionalism. Greater effort was made to recruit people with relevant qualifications and experience. The number of expatriates increased significantly.

There was a growing realisation that Nepal's problems couldn't be solved by a single sector approach. Community health

programmes expanded and started to incorporate technical and educational aspects such as drinking water schemes and non-formal education classes.

A number of new projects began in 1980-81: Karnali Technical School in Jumla, Andhi Khola Hydro and Rural Electrification Project in Shangya district, Rural Development Center in Pokhara and Surkhet Project.

A new epoch of the health work started when the old and well-known Shanta Bhawan hospital moved into the new and purposely built Patan Hospital in 1982.



*Above: Dr Trevor Strong at the Tangkot checkpoint, just before he - as one of the first two UMNers - visited Kathmandu in 1951.*

*Left: Odd Hoftun entering his first home in Butwal. This "bungalow" came to Nepal on a truck, serving as a bus-cum-hotel for three families travelling overland from Norway in the early sixties.*

In the mid-eighties the number of UMN member bodies came close to forty. The expatriate personnel went up to four hundred including spouses.

More recent projects include the Mental Health programme, Jhimruk Hydro-electric Project in Pyuthan, Nepal Resource Management Project in Dhading and Ramechhap, Jajarkot NFE Project and Khimti Hydro-power Project.

Since the beginning, UMN's goal has been to train Nepalis for leadership. Over the last decade Nepalis have moved into more senior positions within UMN, including project leadership. Consequently, the numbers of expatriates have gone down.

The long-term strategy guidelines from 1990 reaffirms the emphasis on increasing the capacity of Nepali people and Nepali organisations to do their own development, using UMN as a resource base.

The direction for the next decade may be summed up in the word 'partnership'. The hope is that Nepalis and expatriates will grow closer and closer together, facing the many challenging tasks in Nepal in an active and growing partnership?



*Betty Young in the 1960s, loading porters at Headquarters for the two-week walk to Okhaldhungal*

## HOW TO KNOW MORE ABOUT UMN'S EXCITING HISTORY

The UMN Archives Department is housed in the Himalayan Room in the Edinburgh University, UK. The collection of minutes, correspondence, reports, books, AV-materials is open to anyone interested in Nepal and the exciting history of UMN.

If you have materials to offer, questions to ask, or would like to visit the UMN- and Nepal-related resource center in Edinburgh, please write to Betty Young, CSCNWW, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh EH1 2 LX, U.K.; or contact Helen Parsons, UMN HQ, who is the Nepal-based link person to the Archives in Edinburgh.

## HEADQUARTERS' NUCHIMAN WAS THERE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING



**"I slept on top of Ernest Oliver's trunks outside the first UMN Headquarters office for two weeks. That was the start," says Nuchiman Maharjan, the first Nepali staff at HQ and still serving after 35 years.**

When Headquarters moved to Kathmandu in 1959, it happened to settle down in a house next to Nuchiman's.

"Betty Young and Ernest Oliver put all their trunks and boxes in the yard outside the house - and then they left! I didn't know where they went, but I thought the things might get stolen so I watched them day and night for two weeks.

"When Mr Oliver finally returned, he asked me why I had done it. I said I was afraid of theft. 'That's good' he said, and from that moment I've been working for the Mission."

For a long time Nuchiman was the only staff besides the director and the secretary, Betty Young. He had to do all sorts of jobs - not always easy for a 20 year old farmer's son who had never attended any school.

"I was gardener and cook. I had to do post and bank jobs, tickets, customs, everything. I even sewed nylon curtains for all the windows!

"Often I stayed till 11-12 at night, turning the handle of the stencil machine. But it was no problem. The Lindells gave me food and since I had my own key I could just go home when I was finished."

In the beginning, all the necessities for distant projects like Okhaldhunga in the East and Amp Pipal in the West had to be purchased and organized into porter loads to be carried all the way from Kathmandu. To handle this, Nuchiman, who cannot read or write, had to develop a good memory.

Another important job was the visas for the expatriates.

"One time someone had to make an emergency trip to India and a stamp was missing. It was during Dashain holiday and it was evening, but I cycled home to the minister in Lazimpat and got the stamp and the signature needed."

Although basically in the same location, Headquarters has changed a lot since the days when Nuchiman operated the whole Central Services Department himself.

"It's much easier nowadays. There are so many more means of assistance and many more friends to work together with," says Nuchiman, who still remembers all the early missionaries by name.

### "WE HAD A LOT OF FUN!"

**As part of the anniversary celebrations, a panel of nine "old-timers" shared their early memories in an informal meeting on March the 6th. It was a memorable time with many good laughs and an atmosphere of thankfulness for the privilege of being able to work in Nepal and UMN.**

Joyce Ruohoniemi came in 1956. She travelled seven weeks on a freighter from America to Bombay and then on train through India. The last part of the journey, she flew in the old DC-3 over the ridge from Simra into the Kathmandu valley.

"I was met at the airport by the red Shanta Bhawan jeep. It was very little traffic. The Bagmati bridge was only one-way so you had to wait, but there was not much to wait for", remembered Joyce.

According to her first impressions, she had landed in an exotic, mystical place, heavy with religious activity:

"People were much more religious at that time. There were shrines in every corner and they were visited every morning by people bringing their offerings."

"I came 22 years old, full of enthusiasm, vision and purpose! Then began the refining process...", said Joyce with a big smile.

Ruth Judd, who came from Australia in 1962, remembered one of the first meals with

six other colleagues around the table:

"They were all speaking English - but I didn't understand a word! And I said to myself: 'How am I going to learn to understand these people?'"

But the unity and peer support, despite the great diversity, has been a very important experience for Ruth Judd over the years.

Bishnu Rai, now director of the Lalitpur Nursing Campus, travelled from Darjeeling to become a student in the very first class of UMN-educated nurses in 1959. She gave a lively account of her first encounter with a white missionary nurse:

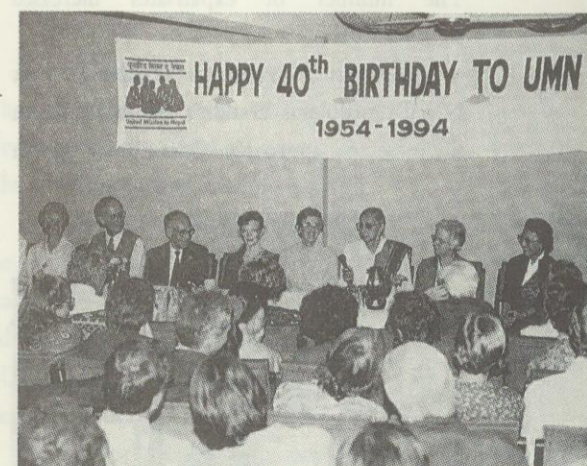
"I and my friend walked into Shanta Bhawan and saw a sister with white hair, white dress and white skin. We thought we saw a ghost and just screamed in fear. We had never seen that sort of thing before."

Bill and Margaret Gould came in 1965 by boat to Bombay, like many before them. Margaret remembered the dangerous walk from Butwal up to Tansen. The road was under construction. Thousands of people had to meet on the small path and she feared she would fall into the river.

Bill shared his first impression of Tansen hospital as a "light on a hill" which (thanks to the generator) shone in the darkness when they approached Tansen the first evening.

Language struggles was a reappearing subject this nostalgic afternoon. Bill Gould told the story of someone who came to him in Tansen hospital one day:

"I thought he was saying that his mother-in-law was terribly ill, so I asked him to bring her to the hospital. Since he strongly declared that to be impossible, I promised to go down to the bazaar and see her. Only then I realized that the patient he was talking about was the buffalo!"

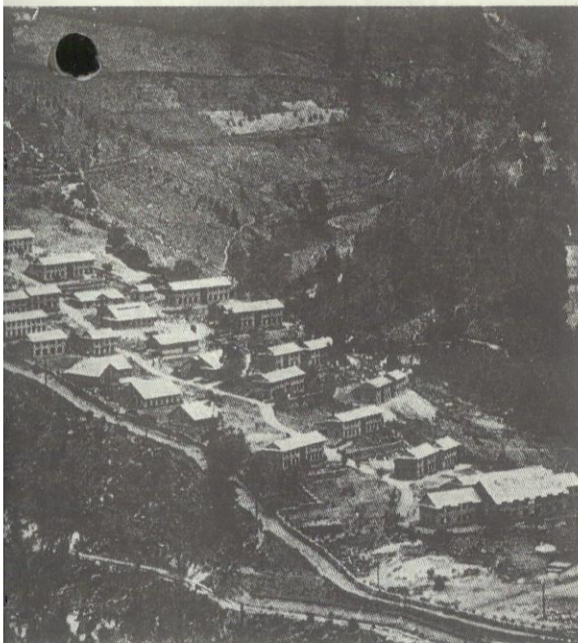


Looking back, several people talked about the closeness in those days when the mission was much smaller. "We knew everyone, we were more together, and we had a lot of fun" were some of the typical comments. ●

## A New Phase Begins in Jumla

When UMN first came to the Jumla area there were no locally trained technicians available to meet the demands in the public sector for health, agriculture and construction workers. A steady stream of graduates from the Karnali Technical School (KTS) has drastically altered that picture.

The Jumla project was started in 1980 with the goal to establish a technical school in the far northwest - the poorest and most underserved area of Nepal. This major investment of UMN is now approaching its fifteenth and final year, well fulfilling the expectations.



KTS is a joint collaboration with the Government. UMN has been responsible for the construction of the school complex with more than fifty buildings located on the hillside just north of Jumla bazaar.

Many UMN-seconded teachers have also been involved in developing the school alongside many more Nepali educators working under the CTEVT of HMG. Last year a course for Auxiliary Nurse-Midwives was opened by KTS, to broaden technical skill training in the area. In addition to KTS, UMN activities include a forestry programme and installation of local water-powered mills.

In gratefulness for the successful completion of the first phase, UMN has made a new plan for future involvement in Jumla which builds upon the strong foundation that has been laid. The proposed plan will involve UMN in a partnership to assist linking KTS staff and students with community training needs and in particular the training needs of women. ●

## Cause of Death: Pregnancy!

**Nepal has one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates. Per 100,000 live births, 830 mothers are losing their lives! This is a serious tragedy, leaving thousands of families motherless every year.**

The fact that Nepali women are living under extraordinary hard conditions is clearly confirmed by a comparison with the rest of Asia: The estimated figure for the whole of Asia is 'only' 400 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. (To be compared with less than 10 for some developed countries.)

"A major problem is that Nepal with 20 million people only has 14 hospitals, including our 4 UMN hospitals, where operative obstetric services like C-sections are made," says Health Services Director Bill Gould. "And most of those hospitals are located in urban areas."

Over the last two years, the subject of safe motherhood has received special emphasis in all UMN health projects.

Each UMN hospital has identified a waiting room for pregnant women at high risk near the hospital.

Patan Hospital has an ambitious plan to convert an existing Dharamshala (resting shelter) into a low cost birthing centre to allow many more women to have their children in close proximity to the hospital (only 6% of deliveries in this country take place in hospitals) and at a fraction of the cost of a normal hospital delivery.

Consequently the obstetric unit in the hospital will have more opportunity to give time and attention to women who are at high risk. Already high-risk women referred by the CDHP team are given free treatment at Patan Hospital.

Each Community Health Programme trains and supervises traditional birth attendants and women community volunteers, either independently or in cooperation with the Government District Public Health Office.

Nutrition subjects and referral information related to pregnancy are taught in all non-formal education classes.

WHO has announced a world-wide initiative to halve the maternal mortality by the end of the century. Government plans in Nepal indicate the same aim.

"In the areas around our hospitals and community health programmes we have achieved that aim already," says Bill Gould. "But there is a lot more to do. Training of health workers and the development of appropriate antenatal and delivery services throughout the country are required before we will see a change in these shocking death rates." ●

## 'Breakthrough' in Management Training

**"A great success!" Forty senior managers from all EID-related projects and companies participated in a 3x3 days 'Commitment in Action' management seminar, held in Kathmandu and Butwal over the second half of 1993.**

"I used to be quite cynical about management seminars," says the director of the Engineering and Industrial Development Department (EIDD), Gerry Kent. "But the Commitment in Action programme fell outside of my preconceived notion."

Each team of managers selected a project to work with, which, once completed, will be a 'breakthrough' for the organisation.

For example, Butwal Power Company developed a 'professional' corporate plan.

Himal Hydro greatly improved its purchasing and supply system.

Butwal Technical Institute searched for 6 and found 13 new places in industry for its trainees.

Development and Consulting Services worked on a Management Information

System which will assist in making prompt and effective management decisions.

"We learned techniques that can turn what appears to be impossible into that which is not only possible but achievable," notes Gerry Kent.

"And the techniques and methods were not only taught, we had to use and practice them to the point where we saw how valuable and practical they are in accomplishing worthwhile goals. As a result, these management tools are more likely to be used in the future."

The seminar was led by Allan Henderson, a Seattle-based management consultant, assisted by a Nepali management consultant and a team from UMN's Training and Development section. ●

## Nagi's Choice

UMN's rural development workers have seen encouraging changes taking place in many communities in Nepal. But sometimes the community is not able to come to an agreement on how things should be done:

Nagi is a small village in the eastern hills of Nepal. UMN's rural development project was advised by the Village Development Committee in the area to start work in Nagi since it had many problems: dwindling forests, unfertile land, no clean drinking water.

The initial response was positive with drinking water being identified by the villagers as the main priority.

However, it was not possible, even with the help of the project, to organize a meeting with all households represented to sign a letter of request. Whenever people met - outside because low-caste villagers were participating - there was a lot of discussions, but nothing ever happened. The women of Nagi continued to carry their heavy "gagris" (water containers) a long way.

The area has a great potential for forestry work, but the villagers decided against community forestry activities. Everyone wanted to do his own thing.

This was particularly stressed by one better-off and influential man. If the project's ranger would dare to come to Nagi, he would be beaten up.

Since the ranger belongs to the untouchable Sarki caste, six months of motivation efforts did not help. "From your hand we don't need anything," was the village's conclusion.

The project workers have accepted Nagi's choice. But they continue to walk through Nagi on their way to nearby villages. And they are waiting with interest to see if attitudes will change when results in the neighbouring communities are becoming visible. ●

## Many Strings One Chord

UMN in a nutshell! The new 19-minute video presents an overview of UMN's manifold, but united, work in a diverse country.

Copies are available from DCP, UMN HQ. (Rs 500). Outside Nepal, send your order to any of the following UMN member organisations:

TEAR Fund, 100 Church Rd, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11, 8QE, U.K.

Fax 081-9433594.

CMS Australia, 93 Bathurst St, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia. Fax 02-2673626.

Mennonite Board of Missions, Box 370, Elkhart IN 46515-0370, USA.

Fax 219-2948669. (American NTSC system.)

Please enclose a cheque payable to UMN with your order. (US\$ 15 or Sterling Pounds 10, including postage.)

## A Time to Embrace

This new booklet gives you the exciting story of UMN's pioneering work in Nepal over the last 40 years. You are welcome to buy a copy. Simply complete and return the coupon below.

Please fill in and return to:

EDGAR METZLER, UMN, PO BOX 126, KATHMANDU, NEPAL.

Please make all cheques payable to UMN

1.  I would like to make a gift of  for:
  - Where most urgently needed
  - The Medical Assistance Fund, which provides free medical care to poor patients
  - For cost of publications ordered below
2.  Please send me  additional copies of UMNNews for friends and colleagues
3.  Please send me further information on UMN's work to give to friends

4.  Please send me  copies of the special 40th Anniversary Book 'A Time To Embrace'
5.  I don't currently receive a copy of the new UMN Quarterly Prayer Sheet and would like a copy
6.  Please note that my address has changed

Name:   
 Address:   
 Country:

## NOTICES

### Women Acting for Change

Legal rights for women was the focus of a 4-day workshop organised by AGNW (Advisory Group on Nepali Women) in mid-March. Thirty participants from different UMN projects and nine from India and Bangladesh agreed that the Nepali law does not give women enough security and protection. The group decided that AGNW should specially concentrate on property rights for women and the problem of polygami.

### Many Latrines built in Surkhet

The initial six months of work in the new areas of Surkhet project show encouraging results. The first eleven groups of poor and marginalized people started work on a project chosen by themselves and which could be achieved within two months using only locally available skills and resources. A hundred latrines, school and community buildings have been built, water sources have been re-established and a barrier to protect a community forest has been constructed.

### Khimti Agreement Signed

Agreements for the 60 MW Khimti Hydro-power Project were signed on March 30 by representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources, Nepal Electricity Authority and Himal Power Limited. The project which marks a new phase of UMN-related companies' involvement in the development of Nepal's ability to plan and implement hydro-power schemes, is estimated to have a workforce of 2,000, to cost more than 120 million USdollars, and be ready to generate power in late 1997.

### AIDS drama in Amp Pipal

A well-organised performance of an AIDS drama gathered about 2,000 spectators in front of the 'chautara' stage at Amp Pipal hospital one Tuesday evening in January. The drama involved almost all staff of the Gorkha project and told the story of 16-year-old Chameli, who was taken to a brothel in India on false pretences, contracted AIDS and returned home.

### Medal to Long-term UMNER

Yet another UMNER has been recognized by His Majesty the King for important service to Nepal. From the King's hand, in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Crown Prince, Hisa Asaoka received the royal award 'Suprabal Gorkha Dakshin Bahu (3rd)' at the palace on March 28. Hisa has been a nursing teacher with UMN for more than 31 years, the last years as visiting professor at the Maharajanj Nursing Campus.