

Mike and Fiona's Nepal News, April 2018

Dear family and friends,

Thank you very much for your super emails, encouragement, support and prayers. A lot has happened since we last wrote!

Last year was clouded by uncertainty and difficulties, particularly to do with the visa situation, but there is much to be thankful for and things are definitely looking up.

One of the answers to prayer was in February when our visas were renewed, as was Mike's Nepal Medical Council registration, which allows him to do clinical work.

Here are some recent highlights:

- WHO World Hearing Day Rally with 200 people, and an educational programme at the Ear Centre at Green Pastures. Many student nurses and pupils from a deaf school attended.



- Otolology training day for 16 doctors from Pokhara and Kathmandu at the Ear Centre.



- 1 day ear check camp in a village near Pokhara where 145 people were seen



- Visit from Christina Berger from SON (Swiss donor representative)
- Signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding” between the Swiss agency SON and the Ear Centre and Green Pastures Hospital, with the Swiss consular affairs officer.
- Financial help from EAN for a child needing a cochlear implant
- Employment of new staff, some nurses already selected and other posts have been advertised, such as primary ear care workers for community. All will need training
- The 21 children from Rolpa came back for a 3 month check up, all ears healed and well, except one 5 year old who still has a tiny perforation, but much better than before.



Fiona has been busy too with:

- Being the speaker at the church’s annual ladies picnic
- Bible teaching for groups of young women who come to Pokhara for 3 month’s sewing training and bible study.



- Advisor to the church teenage group...help!!
- Pastoral liaison person for INF people in Pokhara.
- Entertaining visitors.

We came home briefly at Christmas to see the family and will be back again in a few weeks for the fabulous occasions of Luke and Lydia’s weddings in June, to which we are thoroughly looking forward!

Some other things ahead of us in Nepal this year:

- Appointing new staff, training them and starting regular community work for ear care.
- Covering for Mike’s absence from the Ear Centre during June and July.
- Developing a programme to screen babies for hearing loss. We think about one baby is born deaf each week or two in our main local hospital. Then how to help them.
- Running more training seminars and courses.
- Ensuring adequate access, care and follow up for the poorest and most needy.

We will be home until sometime in August, based in Hereford, and hope to see lots of our family in particular.

We plan to visit Dr Lukas Eberle in Switzerland in July followed by a cycling holiday around lake Constance with Mike and Celia Beverly, which will be great fun.

Funny moments:

I wanted to buy 20 men's handkerchiefs to use for a craft with the sewing group and bought 5 packs of what both the shopkeeper and I thought contained 4 hankies per pack.

When I got home I found there were actually 12 in each pack!!!! We will need to find homes for 60!! Also, asking for a small fish curry and getting lots of tiny fish!

We are writing this at Eastertime and have been touched again by the amazing truth of the cross and the resurrection, as we join our Nepali fellow believers in various services at church (4 in 3 days, including 6 am!). We are only able to be here and do this work because of our faith and the encouragement and prayers of all of you, thank you!

With love from,

Fiona and Mike

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BTW, you can find out more by looking at the sites below.

www.inf.org

<http://gphospital.org/projects/ear-center/>

www.earaidnepal.org (see the latest news page at <http://www.earaidnepal.org/blog.html>)