Number 16, March 2004

UMNews

United Mission to Nepal

FIFTY YEARS IN GOD'S HAND
1954-2004

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." **John 10:10**

UMN celebrates 50 years in Nepal

Dear UMN Friends,

Greetings to you all!

50 years is a great achievement in the lifetime of any organisation, and particularly for UMN, which was started as a new and innovative experiment. Never before had so many different missions united in this way to work together for the building of God's Kingdom in a country. I am sure the founders never envisaged that UMN would grow and continue to flourish and be so blessed and used by God over the next half century.

I feel truly privileged to present this 50th Anniversary edition of UMNews. In this issue, you will find a series of articles reflecting the memories and experiences of a number of our staff, both Nepali and expatriate. It gives an insight into the small beginnings of the organisation and the variety of ministries we have been involved in over the past 50 years. As we embark on our 50th anniversary celebrations, we hope these will give you a sense of the rich and diverse history of UMN and what God in His grace has allowed us to be part of. We hope to see many of you for the celebrations here in Kathmandu at the end of May and I trust many more of you will be able to join with others in your own countries to celebrate. In preparation for this, we have been able to produce anniversary posters, postcards, commemorative book, video and a special Anniversary song. We also enclose in this edition a leaflet on UMN 50th Anniversary Appeal. Your participation in joining with us to distribute this leaflet to your family, friends, Church members, and Fellowship groups is greatly valued as we try to raise funds. The details of which is included inside this issue

We have also tried to give you a flavour of the plans for the ongoing development of UMN and ask you to join us in prayer as we move towards the future, being led by the Spirit of God and building on the last fifty years of service.

Of course, none of our past achievements and future plans would be possible without the continued partnerships with His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Member Bodies, donors and Nepali churches and organisations. Most importantly, it is God that has led, guided, strengthened and enabled and it is to Him that all the glory for the past and hope for the future must be given.

Please join with us in celebrating and praising God, this important year in UMN's history!

"Sing about his glorious name. Honour him with praises."
Psalm 66:2

Jennie Collins
Executive Director

Contents

"Lord, give me this mountain" — *Mrs. Margaret Oliver* 4

To God be the glory! — *Carl Friedericks* 5

Hostel Duty at Mahendra Bhawan School — *Mrs. Dhana Shrestha* 6

Those were the days..... — *Asbjorn Voreland* 7

What would Jonathan have thought? — *Tim Ruohoniemi* 8

The way it was..... — *Prem B Singh* 9

By God's Grace, we can! — *Paul Wright* 11

Wandering down memory lane — *Betty Young* 12

A lonely engineer lost in a busy dirt floor hospital — *Odd Hoftun* 14

My thirty-two year journey with UMN — *Raghu N. Sharma* 15

What is all the talk about change? (UMN must not change) — *Larry Asher* 16

My valuable experience with UMN — *Mrs. Bishnu Rai* 17

Working with UMN — *Shaha Bahadur Gurung* 18

Transition Update 19

Cluster News 19

Dr Mark Zimmerman gets Himshikhar Social Service Honour 20

Butwal Technical Institute (BTI) celebrates 40th Anniversary 20

His Majesty's Government of Nepal approves Nepal National Oral Health Policy 21

Tansen Nursing School celebrates first graduation and 5th Anniversary 21

UMN Employee recieves "Principal of the year" award 21

UMN'S 5th Anniversary Book Review 22

United Mission to Nepal's 5th Anniversary Charity Appeal 23

UMN Annual Report 2002-2003 23

UMN's 50th Anniversary Let's celebrate!

As many of you are already aware, UMN is going to celebrate its 50th birthday this year on 5 March. Although its work first started with the opening of a maternal and child health clinic in Bhaktapur on 7 January 1954, UMN was not officially established until 5 March 1954. UMN's staff members, its friends from Nepal, outside Nepal and well-wishers are joining together to celebrate this historic moment and rejoice over the achievements of the last fifty years. The *50th* anniversary celebrations were officially launched in November 2003 at the UMN board meeting. This event featured the premiere of the anniversary video, song, book and calendar, posters and postcards.

To celebrate the *50th* anniversary of UMN's foundation day, different programmes will be organised in UMN's project locations within Nepal. The dates are: 3 March - Okhaldhunga; 5 March - Butwal & Kathmandu; 6 March - Tansen; 8 March - Pokhara and 13 March - Mugu.

There are also many events taking place in different countries in which our Member Bodies are based. They are Orebo, Sweden (3-5 March); Auckland, New Zealand (6 March); Seattle, USA (6 March); Tvedestrand, Norway (6 March); Denmark (20 March); Sydney, Australia (3-4 July); Swanwick, U.K. (30 July-1 August) and Alberta,Canada (13-16 August). In addition to this, anniversary events are being organised in Finland, Germany, Holland and Western Australia. For more details please contact us at 50years@umn.org.np or see our homepage www.umn.org.np

We are very pleased and encouraged to see that a good number of UMN's friends from overseas are looking forward to being with us in May to celebrate the UMN's *50th* anniversary festival, which will be the climax of our celebration.

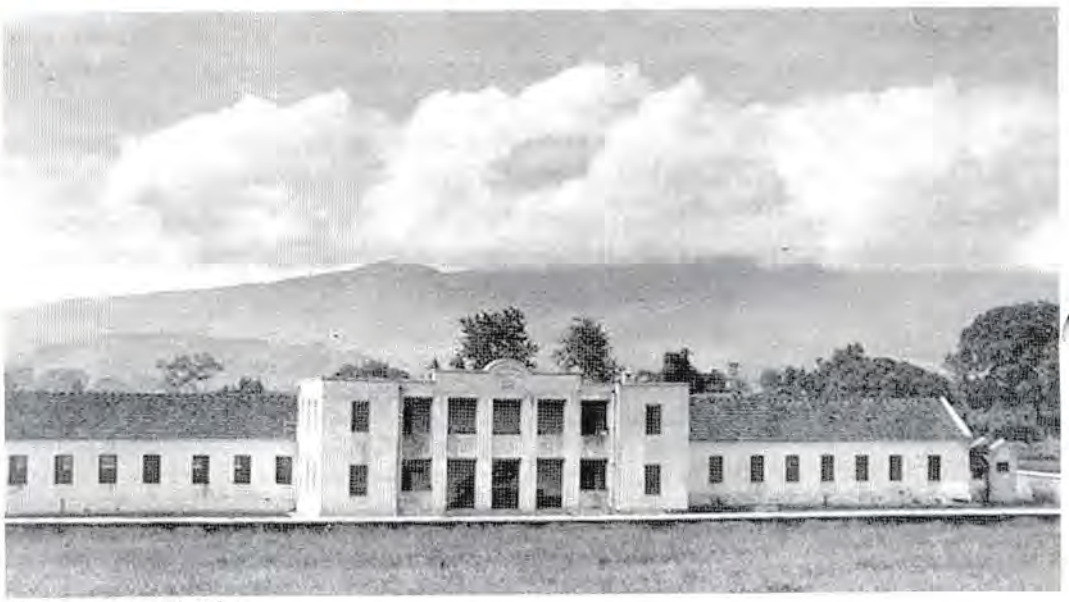
We are grateful to each and every individual in Nepal and abroad who is working on preparations for events and exhibitions to mark this special period in UMN's history. Please join us in praying that it will bring glory to our Lord who has used UMN to transform so many lives and who has guided us faithfully over the last fifty years.

Glory be to our God!

Khim Kandel
50th Anniversary Co-ordinator

"Lord, give me this mountain"

"Jesus Christ means everything to me, and I must speak about Him when I meet people."



Cholera Hospital, Teku

My earliest memory of the work of UMN is the work of the cholera hospital. The hospital was shared with maternity patients who would flee when there was an outbreak of cholera!! We lived in Usha Niketan, Thapathali for about a year in 1959, then moved to Shanta Bhawan when it became available, to take it over and turn it into a hospital. It was very cold, and it was very difficult to keep warm, but we had magnificent views of the Himalayas! Everywhere chandeliers hung from the ceilings, which had to be taken down before the place could be adapted to be a hospital. Everyone was so helpful. While this was being done, a small company of missionaries was trying to persuade a reluctant Brahman in Tansen to lease his house in Tansen for a hospital. From these small beginnings so much has happened!

I remember many difficult journeys when planes could not fly and the resulting long treks in bad weather. Sometimes, we were able to get seats in a lorry, but these journeys were hazardous because of landslides.

In the early days the English Ambassador at that time, Sir Christopher Summerhayes, was a Christian, and he helped us by giving us a place to stay when needed and giving us transport from the airport.

One government minister stressed that there should be "no preaching" and Ernest went back to him and said, "Jesus Christ means everything to me, and I must speak about Him when I meet people." "Of course you must," said the minister, "but that is not preaching!" Actually, so many people came to ask questions that it was not difficult to satisfy their curiosity, and many opportunities arose, but nothing was ever forced of course. I remember how, with a small group, we knelt on the ground at Anandaban and a dear Indian doctor prayed, "Lord give me this mountain", and the Lord did - for the leprosy work. It was a joy and a privilege to be able to help.

Earnest & Margaret Oliver

Mrs. Margaret Oliver

To God be the Glory !

The theme for the 50th Anniversary celebration is "Fifty Years in God's Hand". His hand had been evident long before that charter meeting in Nagpur. Several missions had worked on the border for years, preparing for the time they could serve inside the country, building schools and hospitals and training Nepali-speaking Indian Christians.

The interests of Dr. Bob Fleming and the skill and charm of Dr. Bethel Fleming led to the rare opportunity for Bob to enter the Rana-controlled land to study birds. His winning ways led to friendships with local people that opened the way for a second invitation soon after the return of King Tribhuvan. The Flemings invited our little family, fresh from three years in a turbulent China where I was superintending a mission hospital under the new Communist government, and a year doing surgery in Northern India (both good preparatory learning experiences), to go along.

In Tansen, Dr. Bethel and I saw about 2,000 patients and did five successful major operations. In one, we had to perform in a tiny open pavilion in the courtyard of the ancient government "hospital" with about 200 onlookers, who actually cheered when we pulled out and exhibited the bladder stone. Later we arranged to operate in a room in the Durbar, and had some uncharitable thoughts about the goat that wandered into the operation room ("OR"). Considering the conditions, God did the healing, not we physicians. The impact of this work resulted in a totally unexpected invitation by the local leaders to return to set up a "mission hospital" (their words).

Then the hard part. The Flemings later went to Kathmandu to use their charm with the officials, and were greatly helped by Dr. Paul Rose, head of the USAID equivalent. We went on furlough to the USA to raise interest and potential funding in our sceptical Presbyterian headquarters. Finally a letter came from His Majesty's Government giving permission for the Flemings and Friedericks to open a hospital in Tansen and a Mother and Child service in Kathmandu. We eagerly presented the idea to our missions. The Flemings were Methodists, and had good support from their mission. Our Presbyterians were rather reluctant, but finally agreed to join in the Nepal effort, provided it be ecumenical in that at least four mission agencies take part.

The Methodist Bishop of India, J.W. Pickett, was very enthusiastic, and he eventually arranged the charter meeting in Nagpur, calling together the various organisations interested in mission to Nepal. So it was that, in so many disparate and often unlikely ways, these missions who had worked so hard and faithfully were able to form UMN and participate in a joint effort to serve the people of Nepal in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. The Nepali-speaking Christians who came to work with us were the mainstays of our staff, and also greatly instrumental in the development of the church in Nepal. To God be the Glory!

Carl Friedericks

Photo of hospital staff after first successful operation at government "hospital" in Tansen. Dr Carl Friedericks is sitting 2nd from right.

Carl Friedericks

Hostel Duty at Mahendra Bhawan School

Mrs. Dhana Shrestha

Mahendra Bhawan Girls' school in Kathmandu

After UMN received approval by the Nepal government to open hospitals and schools, Mahendra Bhawan School was established and started functioning from the first week of November 1956. From the very beginning, I was appointed to be a kindergarten teacher and hostel mother. I had a great desire to do social work, and here I received the opportunity to serve the students, all of whom were girls.

About five decades ago, education was essential in Nepal, especially education for girls. Initially there were eight or nine kindergarten students. I enjoyed teaching them, playing with them, and telling them stories. But the hostel responsibility was very difficult. I had to cook for the students, bathe and dress them and take care of all their needs. We did not have helpers. The hostel had a mud floor that had to be mud plastered regularly. The food was cooked on wood stoves, so cleaning the smoke-covered pots was a challenge. Above all, water was scarce.

As the children grew older they learned from our example. They started to practise what we had taught and showed them. Some of the students in the hostel came from higher-caste families. They would not even put away their plates after meals. But later they began to wash the dishes for the little ones and for us. They started to cook, wash, and do all kinds of work. The fruit of our initial hard work began to show. The students became capable in many aspects of life. Today, some of those students are teachers in Mahendra Bhawan and other schools, some are doctors and nurses, and some are engineers and professors. Many have become good and capable housewives.

The students in this school are from the eastern and western hilly parts of the country. My heart is overjoyed to see them reaching the peak of success. I feel that I am enjoying a very sweet fruit after all the hard work.

In this way the contributions of UMN in the area of education is very great. The lives of the girls of this country have been changed and the doors of opportunity have been opened. When I look back to those days and when I see daughters of this country becoming successful, I thank the Lord from the depth of my heart and I feel very satisfied.

Mahendra Bhawan school

Late Queen Aishwarya at Mahendra Bhawan School's silver jubilee function.

Those were the days . . .

The Vorelands taking language lessons in the sun.

I (Asbjorn), Mia and Hilde (2) arrived in Kathmandu late December 1964 after a tiring journey overland from Norway in a combined lorry/bus camper. Mia was admitted into the Shanta Bhawan Hospital on arrival to be treated for typhoid and malaria. Hilde and I settled into a building at UMN Headquarters, that consisted of various offices, living quarters for the Lindell family, guesthouse with Evey Lindell in-charge and language school facilities. I had to look for a suitable person to teach Nepali and train him/her to use the very solid Nepali Language Course book compiled by Jonathan Lindell. When Mia was finally well enough to leave Shanta Bhawan, the two of us had most of our lessons outside in the sun or in a thatch-roofed shelter. We had plenty of opportunity to practise Nepali as there were few foreigners in town. Two-year-old Hilde had three languages to cope with. Uncle Jonathan took it upon himself to teach Hilde her basic English. Every morning at breakfast he knelt beside her chair and slowly repeated the same sentences. When he had a clear answer, he went on to something new.

One morning, a ragged foreigner arrived at the dining/sitting room door and greeted us with a strong Scottish accent. Evey sprang to her feet and told him not to enter the room before he had been to the bathroom, showered and washed his hair and put all his clothes to soak in a tub. What a welcome for Dr. Dick who had been on the trail from Okhaldhunga for two weeks! Later on we understood why Evey was so keen to avoid having bedbugs and fleas in the house.

At Easter time 1965, Mia and I had our first visit to the Amp Pipal/Gorkha Project where we were assigned as teachers. Howard Barclay was the Project In-Charge, and he took me on an orientation tour to some of the UMN related village schools to the north. I was young (26) and fairly fit, I thought, but I was not prepared for the ordeal of following in Howard's footsteps. He ran like a mountain goat and did not seem to need water or rest. He was warmly greeted everywhere, while I sat for hours in school meetings not understanding a word. Everybody seemed to talk loudly at the same time, and Howard was in his element. He got full cooperation and agreement with local leaders. In May, I was assigned to the Luitel High School to fill in for Eleanor Elkin's furlough. There was no flight connection due to an early monsoon, so I walked to Luitel (Gorkha) via Trisuli accompanied by Pastor Prem Pradhan who had been recently released from prison. Two students from the Amp Pipal school hostel also tagged along for our 5-day journey. Among the students in class ten that year, two have recently been in the political limelight of the nation!

Mia was advised to remain in Kathmandu until the birth of our second child, due in October 1965. I went to Kathmandu during a school break, but dutifully went back to resume my teaching for the next term. The baby, Anne Kristin, was born in Surendra Bhawan the day after I left for Luitel, but I did not get the message until the next mailbag arrived from Kathmandu. I did not see the new baby until she was three weeks old, due to some after-birth complications and extreme weather conditions that prevented RNAC landing safely at Palungtar grazing field.

As we moved into our new family home in the Big Knoll House in Amp Pipal, Hilde (nearly 3) climbed up the stairs to Val Collet's room and greeted her with: " Hi, stupid!" We quickly found out that that was the normal greeting she was met with by the Lindell kids at the UMN Headquarters.

I could go on and on,.....

Asbjorn Voreland

Sickness and poor travel conditions are no barrier to achievement for the Voreland family.

What would Jonathan have thought?

Tim Ruohoniemi

Jonathan & Evey Lindell with Carl Friedericks in the background

I have asked this to myself several times over the course of UMN's change process. I am Jonathan Lindell's namesake, though my mother shortened my middle name, since she thought that Timothy Jonathan Ruohoniemi might be a bit too long. She travelled with Jonathan and Evey Lindell when they entered Nepal for the very first time in 1956. Jonathan was one of UMN's early visionaries, and he understood "capacity building" long before the term became development jargon. He also had a very strong sense of history, and his vivid description of Prithvi Narayan Shah's exploits is a treasured memory from a field trip that I took with him to the Nuwakot fortress in 1979.

Jonathan not only lived with a sense of history, but he was very conscious of change and potential. He could not have imagined many of the changes that have taken place in Nepal over the second half of UMN's existence. I think back to the days when the bridge over the Bagmati at Thapathali was a single lane, so that each vehicle would have to wait if one were coming in the other direction. Now people stop their motorbikes in the middle of the bridge to answer their mobile phones. I had my seventh birthday on the trail to Amp Pipal. Walking 5 days from Trisuli was the only option back then. Jonathan's vision and persistence established the Amp Pipal project - with a multi-sectoral approach that looks a little bit like what is envisaged for the new UMN clusters.

Jonathan looked forward to the day when Nepalis would be able to take responsibility for their own development. Back when the UMN hospitals were established, they were to be turned over to the government within 5 years! For a number of years, the "nepalisation" of UMN was attempted - now partnership with Nepali organisations is recognised as a more hopeful prospect. Our projects are like children that have grown up and can now leave home. In the west, children leaving home have to get their own accommodation, their own cars, insurance and bank accounts. The adjustment can be stressful, even if the "parent" continues to stock the bank account for a while! Jonathan thought about "sustainability," though he may not have called it that. If UMN had to disappear suddenly, what would be left of our work? We recognise now that the things that will survive are the ones where Nepalis "own" the vision and have the capability to keep things going, with or without expatriate resources. This can be our litmus test of how we work in the future with partners: if we had to leave "in the middle" would anything survive?

UMN continues to face many challenges. Some are much the same as in Jonathan's day, others are new. The need for UMN to be involved in Nepal is still as strong as ever, and the new opportunities are exciting as well as daunting. If Jonathan were around today, I think he would be cheering us on, "Go for it! Keep your hand to the plough and don't look back!" One of his favourite verses from the Bible was Psalm 16:8: "I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

The way it was . . .

Health Clinic at Bhoja

Prem B Singh

In May 1982 I saw a small advertisement in the "Gorkhapatra " Nepali daily newspaper, requiring a graduate to work in a rural village in UMN/economic development department. I sent off my application and within a week I was asked to attend an interview at the Blue Star Hotel. I was offered a job with a salary of Nepali Rupees one thousand and seven hundred per month plus 30% allowance. I started work within 15 days of being interviewed and my first assignment was to visit a Rural Development Project in Nawal Parasi with the new Rural Development Centre project director Mr. John Williamson.

We made the trip in two days. We arrived first at Arkhala, a Magar village and from there the next day we went to the small health clinic and project office at Bojha. I was introduced to three other Nepali staff who were working in the clinic, Jyoti and Prabhudan Gurung and Miriam Rai. Martin Dietz, the outgoing director, arrived the next day and the following day we went together with John and Martin's families to the project area for orientation and the opening of a drinking water project. Everyone was in celebratory mood because of the contribution Martin Dietz had made to the community. Martin and his family were very popular among the villagers.

I found my early days in the project difficult because of the poor and unhygienic living conditions in the village and problems with obtaining healthy food. The 10 days of orientation in the village were a formidable challenge for me. I often went for days without proper food, sometimes sleeping with an empty stomach. Even the local leader said that I was not fit to work in the village.

The Dietz family, who left the project soon after I arrived but not before we became good friends, encouraged me. I decided to stay and work in the community. I was very

Gwen Coventry (far left) who started Health Clinic in Bhoja

I am indebted to the UMN for the positive change it has brought into my personal life as well as what it has done for the country.

impressed with the project and received a lot of encouragement from John Williamson as well good sharing and caring from other Nepali staff.UMN is one of the best cultures I liked working with. Everywhere I stayed and worked I was treated like part of a family; a tradition that has never changed. In the end I felt it was a good first year in the project.

Unfortunately in June 1983, the project was closed. Then, during the monsoon, we (Mary, Miriam Rai and I) with one hundred porters carrying the project material started the hazardous journey to another location. The journey through knee-deep waters and on slippery trail was especially difficult for the porters. Carrying loads weighing up to 70 kgs., the porters could not complete the journey, so they stayed overnight at a village school as some of them had already sustained injuries. Unforgettably, Mary and Miriam almost drowned crossing one of the overflowing rivers. A porter who was carrying a light load had crossed the river with difficulty. I sensed danger and asked the two ladies not to cross but they insisted on crossing as it was getting dark and we had to get to the next village before nightfall. They started crossing the river but when they reached the middle of the river they realised they could not go further and panicked. The current nearly swept them away as they collapsed in the middle of the river. I shouted to a porter for help but he could not cross. For a second I did not know what to do, as I was not confident of being able to help them. But, realising that there was no alternative, I jumped into the river and grabbed Mary's hand and asked Miriam to hold the stick, which I had in my right hand, and with great difficulty I pulled them to other bank. After many difficulties, we finally reached the road ahead in the dark.

In 2002 I was so happy and felt proud when I read in Kantipur daily newspaper good things about the UMN/NPDP. Villagers still appreciate the work UMN did for the community.

In 2002, I was so happy and proud when I read in Kantipur daily newspaper good things about the UMN/Nawal Parasi Development Project. Villagers still appreciate the work UMN did for the community. The drinking water project and the water mill, which were built together with community participation twenty-two years ago in Arkhala, are still running. After Nawal Parasi, I was assigned to Rural Development Centre, Pokhara. During the five years that I worked there, I was also very encouraged.

In the twelve years that I was with UMN, I learned a lot. I was enriched from sharing experiences with community leaders and members, project staff and expatriate friends. UMN is so rich with experience in development work in Nepal, and it has been a learning ground for the several thousand Nepalis and hundreds of expatriates from around the world. Ex-UMN Nepali staff can be found in almost every development organisation working in Nepal. I have always heard positive things about the contribution that UMN has made to Nepal, not only from ex-employees but also from ex-students of UMN schools, beneficiaries of UMN scholarships, health education, community development and infrastructure programmes. What I personally appreciate about contributions made to me by UMN can be summarised as; opportunities for working and learning skills for development work, scholarship for higher education in UK, working as a missionary, working harder with honesty, integrity, dedication and absolute commitment and making genuine friendships and the sharing and caring culture.

I am indebted to the UMN for the positive change it has brought into my personal life as well as it has done for the country. Through this article I would like to thank all those friends, expatriates and Nepalis, past and present staff with whom I had an opportunity to meet and work with. I spent the best part of my working life (over twelve years) working for UMN and making my humble contribution to helping the poor and the marginalised people of Nepal. I salute UMN, its sponsors and its workers who have made such magnificent contributions to Nepal in the last 50 years.

I wish UMN a Happy 50th Anniversary!

Namaste!

By God's Grace, we Can!

The ransacked KCST Jumla Project Office

Paul Wright

A soft voice called out of the dark night. It was very late, and I was just going to bed. Who could be calling at this time of night? I responded from inside with the question that I had heard so often when visiting non-formal education classes in the evening - *'Ko ho?"(Who is it?") 'Maobadi!" ("Maoist!")* came the answer. I thought that they had just come to find out who the foreigners were that had come to live in the district, and what they were doing. I was mistaken - they had come for a 'donation'. Using all the limited Nepali I could muster I attempted to negotiate with them for one hour, but to no avail. After a misunderstanding resulting in a brief struggle and cries for help, they left. That rather traumatic visit was my first direct encounter with members of an armed Maoist insurgency, just over one year after I arrived in the country.

Five years later I have had a number of other 'encounters' and I have learned a lot about how one might behave in such situations, and so have many others in UMN. We have had five programmes violently assaulted. Sometimes large numbers appeared in the night brandishing weapons and threatening staff, taking what they wanted and destroying the rest. At other times small groups have come even in daylight to interrogate, intimidate and incinerate. Other incidents have been less violent but nonetheless traumatic - visits day or night; requests for 'donations', 'help' or 'support'; attempts to 'influence' programmes; bombs or gun-battles near to programme bases or in working areas. As laws have changed to attempt to deal with the problem, many health programmes have found themselves with ethical dilemmas relating to treatment of patients, use of information, guns on wards etc. Then there are other more mundane frustrations of strikes, checkpoints, increased bureaucracy and associated restrictions on staff movement that have slowed down progress.

However, although virtually all of UMN's work has been affected in some way or another, the news is not all bad. This violent insurgency has been running in Nepal for 16% of UMN's 50 years in Nepal, and for most of that time UMN has had to deal with direct and indirect impacts on its programmes, but only three have had to close. By God's grace and good management, for which it has gained a reputation, UMN has adapted and coped with the increasing insecurity of its working environment.

During this time UMN's programmes have continued to minister to the people of Nepal in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ and by doing so, made him known. Some people have questioned whether we will be able to work in areas such as Rukum, Mugu or Dhading in the future. Based on what we have achieved over the last eight years I would say, "By God's grace, we can!"

Wandering down memory lane

Betty Young

Betty Young with freight packed for Gorkha

My journey to Nepal in May 1959 began in Motihari, North India, where I worked with the first UMN Executive Director, Ernest Oliver. I rode on a bullock cart, plus my entire luggage, for two miles to the nearest railway station, stayed the night at Raxaul on the border, got the train from Raxaul across the tarai (flat low lands) to Simra the next morning, and flew to Kathmandu on one of the old DC3s. The plane had bucket seats all round the edge, with the luggage piled up in the middle. We flew between the mountains (not over them) to save on fuel. They looked horribly near the tip of the wing! There was no one to meet me at Kathmandu Airport, but one of the only six taxis in the city took me and my goods safely along the old road through Dilli Bazaar, and on to Shanta Bhawan Hospital in Sanepa.

Captain King was the main pilot of Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation, and helped us out in the hills many times. On one occasion he arranged with Howard Barclay in Luitel, Gorkha District, to phone our Headquarters office (HQ) for some information, and when he flew back out to Pokhara that afternoon he would fly over the Barclays' house. If the answer to Howard's question was "Yes", he would dip his right wing; if the answer was "No", the left wing would be dipped. Few cars were available and very few miles of road paved. In the old days the people walked on the roads and the pavements were reserved for royalty. So it was a big adjustment for pedestrians to change their habit when cars began to appear-the first ones carried up over the mountains from the tarai (flat lowlands) by 48 men, and later driven up over the unpaved Tribhuvan Highway from Raxaul when that opened.

Coming from my sheltered background, the adjustment to UMN with people from many nations, with many different ideas and customs, was a greater adjustment than the one to Nepal, but I soon began to make friends and appreciate the richness of working in such a diverse team. We set up Headquarters that summer of 1959 with one room in the house behind the present Prem

Niketan. Ernest Oliver sat on a bed with all his papers spread out around him, and I sat on the edge of a very uncomfortable armchair with my typewriter balanced on two wooden boxes. We gradually acquired proper office furniture and Jonathan Lindell came in from Gorkha to replace Ernest Oliver. The office room was on the north end of the house and very cold in winter, so we moved a table out into the sunshine, Nepali fashion, and worked there as much as possible. Then the team increased to three, and life was very squashed in that little room, until finally Asha Niketan was built and we had the luxury of two rooms for office space. The present HQ compound was a wild, open space with trees, bushes, weeds and stones, and no fence or wall to keep the animals out. Several of the Nepali staff from those days stayed with us for thirty to forty years and their absence today leaves a big gap.

My jobs included correspondence, and the fun of communicating with Tansen during the monsoon when planes stopped flying to the flooded Bhairawa airfield (no paved runway). We would send important letters in triplicate marked "via Pokhara", "via India", and "Registered" respectively, and would hopefully have an answer about two months later. (Where is the challenge of picking up the phone or sending an email today?) Another main job was buying all the personal and work-related goods ordered by folk in Gorkha and Okhaldhunga, packing it up, and then packing endless porter loads. One man from Gorkha insisted on having 165 lbs each time. When I sent kerosene I had to make a wooden frame for the tins so they did not rest directly on the porter's back. Then there was the job of helping to stencil and duplicate a revision of the old Nepali language course. We had to borrow the World Health Organisation (WHO) duplicator which had to be inked all over the inside of the drum for each stencil, and we ended each day looking like coal miners!

Looking back over forty-five years in UMN, the 1960s stand out as a very special decade. Jonathan Lindell worked hard to consolidate the joint working of scattered projects, to pool resources of personnel, finance and expertise for the whole mission, to form uniform policies for employment, annual holidays, etc. and to make the mission a truly united one in function as well as in name. At the same time, in the 1960s, we branched out into East Nepal for the first time, began the industrial work in Butwal (a new enterprise for missions such as ours), and opened Gandaki Boarding School, the first attempt to combine academic and practical training in schools in Nepal. We had no idea how things would develop or work out, but it was all very exciting venturing into the unknown and getting established as God led us, step by step.

There are two outstanding days in my memory. The first was in January 1958 when I came to Nepal for a visit, and one day stood in a courtyard of Shanta Bhawan trying to convince myself that I was really in Nepal. It had been the "closed land" for so long, and many pioneers had worked along the border in India, helping Nepalis as best they could, but never allowed to come in and live here-so why did I have the privilege of being in Kathmandu when they were denied the opportunity? It was hard to take it in those early days.

Another special memory was the 25th anniversary of UMN in 1979 when Jonathan wrote a pageant for us to enact at the Annual Conference. It included recitation, slides, drama, singing etc., and covered the history of the background story of the Church and Mission in the Darjeeling District before 1950, as well as the development within Nepal for 25 years. It was thrilling, and gave us all a fresh insight into God's planning and working out of His purposes over the years. I have a special privilege in being able to continue work with the historical aspects of the UMN right up to date in the Archive collection in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Usha Niketan, the original HQ building

A lonely engineer lost in a busy dirt floor hospital

It took a long time to build the new hospital in Tansen, much longer than Dr. Carl and I originally had hoped.

Odd Hoftun (left) and Francis Sauer at Butwal Power Company

On New Year's Day in 1958, we landed in Kathmandu and were met by Bob Fleming who put us up in the Butterfly Garden guesthouse at old Shanta Bhawan. We spent three freezing cold weeks in the guesthouse studying Nepali under the direction of an elderly, toothless Newari scholar who liked to lecture us in English about the superiority of the Newari language.

When an urgent message came from Carl Friedericks in Tansen to say that a Norwegian engineer was needed in Tansen, urgently, Tullis (my wife) and I were only too happy to respond immediately. On the way we were held up in Butwal by the onset of the winter monsoon. We were put up overnight in a dark room in a back lane of the old bazaar, where we were entertained by rats jumping over our bedding and monkeys jumping on the tin roof for most of the night.

Early next morning we were on our way along the trail towards Tansen with Tullis dangling on the backs of porters above the river in the Tinau gorge, and we told each other that we would never stay overnight in Butwal bazaar again. We arrived in beautiful Tansen. Tullis made another pledge: she would remain there and not go out again before the end of our term in Nepal. As it turned out neither of us kept our promises.

We could well understand the urgency in replacing the overcrowded dirt floor hospital in the town by something better. On the rocky and barren Bushaldara hillside, which was the site for the new hospital, the construction work had already started. Carl was impatient to get moving immediately, but with little money in hand and plenty of practical obstacles, I painfully learned that the job demanded all kinds of skills other than those this new building supervisor had acquired through his training.

As the lonely engineer lost amongst the doctors and nurses and lots of patients, I learned that the demands were to fix anything that needed fixing - because that is what engineers are for. The challenges were endless, and problems could not be solved according to the book, but only through improvising and learning things the hard way.

It took a long time to build the new hospital in Tansen, much longer than Dr. Carl and I originally had hoped. In many ways it was a frustrating experience. In retrospect, forty-six years later, it looks different. Those years spent in isolated and undeveloped Tansen trying to build a small hospital were in fact the best training I could have had for what was waiting ahead. Both Tullis and I benefitted tremendously from the multi-disciplinary fellowship with co-workers from many countries and backgrounds. We learned about the need for patience and got perhaps a deeper understanding of what real development means - and also what Christian witness really is all about.

Odd Hoftun surveys Tansen Mission Hospital located in Bushaldara hillside- 1961

My thirty-two year journey with UMN

BTI Apprenticeship training

Both United Mission to Nepal (UMN) and Butwal Technical Institute (BTI) have been unique organisations in Nepal, with their commitment to the development of the people of Nepal through assistance to meeting the basic needs of health, education, empowerment, and economic development by the provision of infrastructures, industries, and introduction of new technologies and technical training. BTI's significant pioneering contribution is to the economic development of Nepal. In BTI, skills training encourages self-employment through enterprise creation and also provides apprentices for employment in the industry sector.

It has been more than thirty years since I first came into contact with BTI and UMN. I had the opportunity to go through a four year Apprenticeship training in BTI where I was taught not only technical skills but good discipline, love and commitment to hard work. I also had the chance to serve within UMN where I gained valuable field and working experiences. Through Development Consulting Services, I travelled in most of the hilly regions of the country to promote micro hydro and other appropriate technologies to the most rural communities. I remember those tiring days in the mountains and hills; walking up to twelve hours a day but still feeling refreshed the next day. Later I was assigned to the challenging task of closing Butwal Wood Industries and Butwal Plywood Factory.

The values, work ethics and organisation culture in UMN have always been inspiring and very helpful in my life. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work and be part of UMN in serving the people of Nepal. I am also grateful for all the courses I attended overseas under the UMN scholarships. I would like to thank UMN member bodies, donors, UMN staff both expatriate and Nepali, colleagues and friends, for all of their support and fellowship.

After a journey of thirty-two years, I am back in the organisation where I started my career. I am still committed and prepared for the hard work and challenges ahead.

This year, BTI celebrated its 40th anniversary and as UMN celebrates its 50 years in Nepal, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my good wishes for a prosperous future for UMN, BTI Graduates and all the supporters of BTI.

Lastly, I would also like to remember and thank all UMNers, especially Mr. Odd Hoftun for his vision of establishing BTI, his contributions to the UMN related companies and the hydropower development in Nepal.

DCS bio gas research

Raghu N. Sharma

What is all the talk about change? (UMN must not change)

Larry Asher

Forty-eight years ago, Jonathan and Evey Lindell and their family, along with a small group of others, went to Amp Pipal, Gorkha, to live with the people and seek out ways of ministering to their needs in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. They had some ideas or strategies of how they were going to work, however as they began living and interacting with the people they found that the people had their own ideas.

A school was started out under a tree. Along with the three R's (reading, writing and arithmetic), it would teach agriculture, life skills, health, sanitation and lots of other things. It would be a new and integrated approach to education. The people said, "We want a school with walls and a roof and we want our children to have a formal education." UMN responded to the felt needs of the people and from that emerged schools and partnerships in schools in Amp Pipal, Luitel, Lapsibot, Jaubari, Makaisingh and several other places.

The people said, "Health is important, teach us, but we are sick and dying. Please give us a doctor." UMN responded to the need with doctors, nurses, a small dispensary and later a hospital. It also responded and reached further out to others who were asking for primary health care.

The people said, "Sometimes our crops fail and our animals die. Sometimes we don't have enough to eat and we need more money." UMN responded to the felt needs by bringing agriculturalists and a vet to learn about their situation, work with the people and to try to show and teach improved agricultural techniques.

A cluster of ideas and activities slowly emerged. Over the years, UMN kept listening and watching. The work and partnership with the people evolved through many different approaches, methodologies, etc. Schools were nationalised, the agriculture farm closed, but new ways of working were found. However, one thing never changed. UMN listened to the people and responded at the time.

UMN thinks it is going through some big, dynamic and important "change process". I certainly hope not. As UMN moves from where it is today, into new areas and work it must continue doing what it has always done - respond to the expressed needs of the people.

It began by responding to the felt needs of the people and has continued to do so for 50 years in the situations where God led. Times have changed; circumstances are different; knowledge has increased; different mechanisms are available; buzz-words and terminologies are different. However, responding to people and ministering to their needs in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ is central to what we did in the beginning, to what we do today and must be central to what we do in the future.

My valuable experience with UMN

Mrs. Bishnu Rai

Lalitpur Nursing Campus

I took my nursing training in 1959 at Surendra Bhawan Nursing Campus under UMN. In 1974, it relocated to become Lalitpur Nursing Campus at Nirbhawan. I served for eighteen years in Shanta Bhawan Hospital and then for twenty-one years as Campus Chief at Lalitpur Nursing Campus. After retirement from my post, I am currently working as Campus Chief in the Himalayan Nursing Campus at Satdobato, Lalitpur.

God is so good. He provided wonderful experiences in my life through UMN's contribution. I had the chance to strengthen my professional growth and development. It was a great pleasure to explore my knowledge and skills at both national and international level by attending workshops and seminars in various fields as well as writing textbooks. I also had golden opportunities to work with different missionaries from different countries and with staff members.

In my life a great change came, as I became a believer in Christ. As a result of UMN's contribution in various fields, I am able to manage a nursing campus properly. I could not have coped if I hadn't had the support from UMN. UMN has served Nepal in many different fields with a variety of objectives. Much of the health work has Nepali leadership. Credit should go to UMN. This is something to be proud of.

I would like to end with a small quote: "Many different seeds are planted, cared for properly and they have started to give sweet fruits to the nation by UMN's great contribution".

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to UMN for helping me mature as a leader and for their service to this nation for 50 years.

I offer congratulations on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of UMN.

Working with UMN

Shaba Bahadur Gurung
Programme Support Director

Andy Collins

Lake Rara in UMN's new cluster location - Mugu.

Transition is a word I have often heard since I joined UMN. For UMN, transition means shifting ownership, governance and management of certain projects, programmes or institutions from UMN to local Organisations or Non-Governmental Organisations. In future, once UMN's work is established in the clusters (UMN's five new working areas), transition will no longer be the emphasis. Why? Because we will be working with partners in a way that supports the partners' own vision, governance and management of their own activities projects or programmes. We will be looking to work with partners, whose work relates to tackling the root causes of poverty, addressing injustice and involving activities in relief and in peace and reconciliation.

In order to turn this notion into reality we decided to begin Mugu and Sunsari clusters in 2004. For this we needed to start by recruiting Cluster Team Leaders. The Cluster Team Leader's key role is to implement UMN's Strategic Directions in the cluster areas. Therefore, we were looking for Cluster Team Leaders with not only appropriate knowledge, skills and competencies and attitude but also with a clear demonstration of enthusiasm to own the mission, vision and values of UMN.

We were privileged to have five suitable people for the assessment process. After this rigorous processing we selected two candidates: Lakshmeshwar Mahato and Arjun Raj Pandey. Lakshmeshwar Mahato will be based in the Mugu Cluster. Mugu district is one of the most remote and marginalised districts in the Mid-Western Region of Nepal. Arjun Pandey will be based in Sunsari cluster. Sunsari district is in the eastern part of Nepal; it has both hill and tarai areas and heterogeneous communities.

In order to facilitate and support the outworking of UMN's Strategic Directions, the Cluster Team Leader will provide leadership to a multi-disciplinary team in the cluster areas.

Identifying partner organisations with whom to build trusting relationships will be a gradual process. Cluster Team Leaders with their teams, will be working with partner organisations to build up their strengths, skills and systems. As a result of this, individuals and communities in the cluster areas will be able to secure their basic needs in a sustainable manner.

Betsy Osborne

Dharan, Sunsari-UMN cluster in eastern tarai.

Transition update

When I last wrote this column I was expecting to be doing something else now. Such is the nature of change! We plan things, but they don't often work out as we anticipate.

Hospitals Transition is currently under review after discussions with His Majesty's Government, Nepal (HMG/N) about an *Interim Common Board* stalled. We are now looking at other options, as well as re-structuring hospitals transition. *Tansen Nursing School (TNS)* and the *Medical Supplies Department (MSD)* have been transferred over to the Projects/**Programmes Transition Team (PPTT)**. A serious fraud was discovered in MSD in September, and the divestment of MSD to another operator has been accelerated. TNS is a young organisation that needs capacity building for sustainability. PPTT is ideally experienced to meet the transition needs of both these organisations.

Oral Health Care, Nepal is the latest indigenous NGO to spring out of a UMN programme, and it has already taken on some of the work of the *Oral Health Programme (OHP)*. The status of this work was given a massive boost recently with the adoption of a National Oral Health Policy by HMG/N - the culmination of much hard advocacy work by the staff of the OHP.

The **Partner Transition Team** is concentrating on the organisational development of the new NGOs and our existing partners. A number of partnership agreements will be completed over the next few months. The **Institutions Transition Team** has seen the closure process of *Development Consulting Services* and *Butwal Plywood Factory* moved along significantly recently. Raghu Sharma was also finally confirmed as Director of *Butwal Technical Institute (BTI)* and *Jhimruk Industrial Development* Centre has had extension funding until July 2005 granted by the donor. In the **Expatriate Children's Education Transition Team** a decision to withdraw from running the *Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC)* after 2005 means that KISC has been exploring ways to become an independent Christian school. This will be assisted by their recent successful Middle Schools Association (USA) accreditation.

Over the next few months Tutorial Group transition should become clearer, and the **Support Services Transition Team** is phasing in a programme of outsourcing. We also hope to find new homes in the new structure for the remaining essential in-house services. However, "many are the plans of [the Transition Team's] heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Prov. 19:21) - let's see where He leads us!

Paul Wright
Transition Director

Cluster news

Shaha Bahadur Gurung

Lakshmeshwar Mahato

Arjun Raj Pandey

Christine Preston

On 24 December 2003, UMN got permission from His Majesty's Government of Nepal to establish clusters at different locations i.e. in Mugu, Sunsari, Kathmandu, Rukum and Dhading. Rupendehi was also accepted as an alternative cluster. Mugu Cluster and Sunsari Cluster will be set up in the first half of 2004. For the setting up of clusters UMN has made a few appointments: Shaha Bahadur Gurung as Programme Support Director, Christine Preston as Counterpart of Programme Support Director, Arjun Raj Pandey as Sunsari Cluster Team Leader and Lakshmeshwar Mahato as Mugu Cluster Team Leader.

Dr Mark Zimmerman gets Himshikhar Social Service Honour

Dr Mark David Zimmerman, a secondee of United Mission to Nepal to Patan Hospital, received the Himshikhar Social Service Honour for 2002. Mark Zimmerman is Medical Director at Patan Hospital.

The Honour awarded to Dr Mark quoted in part reads, "In recognition of the valuable and humanistic services rendered to the Nepalese people... through his efficient, tireless compassionate and disciplined work... and in acknowledging the fact that every civilized society and aspirant of progress for the whole of humanity..... Himshikhar Foundation, Kathmandu, is elated to humbly present the Himshikhar Social Service for 2002 to Dr Mark Zimmerman on 24 October 2003 AD."

Five years ago the Himshikhar Foundation began a tradition of honouring distinguished personalities who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields of education, health and water supply in the remote villages of the Nepal hilly areas. All in all, the Foundation wishes to foster "rising above personal selfishness" and abiding by the "UN Declaration of Human Rights".

"good works carried out to heighten the glory and dignity of the nation of the Nepal."

The norms for selecting persons are for "good works carried out to heighten the glory and dignity" of the nation of Nepal. The selection of people for recognition is made by a five-member committee who are specialists and /or leaders in various fields. Himshikhar Foundation itself has one member on this committee.

The Social Service Award to any foreign organisation or person is made when the organisation or person has worked for the development of Nepal at least five years or longer "without any self-interest."

Butwal Technical Institute (BTI) celebrates 40th Anniversary

There is a Nepali proverb, which says, "The Tibetan has his strength, the Englishman his machines and the Nepali his cunning"; for there seems to be no other nation on earth as quick witted and clever as this one. UMN founded BTI forty years ago to harness these abilities for nation building.

On 26 July 2003, BTI celebrated its 40th anniversary with an expanded graduation ceremony. Over two hundred people came together to commemorate the work of BTI including UMN's Executive Director, Jennie Collins, Department of Cottage and Small Industries Director General B.K. Saraf, representatives of Industry and Commerce, past and present students, BTI staff and friends of the Institute.

Twenty-five young men and women also received their graduation certificates for four years training. They became part of the five hundred and four "four year trainees" who have graduated from BTI in its lifetime.

Much was made of the debt owed to the early UMN staff of BTI and we were reminded of the harsh physical conditions they worked under. At one point in the afternoon the Ex-BTI Trainees (Butwal Tradesmen Association) acknowledged the contribution that Odd Hoftun had made to the development of Nepal.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal approves Nepal National Oral Health Policy

On 19 January 2004, His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N), Ministry of Health approved the much-awaited Nepal National Oral Health Policy and the National Strategic Plan for Oral Health Nepal.

The UMN Oral Health Programme has played an important role in the development of the National Oral Health Policy and the Strategic Plan from the very beginning in October 2000, up to the present time. The Oral Health Programme advocated, facilitated and managed the first strategic planning workshop in September 2001, the National Oral Health Task Force meetings from January to September 2002, and the second strategic planning workshop in October 2002. With the signing of Agreement between HMG Nepal / Department of Health Services and the United Mission to Nepal in January 2003, an Oral Health Unit was formed in the Department of Health Services. The UMN Oral Health Programme will assist in the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Oral Health.

The UMN Oral Health Programme has played an important role in the development of the National Oral Health Policy

The approval of the National Oral Health Policy demonstrates the commitment of the Government to address the problem of the increasingly poor oral health and take steps to improve the oral health of the people of Nepal.

Tansen Nursing School celebrates first graduation and 5th Anniversary

On 30 November 2003, the Tansen Nursing School, which is run under a partnership between United Mission to Nepal and the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training, celebrated its first graduation and fifth anniversary at its own premises in Tansen, Palpa.

The chief guest, Dr Dick Harding, inaugurated the ceremony.

All the students who achieved first division in the Proficiency Certificate Level were awarded provisional certificates by Tansen Nursing School. During the celebration, awards for the "best students" were also given. The graduates were made to take the oath of Florence Nightingale. On this occasion the school publication " Striving for Excellence Volume II" was also released.

UMN employee receives "Principal of the year" Award

At the 22nd Management Seminar held by Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) in Bharatpur from February 4-6, 2004, Mrs. Shakuntala Thanju, Principal of the Tansen Nursing School (TNS) was named the CTEVT Principal Of The Year. Shakuntala is seconded to the Tansen Nursing School by UMN to work as Principal of TNS through July 2005.

The award will be presented at this year's Education Day celebrations.

UMN'S 50th Anniversary book review

Anniversary book review by Betty Young

"Fifty Years in God's Hand" is a record of the "Blessings of the Past and Visions for the Future" of the United Mission to Nepal. The history of the past fifty years, written by experienced former UMN Executive Director Norma Kehrberg, forms the main part of the book. It takes the reader on a fascinating journey from the opening of Nepal and the small beginnings of UMN in the early 1950s, through many years of involvement in health services, education, industry and rural development. This was a journey led by God, step by step, as He opened many doors of opportunity for UMNers to live and work with Nepali people. The author has done an excellent job of producing a concise history; more detail about much of the earlier history can be found in Jonathan Lindell's history of the first 25 years, "Nepal and the Gospel of God."

In "Fifty Years in God's Hand" there are a few short stories of Nepali people whose lives have been changed by UMN ministries, and photographs both old and new beautifully illustrate the whole book. The book also contains articles by Nepali friends who know the Mission well: Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma, Dr. Rajendra Rongong and Dr. Renu Rajbhandari. Stefan Ostman, a recent UMNer who was the main compiler of the book, then writes of "Visions for the Future." This is a time of change in administrative structures and making new plans for UMN work in specified areas in close cooperation with Nepali organisations. He also points out that the future visions are built on the policies and strategies formed by the Mission in the early days, and we look forward in the years ahead to the fulfilment of the commitments of our pioneers as described in the historical account.

Anniversary book review by Marianne Karsgaard

For someone like me, a newcomer to Nepal and to UMN, this anniversary book is a fascinating volume. This history of UMN from the first bird watching expedition through the establishment of the united model to the creation of projects in health, education, agriculture and engineering, is clearly delineated by Norma Kehrberg.

The Nepal point of view, presented by Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma, Dr. Rajendra Rongong and Dr. Renu Rajbhandari, who have both observed and participated in UMN's work, sheds further helpful light on the contributions, which have been made to Nepal and the Nepalis by UMN.

To emphasise the fact, made clear throughout, that achievement cannot be measured in numbers and acronyms alone, the five "Stories to Tell" give snapshots of individual lives, which have been dramatically transformed.

Some themes recur from beginning to end; utter reliance on God, experiment, and learning from failure, flexibility, hard work and commitment. These, along with joy in the work and love for Nepal, seem to mark all the accounts. Some startling statistics and facts, struck me: 95% of Nepali people were surviving at subsistence level in the 50's, 2500 Nepali staff were employed by UMN at one point, in 2002 UMN provided about a quarter of Nepal's hospital-based health care, UMN work has contributed to clean water, smokeless stoves, hydropower, forests, preserving food, bio-gas, weaning food, and so on - an incredible range!

The delightful photographs and front cover lend color and life to the narrative, and the archive pictures give a nostalgic glimpse into the past.

As I look at the UMN future now in 2004, I rejoice in the blessings and achievements recounted in this book and look forward to experiencing, as these pioneers did, a "wonderful chaos and complete dependence on God."

United Mission to Nepal's 50th Anniversary Charity Appeal

Enclosed with this edition of UMNews, you will find one of our 50th Anniversary Charity Appeal leaflets. During this year of celebration, we hope to raise funds in addition to our normal revenue. This leaflet is multi-lingual and describes the target areas in which we plan to utilise the anniversary appeal income.

We are keen to publicise our organisation and its work beyond the usual readership of UMNews. We seek your assistance to help us achieve this by distributing our Anniversary Charity Appeal leaflets to friends, family, Church members, Fellowship groups and others. Many people may not know about UMN, but may be interested in our work.

Please contact us by email **at** marketing@umn.org.np or by letter, providing your mailing address and stating how many leaflets you would like us to send. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support we receive from our friends around the world for Nepal and trust that together we will make this a very special year for UMN.

Michael Hawksworth
Fund Raising Co-ordinator

UMN Annual Report 2002-2003

The report this year has not been 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
The report contains a 'snapshot' of the many and varied activities carried out in the fiscal year (July 02-July03) and in fact is an interesting picture of some of UMN work before it is handed on to Nepali organisations and glimpes of the early stages of the emerging situation in the transition process.

United Mission to Nepal is a co-operative effort between the people of Nepal and 53 Christian organisations from 18 countries. Its main areas of work are Food Security,Education, Women and Children, Peace and Conflict Transformation, Relief, HIV/AIDS and Enterprise Support.

UMN Marketing office
PO Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: 977-1-4228118, 4268900
Email: marketing@umn.org.np
Fax: 977-1- 4225559
Website: www.umn.org.np

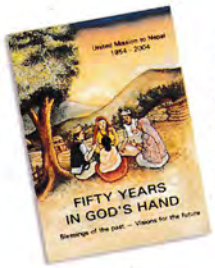
Editor
Shanti Lepcha
Sub Editor
Rishi Ram Paudyal
Layout
Thompson Nepal
Cover Painting
Ratan Ale
Production
Marketing Team, UMN
Photo: **UMN**

50 years ago could anyone have imagined that we would have a mobile phone in our pockets? or that UMN would be producing calendars, books, CD's, videos and DVD's?
No, they would have asked what is a video or CD or DVD?

Celebrating UMN's 50th Anniversary

(1954-2004)

Why not own a piece of history for yourself? We hope that through your purchase of these products, you will enjoy being a part of UMN's 50th Anniversary celebrations.



The book, "**50 Years in God's Hand**", has been written and 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.

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.

"**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.

Posters and Postcards
showing the beauty of Nepal and of its people have also been produced and are available in sets of six posters (34.5 cm by 49.5 cm) and twelve postcards (12.5 cm by 17.5 cm).

Buy now and treasure them.

Look inside for Order form

यूनाईटेड मिसन टु नेपाल
UNITED MISSION TO NEPAL

All of the above products can be purchased from UMN's stationery office sales counter. Alternatively, you can complete the order form and send it to:
UMN Marketing Office, P.O. Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal, Phone: 977-1-4228118, 4268900
Email: marketing@umn.org.np Fax: 977-1- 4225559, Website: www.umn.org.np