

God's plan for Nepal

Owen and Mary Lewis are doctors serving in a teaching hospital in Nepal – one of the world's least developed countries, where there are many opportunities for medically trained staff. Mary Lewis writes.



Owen's morning class with residents.



People at the disabled clinic that the Lewis' have been involved in.



Gyanendra (right) teaching some students in Emergency.

a day in the life

■ 8.00am Monday morning and 22 doctors (if fully staffed) are filling the room for the morning class led by one of our four faculty members – Gyanendra, Sue Smith (CMS Associate), Owen or myself. A smaller group continue to run the 24-hour emergency service that sees about 80 patients per day. On two mornings, there will be a class for fifty 4th year medical students instead.

■ Classes are followed by Outpatient clinics seeing 200 to 300 patients per day depending on the time of the year. The 4th year undergraduates (in groups of ten) join us in Outpatients and Emergency for clinic work and a tutorial.

■ Lunch at 1.00pm gives time for dal bhat and a quick snooze under the fan.

■ Then it is back for finishing the clinic (often running until 6pm in the summer), teaching, lesson preparation and faculty meetings. For Owen, the time will include facilitating care for disabled people being helped by the Medical Mission Auxiliary fund, arranging rotations for our trainees (Residents), sorting out the roster, meetings and numerous interruptions. One of us may be out in the district supporting one of our Residents.

connecting lives

BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS) is the regional tertiary referral hospital and health sciences training institute for the East. We live on the campus of 4000 in a town of 150,000 people. There are 27 churches in the town, but we know of only one Christian student out of 400 medical students and four Christian nurses – not one Christian doctor, dentist or dental student.

Our mandate is to build God's kingdom and declare his glory as we develop and run training programs in Family and Emergency Medicine for undergraduates and Medical Doctor Residents, run clinical services and support the work of District Hospitals. This ministry gives credibility to the gospel, allows us to identify and connect with people and provides the opportunity for everyday discipleship and witness. As Paul said,

"I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people . . . I don't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ, but entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view . . . to lead those I meet into a God-saved life". (1 Corinthians 9:19-22, The Message)



Owen and Mary Lewis are both doctors in Nepal.

opportunities are many

BPKIHS needs all levels of workers: Emergency Physicians, General Practitioners, pre-clinical and clinical specialists, nurses, dentists, physiotherapists, librarians, IT specialists, administrators etc. Working at BPKIHS calls for competence professionally, socially and spiritually.

look for a clear calling

1. Look for a clear calling, Christian maturity, doctrinal stability, professional competence, healthy emotional adjustment, a servant like attitude and the ability to witness, disciple and mentor others through strong caring relationships.¹

2. Once in Nepal, you can expect to have strong feelings of frustration, being threatened, overwhelmed and powerless. The way to overcome this is to see how you are part of God's plan for Nepal and its people.

3. If you believe that it's God's desire to redeem Nepal and its people and you have emergency or general practice qualifications, answer God's call to minister to these future key professionals of Nepal. "Whether you turn to the right or the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'". (Isaiah 30:21)

1. Lee in *Working Your Way to the Nations: A Guide to Effective Tentmaking*, 2nd edition, ed. Lewis J, IVP, Illinois.

CMS

Family Medicine Locums
– Nepal

Two experienced general/family practitioners and emergency physicians required from October 2006 for six months in a teaching hospital in Nepal.