

Andrea and Andrew Young

Link Letter no. 15 | December 2021



churchmissionsociety.org/young

The call in action

Dear friends,

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14... “For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!” Isaiah 30:18

Advent is upon us and the theme of waiting runs through the season like a golden thread. Yet when it comes down to waiting in everyday life, we really don't like it very much. And it affects us in so many places. Waiting in the queue at the supermarket, waiting for the bus to arrive, waiting to see the doctor, waiting for a friend to call for a chat, waiting for the new child/grandchild to be born. We can almost say life is infused with waiting. And here we have the Bible telling us to wait too. You just can't get away from it!

The word in the Bible for wait is very close to, if not the same as, hope. There is hope in the waiting and in waiting we discover hope. Advent is a reminder that we wait in hope of a joyful Christmas celebration but also that there will another advent when Jesus returns again. So we wait for the Lord.

Well, you might say, what's all this got to do with Andrew and Andrea? In the past 18 months we learned the value of waiting in hope, as I guess you and everyone else had to. A year and a half seemed an awfully long time to wait for our return to Nepal. Over 500 days when our life in some ways seemed to have been put on hold, all because a bug smaller than we can see with our eyes infected the world. But the waiting is over and we are back in Nepal! We give thanks to God for a safe return and the familiarity of our flat in Kathmandu.

There was plenty of room on the first leg of our flight, but from Doha to Kathmandu the plane was full of Nepalis returning home for the festivals. Our return coincided with the major festivals of Dashain and Tihar, much like Christmas in the UK. Many go home to villages to be with family and friends and Kathmandu has an almost deserted air.

Just before our arrival, five new families bound for Tansen hospital arrived and were already on their way westward. So, we have been very keen to get in a visit as soon as we can in order to introduce ourselves and get to know our new UMNers, most of whom are from Sweden or Norway and one couple from the USA. And



Name: Andrea and Andrew Young

Location: Nepal

Our call: We are called back to Nepal, where we worked in the early 1990s, to use our skills and experience to support the mission community.

Our role: Providing vital pastoral care to United Mission to Nepal (UMN) in Kathmandu, Tansen and Okhaldhunga.



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The season for mountain views.

this is where waiting steps in again, for we have to wait until we get an official work visa to make this work visit. Hopefully, it will be granted in the next week!

COVID-19 is still here in Nepal, though it is said numbers are lower now, and we have only heard of one or two cases. But it is still here and wearing a face covering if you are outside is mandatory. Vaccination against the coronavirus is an ongoing process in Nepal and about 30 per cent of the population has had at least one dose. Fortunately for us the vaccination rate in Kathmandu is about 80 per cent, which makes us feel a bit safer. A lot of our work is still done online, though we have started to do some face-to-face work with UMN colleagues. It has been a much more real-life experience, and somehow more meaningful in developing relationships. Early in October we welcomed new expats from Germany, both will be working in Kathmandu and living fairly close to us. Martin and Andy will be based in UMN's main office in Thapatali and we expect we shall see them often.

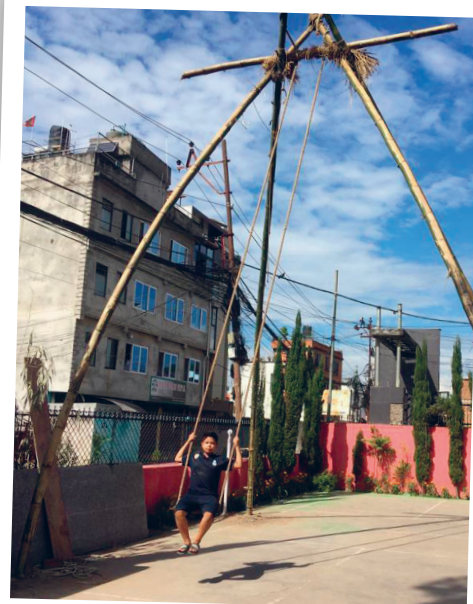
Andrea's course at Tribhuvan University has started again following the festival period. That means an early start each day as classes begin at 6.30am and it's a 15-minute taxi journey to the uni. Still, that's much better than the 2am online classes she was joining in the UK! Part of this semester's work is developing a research proposal, placements in schools and work as an intern. Please pray for her energy levels and the smooth process of getting her study visa.

Having spent several weeks cleaning up the Prayer Space (the flat below ours), we are beginning to use it for prayer and counselling and some community building events. Interest has been expressed in using it for retreat days and for Andrew to work as a spiritual companion with individuals. Do pray with us that this becomes a useful place for prayer, retreat, counselling and community again.

We have fairly reasonable wifi and internet connection from our flat and would like to invite any of our church groups to do a live link with us here. It could be as part of your prayer group, Bible study group or in a church service. It is in this partnership in the gospel that we continue our work. We are waiting to hear from you.

God's peace,

Andrea & Andrew



Photos from top to bottom: Traditional Doshain swing; Students making a mandala for Tihar celebrations; A little haven of green behind our house in Kathmandu; A place of welcome and prayer.

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If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400

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