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GLOBAL MINISTRIES  
MISSIONARIES

Sixty years ago, Bethel and Robert Fleming, both doctors and Methodist missionaries, arrived in Nepal to start one of the first hospitals in Kathmandu. It was organized under the ecumenical umbrella of the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). I hope that you will enjoy the enclosed booklet highlighting this ministry over these six decades. Our United Methodist Church has been an integral part of this history and I am honored to be a part of the continuing relationship.

Lent is a traditional time of reflection and preparation, so it is appropriate that in March and April the UMN Health Team has been focused on designing the next five year plan for our community health program (part of Advance #3021568). This program focuses on six areas of health: maternal health, contraception, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and HIV & AIDS. My part has been analysis of the end-line survey data from the past three years, as well as supporting our team leader Sushma Rajbanshi with various aspects of the writing process.

Check out my blog, [bokashi.blogspot.com](http://bokashi.blogspot.com), for a report of the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health training in Doti that I joined in February and a report of our work with church youth on Christian Family Life Education. While in Doti, I became better acquainted with Sabu Tamang, the cluster team leader, whose father is a Methodist pastor in Chitwan in the Terai (flatlands) of the mid-western region of Nepal. We are trying to work out dates for me to visit with them, but it is now looking like it might not be until the heat of summer is upon us.

I will be moving out of my home stay with Yagya Panta and his family this week and into my own apartment in the Dolbighat neighborhood. I am very grateful for the friendship and welcome provided by the Panta family during these first months.

Easter can be a bit scary. The tomb is empty and the future is uncertain. But through the reflections and preparations of Lent we get ready to respond. Jesus said to the disciples: "Heal the sick, and tell the people, 'the Kingdom of God has come near you.'" (Luke 10:9) As Easter people, we lift our voices and join together for this purpose.

Thank you for your prayers that our new community health plan will be approved and for your continued partnership as we seek to be a connectional church relating to our brothers and sisters around the world.

Your sister in service for Christ,

Katherine T. Parker



*Enjoying the first Rhododendrons of the season with fellow UMN Health Team staff Anu Gomanju and Anu Bista.*

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