

# THE LINK Newsletter

FALL 2017

Empowering Women  
In Nepal | Directors  
Visiting  
Canada



## Lydia Vocational Training Centre | EMPOWERING WOMEN IN NEPAL

Many rural women in Nepal live in extreme poverty, without any means of improving conditions for themselves and their families. Yet more women are heading households and carrying the burden of providing for their families, with little or no training.

International Needs has been active in Nepal since 1974 with a focus on the wellbeing of women. **The Lydia Vocational Training Centre** has ministered to thousands of women over the

years. The Centre teaches literacy, sewing, and other practical skills so that women can better provide for themselves and their families. Special classes are given on preventing domestic abuse, health care, music, how to improve sanitation in the home, and providing nutritious food for their children. One of the most innovative elements of the Lydia Centre is that each graduate commits to sharing her knowledge and the love of Christ with at least five other women, multiplying the impact of the Centre.

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“Some of our graduates have been able to provide for their families by setting up tailoring shops. Others successfully run training sessions in their communities. Still others use their musical skills in the church, and some make use of their newly acquired cooking skills by running canteens and bakery shops. Some of our students were able to pursue higher education. We are very pleased that several of our graduates have extended a helping hand here at the Centre.” • Kalpana Tamang, Coordinator

“I hated producing alcohol but felt my children and I would starve if I stopped. Then Ms Thapa from International Needs encouraged me to go for vocational training at the Lydia Centre. I was very happy to leave the alcohol business behind. My husband’s family is caring for my children while I complete the training at the Lydia Centre. I have learned so much here. It was the best decision for me. Once I graduate, I plan to run a tailoring shop to support myself and my children. I’m so thankful to God and to everyone who assisted me.” • Buddhi

Buddhi Maya is a single mother with 3 young children. When her husband passed away, Buddhi felt that she had no other choice but to continue producing alcohol, the family business that killed her husband.

The staff at the Lydia Centre is praying fervently for additional support with the on-going running costs of the Centre. Soaring prices on food and other commodities have stretched their resources to a critical point.

## International Needs Director from BANGLADESH TO VISIT CANADA

McDonald Adhikary, Director of International Needs Bangladesh, will be speaking in Ontario and the Maritimes from November 17th to December 4th, 2017. Mac will be sharing what the Lord has been doing in Bangladesh through the work of International Needs. Updates from the recent floods, the Drop-in Centre for Street Children, project updates, etc.



If you would like more information or have Mac speak at your church or small group, please contact us at 1-888-702-9805.

## PRAYER CORNER

### Items for Prayer

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” • Ephesians 6:18

Please pray for the reconstruction efforts in Nepal. It has been over two years since the earthquake and many people are still living in makeshift tents.

## One Family's **PATH TO RECOVERY**

Two years ago, a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated Nepal and killed nearly 9000 people, leaving 4 million without shelter as their homes crumbled in seconds.

Sushila Mijar's life changed in the blink of an eye. Her village, in the Dolakha district at the epicentre of the earthquake, was completely destroyed, including her home and all their domestic animals. Her husband lost his job as the earthquake affected his work site as well. What followed were weeks and months of terror as aftershocks continued to hit the area and claim more lives.

**"It was a very difficult time for me and my family. We lived one day at a time, doing what work we could find to survive. We were always hungry. It was at this time that a friend encouraged me to go to the Lydia Vocational Training Centre in Kathmandu and receive training that would help me serve my family, my church, and my community. I decided to apply and was accepted. My time at the Lydia Centre was like heaven to me. I enjoyed studying the Bible and growing spiritually. I learned how to sew clothes for children, youths, and adults. This will help my family and community. I've also learned how to play musical instruments and will play for the congregation at my church.**



**I want to teach others how to play. I'm very thankful for my time at Lydia. Thank you for supporting me."**

• Sushila Mijar

Two months before graduation, Sushila and her husband received a scholarship to study at Bible College. They are presently doing their internship and look forward to returning to their village to serve their community. They now have a 6 month old child. Sushila wants to open a tailoring shop to help her family financially. They have yet to rebuild their home which was destroyed in the 2015 earthquake.

Continue to pray for Nepal. Only a small number have managed to rebuild since the earthquake, with the vast majority still sheltering in makeshift tents built out of tarpaulin and corrugated tin. These tents offer little protection from insects, vermin, winter cold or monsoon rains. Pray that government aid will be better coordinated and quickly dispersed where it is desperately needed.



## Thank You for **THE BOOKS!**

A heartfelt thanks goes out to **Forestview Community Church in Grimsby, Ontario**, for donating funds for textbooks to Buikwe Schools in Uganda.

**"On behalf of the entire school community, we thank you so much for the textbooks. They have put smiles on the faces of our students and teachers, and added a lot of value to the academic performance of the students at Buikwe Secondary School. May the good Lord bless you!"** • Paul Sematimba

Education is a primary way of eradicating poverty and fostering economic growth in poor communities. Children who go to school have hope for a much brighter future.

**Thank you for the books!**

### Items for Praise

**"We proclaim how great you are and tell of the wonderful things you have done."** • Psalm 75:1

We praise God for your generosity. The funds raised at the Ride for Refuge will help our partners in Bangladesh minister to the needs of Dhaka's most vulnerable children. **Thank you!**



female piglet would be given to another family in the village, and so pass on the blessing.

**“It has been an honour to continue the care and investment our dad made in Zeifa’s life. Through dad’s gift, other families in the community will be blessed as well, improving food security in the village.”** Christy



## Passing on a LEGACY OF LOVE

When the late Anthony Balch, a retired naval officer, began sponsoring Zeifa Kiiza in May 2008, it was as if he had adopted her as his own daughter. His daughter-in-law Christy shares,

**“Dad loved his sponsored child and would send her letters and regularly. He even sent her a dress through friends who were visiting Uganda. He felt it was important for Zeifa to go to school. This would give her the best chance in life.”**

On January 31, 2016, at the age of 88, Anthony Balch went to be with the Lord. His son and daughter-in-law, Trevor and Christy Balch, knew how much Anthony cared for Zeifa and inquired about sponsoring her. Zeifa comes from a small fishing village on the shores of Lake Victoria. Her mother was concerned for her daughter’s safety on her long walks to and from school and asked if it would be possible for Zeifa to stay in residence. Trevor and Christy agreed to sponsor her and cover her residence fees.

Through a financial gift from Anthony, Zeifa’s family was able to purchase 2 pigs, a male and a female. They received training on how to raise pigs and built a shelter and a storage house for them. They also agreed that when the pigs had their first litter, a male and

Many thanks to the Balch family for making a difference not only in Zeifa’s life but also in the life of her family and community.

INTERNATIONAL NEEDS CANADA

### Upcoming Discovery Tours

Bangladesh Discovery Tour	<b>February 15-26, 2018</b>
Kenya Discovery Tour	<b>March 14-22, 2018</b>
Medical Team to Zambia	<b>May 17-28, 2018</b>

For more information please contact Corrie Mulder at 905.637.9411 or corrie@internationalneeds.ca

**Discovery Tours offer a unique opportunity to witness first-hand the difference your contribution is making in the lives of the people you support. It also allows you to connect with other people serving on the ground. Your support is the fuel that drives their service.**

## Ride for Refuge Raises Support FOR DHAKA’S STREET CHILDREN

Thank you riders, walkers, and volunteers across Canada for your superb fundraising efforts at this year’s Ride for Refuge. You braved the cool morning temperatures and raised \$5500 to help Dhaka’s street children have a brighter future. Well done! **We are so grateful for all of you!**

