

Wright's Christmas News

Dec 2009



"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart" Jer 1v5

In the Thursday morning Bible Study our studies have been structured using materials that have been prepared by a local organisation. Cynthia and I reached a chapter in the teacher's guide about abortion. It is a big issue here as there are still many illegal abortions and a significant number of women who use abortion as a means of family planning. It seemed an important topic to cover.

"All I was told before I was married was that it would be pleasant during the day but awful at night" Gita

As we were planning we were aware that many women here lack a basic understanding of puberty, conception and pregnancy so we decided to start at the beginning!

"I became pregnant at 18. I had no idea that I was pregnant. When I went into labour I thought I was being harassed by a snake spirit so I spent the day doing worship rituals. A friend called round in the evening, she realised I was in labour and put me in a taxi to the hospital. My baby was born an hour later" Lila

We embarked on a three week series which has stretched us in terms of vocabulary, has caused some embarrassed laughter and some very frank conversations.

With pictures we talked about everything from puberty to menopause. We talked about contraception and how it works (putting a condom on a banana caused much amusement!) and common myths e.g. you can't get pregnant if you make love standing up or if you are older than 35.

We also talked about the importance of talking about all these things with their sons and daughters (and how to) so the next generation will

better informed than they were. We had some books to give out and many went home and chatted with their teenagers.

"My daughter started her periods last week and I didn't know what to say to her. Now I know" Lila

Unmarried and pregnant

Talking about how God designed us and how children are wonderful fruit of marriage also lead into issues about unwanted pregnancy both within marriage and outside of marriage. Most of the women in the group knew someone who has had an abortion. We also talked about alternatives to abortion and how they as the church can offer support to those having an unplanned pregnancy.

Such is the stigma in society here in response to the question 'What options would a woman have if she became pregnant before she was married' one woman suggested committing suicide.

Having to travel a long way from home

Many men travel abroad for work and leave their families for two to three years at a time. In talking about God's plan for marriage we also talked about faithfulness, why it is important and how to talk to your husband about it. It has also been important to talk about sexually transmitted diseases as it is not uncommon for husbands to be unfaithful while away and return home only to infect their wives. Again we talked about the church's role in reaching out to those with diseases like AIDS.

Christmas is coming!

Now, we are just starting a month long series which involves a young woman who had to deal with an unplanned pregnancy. God had a very special plan for her baby's life. She was unmarried and before the baby was born she had to travel a long way from home.

We will be hoping to use some new methods we have learned in using story telling as a way of reaching people who are more familiar with learning through an oral tradition.

Please pray for our study in the coming year as we hope to develop more of this story telling method and look for new ways to disciple women who find reading a huge challenge.

In search of justice

In the last newsletter, we asked for your prayers for Amrita. Her husband is still in prison awaiting trial. Those who have brought the charges against him are hoping he will pay them to drop the charges. Last week Amrita shared how Christians have helped her during the last few months. It has been hard but she feels blessed. Her baby boy is very healthy and growing well.

Please continue to pray for his release and for justice to be done.

At work in the community

Paul has spent the last several months helping NCRS prepare for their first disaster risk reduction project in Bardiya, Mid-West Nepal. NCRS has now appointed a new staff member to work with two communities of former landless or bonded labourers. Together with Daya Ram, during November they met with different groups to find out about their experiences of living with disaster and how NCRS can help them. It has been an interesting time and Paul feels they have chosen communities that will be good to work with. The church pastor in the area is very socially active and Paul was very encouraged by his enthusiasm. The area is at least 17 hours by bus from Kathmandu and has poor telephone service so there are some challenges in how to support the new worker.

Please give thanks for the interest shown by the pastor and pray for the work to get off to a good start and for the church to take a lead.

The work concerning climate change also continues. At the moment Paul is learning techniques which can be used with communities to help assess the impact of climate change and to see how projects may be adapted in the light of these findings. Paul continues to work on UMN's climate change strategy.

What next?

UMN has been restructuring but the process is not yet completed. This will affect the work Paul will do following our upcoming home leave.

Please pray for our discussions with UMN about what work Paul should return to do.

Good news!

Asha is very excited to be Mary in the school nativity. She will be singing a solo during the performance too.

Again at the end of monsoon we saw a significant improvement in Jack's asthma. He is almost off his 'preventer' steroids again. In the light of that, we have decided to take our home leave in July, August and September next year so that he'll have a break from the triggers in that season. We are looking forward to making plans for our time in the UK over the coming months and hope that we will be able to see many of you.



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas, S,P,J n A

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Support details:

We are sent by the Methodist Church of Britain to work with the Christian development agency the United Mission to Nepal. If you would like to contribute towards our support or the work of UMN please contact us directly for details, or write to The Administrator, Methodist Church World Church Relationships Office, 25 Marylebone Road, LONDON, NW1 5JR. E-mail:

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