

# NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 2021, ISSUE 10



The Social Initiative of Pokhara Christian Community



*And the angel said to them,*

**Do not fear. For behold, I give to you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For to you is born today, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11 MKJV)**

Dear ACN and PCC leaders, team and families, praying and supporting friends and all brothers and sisters in HIM,

Thank you for all your prayers, support and for journeying with us throughout the years, it is so delightful to remember God's faithfulness at all times.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and blessed New Year 2022 ahead. May God bless you, your families, and your ministry with great Joy and Peace as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus.

We are celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus this year in midst of an ongoing pandemic and its impacts in all aspects of life, similar to circumstances that were at Jesus's time. People have lost their beloved ones, security, facing deterioration of the well-being of lower-income people and are in the situation of uncertainty about the future. "Do not fear" is the strong voice from God to all of us with the news that Jesus Christ the Lord is born who is Immanuel, Saviour and Redeemer and we remember what God did for us. May this be the message for us, His children and our relatives, neighbours and all whom God loved so much and gave His only Son, especially those who are in great need of hope and Jesus Himself as Immanuel.

Raju Adhikari  
PCC/ACN



## COVID-19 SECOND WAVE RESPONSE

ACN started COVID-19 response work from the 11th day of the first wave COVID-19 lockdown and addressed the basic needs of vulnerable poor and marginalized communities through various programs. Similarly, in response to the second wave of the pandemic, ACN continues to address the basic needs of vulnerable people and communities. COVID-19 second wave has had devastating impact on all aspects of life of people in Nepal. ACN, with cooperation from supporting partners and engagement of PCC started immediate response to the second wave. 1,166 vulnerable families were supported with essential food supplies packages and 17 health and isolation centers were supplied with health and safety equipment and materials. Later, ACN supported people with income generating activities and created social media platforms for children to overcome the impacts of the pandemic by providing opportunities to present their talents.

### Social Media platform for Children

Due to the COVID-19 second wave of pandemic and lockdown, schools were closed for months. With growing concern about the impact of prolonged school closure on vulnerable children, ACN came up with a plan to engage children through online mediums. First, ACN organized two weeks of videography training for 5 youth/teenagers to develop awareness videos in coordination with the Burning Twig Company. Participants started creating videos immediately after the completion of the training. Two videos were developed by the participants with the purpose to create awareness among children on COVID-19 safety measures and precaution. Developed videos are uploaded to ACN's YouTube official channel. Recently, we organized a virtual talent-sharing platform for children in which children below 14 submitted a short video of their own interest.

**RIGHT :** One participants performing during Grand finale of Children virtual talent show.



## SUPPORT FOR INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES

In response to the second wave of the pandemic, ACN provided support to poor and marginalized communities by organizing various Income Generation (IG) activities according to their interest and needs. ACN organized 4 chicken farming trainings, 1 goat farming and 1 pig farming training in Nawalparasi district. Similarly, 3 chicken farming trainings were completed in Kaski district. There is a plan to conduct 3 more IG activities in Kaski district at the end of December. All the trainings were facilitated by local government animal health technicians. 9 income generation activities have been completed to date. All these trainings were organized among ACN's Self-Help Group members and other community people. After completion of chicken farming training, baby chicks and other necessary materials (feeding pot and chicken food) were given to each participant to immediately apply their learning. The training was much appreciated by SHG members and community leaders as they were following traditional techniques.



**LEFT:** Group photo after chicken framing training.

**MIDDLE:** While distributing baby chicks and other materials for chicken farming.

**RIGHT:** A lady going home with baby chicks and other materials received from the training.

## COVID AWARENESS JINGLE AND WEEKLY PROGRAM

During the peak time of the second wave of the pandemic, there was news on COVID-infected people and families being discriminated against due to fear of infection. Therefore, we ran a three-month COVID-19 awareness Jingle through local radio FM stations in Kaski, Gorkha and Nawalparasi districts with a message not to discriminate against COVID infected people in the neighbourhood, but to encourage people to support them while following the safety measures. In addition, we also organized a weekly program through a local radio FM station to create awareness and provide information on COVID-19 in Pokhara, Kaski district. Through this program, we were able to create COVID awareness and information in those 3 districts.

**RIGHT:** Government school Principal, Mr. Maniraj Chhinal, speaking about the impact of COVID among children and school



## 'KHOJI' TOLL-FREE HELPLINE NUMBER

We are running a toll-free helpline number 'KHOJI' in response to the second wave of the pandemic. The term 'KHOJI' means - we help people who are looking for help to find solutions to their emergency needs in the midst of the pandemic. Since the starting of the KHOJI helpline number we have received 197 calls and supported callers with health information, counselling, prayer, food, nutrition, advocacy, medicine, and networking in the midst of crisis.

## So far we have served

- 162** people have received health information.
- 173** people have received counselling and prayer support.
- 117** people have received food and nutrition support.
- 128** people have received advocacy support .
- 7** people have received networking support.
- 6** people have received medicine support.



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- 1 Post COVID hospital visit and counselling.
- 2 Food supplies support to COVID infected people and family.
- 3 Food and nutrition materials support to new mother.
- 4 Prayer and counselling support to COVID recovery person.
- 5 Treatment support.

## CAPACITY AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

ACN has organized various vocational trainings by targeting poor and marginalized youth with the aim of developing their capacity and skills. Cooking, waitering, electrical, plumbing, and masonry; five different trainings were organized. This training helps them to develop their skills to pursue specific careers and be independent and find ways to look after their families in their own local area. In early December, all the trainings were completed well with graduation ceremonies. In total, 63 young people have received vocational skill training. We pray that they will do well with this training in the coming days.



- 1** Participants group photo of mason training during the graduation program.
- 2** Participants learning electrician during training.
- 3** Plumber training participants.
- 4** Participants learning to layer cream over cake.
- 5** Participants group photo of waiter/ waiters training during graduation program.

## Bishnu's Story



35-year-old Bishnu Kumari Poon is a single mother living with her daughter and other relatives in Pokhara. She has faced many obstacles in her life. She has some previous experience of working in a hotel as a waiter, but everything is updated now and she felt that her experience and learning were not enough to work in nice or big hotels. She got an opportunity of three months waiter/ waitress training from ACN. She has learned many things in the hospitality sector which she will practice in her work to serve clients well.

Bishnu has a dream to send her daughter to a good school. In order to do that, she plans to apply for the post of waiter in a prestigious big hotel. This training surely will help her to fulfill her dream to give a good education to her daughter.

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT, LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND HEALTH PROMOTION



**Currently, we have 25 Self-Help groups with 25-30 members in each, totaling over 500 women participating in the SHGs. All SHGs are involved in saving and credit and other community transformation work.**



**47 people participated in 2 basic agriculture training events conducted for SHGs of Palhinandan Rural Municipality, Nawalparasi.**



**46 community members participated in 2 small business training events conducted for SHGs of Palhinandan Rural Municipality, Nawalparasi.**

## FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE RESPONSE

### Seed and fertilizer Support



ACN supported 90 flood-affected Musahar families in Kawasoti-15, Nawalparasi with seasonal seeds, fertilizer and other agricultural supplies so they can grow crops for themselves. Musahars are known as Dalit (very poor and lower caste) living in Tarai, in the southern part of Nepal. Most of these people live on public land and work as labourers.

## Education support material for children



93 Monsoon-disaster affected children have received support with school uniforms and educational materials in Kaski and Nawalparasi districts.

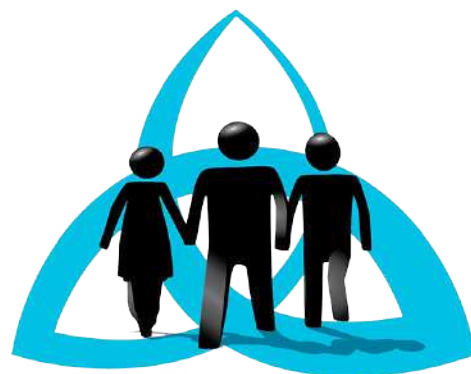
Receiving this support enabled the 48 children from Shree Bal Jagaran Primary School-4, Chardhare, and 45 students from Hupsikot to continue their schooling and reduced the burden on their families.



## PRAYER REQUEST:

Praise God for His faithfulness, for He continuously provides for the needs of the poor. Praise Him for all prayers and support that we have been receiving from people of His household around the world so that we are able to continue our work helping others.

- 1) ACN team, as they are not only helping others but also coping with various challenges in themselves, in families, in relatives such as sicknesses and losses. Pray that Christmas may provide us the opportunity to meditate on what it means and experience joy and peace deep in our hearts.
- 2) Pray for the new projects we are working on. Time has been very occupied wrapping up some projects that are nearing completion and beginning work on the new ones. Pray for the resources needed for our next projects. These mainly include sustainable support to people living with disabilities and engaging congregations to this response, community empowerment, livelihood and health promotion, youth vocational skill training, setting up ACN's own training centre, disaster response and risk mitigation, Nawajeewan Rehabilitation, empowering Self-Help Groups, network for mutual benefits focusing on entrepreneurship and different level of business.
- 3) Pray for all our praying friends and supporters for their well being and that they may have a good time during the Christmas season.
- 4) Pray for churches as many have started meeting together physically for main services. The pandemic is still here, many people are still getting infected and going through isolation. Pray for God's protection and safety.
- 5) We have come across two Ryuhanga brothers who came to visit us. Their families have been refugees from Myanmar are now living in rented land in Kathmandu. Their living condition is very poor, they need immediate support for the shelter and skills for young people who can help their families. Pray for God's provision and ways out to help them.
- 6) May God help the church in Nepal to be His witness during this occasion of Christmas to be a channel for hope, joy and peace to the people around us.



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**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**