

# Alan and Megan Barker

Prayer letter, January 2018

[bmsworldmission.org/ambarker](http://bmsworldmission.org/ambarker)



## Why are we here?

No, this is not a philosophical question about life in general, but about our reasons for being here in Pokhara for this season in our lives! We said in our last letter that this one would be following on soon to give you more information about our work here. Having used the last letter to reflect on our many blessings of the second half of 2017, now we want to give you more information about how things are all coming together for our life and work here. We are where we are meant to be for this season of our lives.

## Alan

Whilst waiting for the visa to come through, Alan had started getting to know the teams he will be working with and has had some informal meetings and even run some short workshops. He now divides his time between two sites, working with INF's two donor teams (the 'Health Team' and the 'Community Team'), helping and advising on proposal and reporting writing. Cycling 25 minutes uphill to the office in the mornings when he's working with the Community Team is a challenge, but the views are amazing. He's feeling quite pleased with himself as three out of four large proposals that he has worked on in the last couple of months have been accepted by the donors (we haven't heard back about the fourth one yet). One of these was to provide funds to help flood victims rebuild homes and provide equipment to help them start farming again. Many people lost everything as terrible flooding hit some areas of the country in August last year, but through the accepted proposal INF have been able to make a significant contribution to the relief and rebuilding efforts.



*View on the way to the office*

## Megan

As she is still only on a spouse visa there are some limitations, but since October she has been able to get back to doing some work and is thoroughly enjoying being an Occupational Therapist (OT) again and has decided that she still loves her job.

Megan goes to the INF hospital (called Green Pastures) Monday, Wednesday, Friday where she is able to contribute through training and encouragement and is loving being back in a department and relating to patients. She knows it is where she is meant to be at this time and the two very experienced assistants with whom she is working seem happy to have her around.

This gives Tuesdays and Thursdays for other things which is also good as it gives time for Megan to properly think and act on how to get OT recognised in Nepal. Although this has been part of her agenda for many years, working full time in the clinic in Surkhet meant she was unable to give it any focussed time. Now having this space each week, she hopes to be able to make more progress. It will require some travel to Kathmandu, but should be worth it now she can go more fully prepared. The next meeting of current OTs in country will be in Kathmandu on Jan 30th.



*With Juna outside OT*

She has also taken on the team co-ordinator role for all the BMS personnel in Nepal and so has a few things to do for that such as organising the recent visit of the Regional Leader which seemed to go well. We enjoyed his time with us in Pokhara too.

### Church

Those of you that read our blog ([www.bmsworldmission.org/ambarker](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/ambarker) scroll down and click the blog box) will have seen that we have the privilege of attending the original and oldest church in Nepal, which we are enjoying. The musicians are good so there is lively worship each week, which we enjoy as well as being part of such an active and historic fellowship. We also attend Wednesday evening house fellowship, so we are getting to know that small group of people a bit better and thus feeling more like we are a part of this community. We are still waiting for the house fellowship to arrange their Christmas party because they didn't want us to miss out while we were away over Christmas and New Year!

### Life in general

It was lovely to be greeted by several neighbours on our return from our UK Christmas with comments about how they have missed us. One lady said she kept looking and hadn't seen any lights on in our flat and was concerned but now happy to have seen them on again. Shop keepers have also missed us. We feel like we belong, which is great.

For the nation, the political situation remains delicate as new local officials were elected but the handover from the old structures has been delayed.

The new structure should bring better accountability as there will be locally elected officials making the decisions and not centrally appointed bureaucrats. There is a real sense of hope that after many years of instability there will be progress in many areas.



Counting votes

### Home Assignment

We look forward to seeing many of you in the summer, so please read the box below and get your online booking in. Please note that all bookings are through the BMS office; we do not arrange any of this ourselves. Also, please be aware that we are more than happy to come and meet you during the week, at Bible studies, midweek fellowships, summer evening BBQs or any other gathering you might like us to attend, not just at a Sunday service.

### For those who pray please join us in giving thanks for:

- Developing roles and relationships within INF
- Developing friendships within the local community and at church
- A great time in the UK with family over Christmas and New Year

### And please pray for:

- Those relationships to continue to develop and grow
- Our roles here in Pokhara to continue to take shape so that we can be effective and make ongoing valuable contributions.

### Alan and Megan

If you would like to support Alan and Megan by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](http://bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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Alan and Megan will be on home assignment in the UK and available to request as BMS Speakers from 21 July to 20 August 2018. Churches wishing to request Alan and Megan as BMS Speakers should use the online speaker request form at [bmsworldmission.org/get-involved/request-a-speaker](http://bmsworldmission.org/get-involved/request-a-speaker) or call the Church Relations Team on 01235 517600. Please submit your request by 5 March 2018.



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