

Andy and Jenny Saunders

Second Wave

May 2021



www.bmsworldmission.org/ajsauanders

Using Strava, my phone records another run on this bright May morning. Trees are getting greener and lockdown is easing. But today's Whatsapp messages from Nepal tell a different story.

ECTC: It's the 11th Anniversary of ECTC today.

ECTC: Dear all, very sad news from my side: my Aunt went to the Lord...her son was supposed to get married this month...Please keep praying for whole family. I just arrived from the hospital. Nepal Army will carry on rest of the part. Thanks for holding in your prayers.

From a Church group: Greetings! Our Church Pastor Samuel is being treated in hospital for Covid 19. He urgently needs plasma blood group A+ with antigens... There is one donor but another is also needed. If anyone can help please phone, thank you.

Pastor Samuel is one of the founding fathers of the young Nepali Church.

Hospitals are full, and doctors are struggling with limited equipment. One ex-pat doctor said recently "Today has been the hardest day in my whole career....."

I was reassuring a group of Christians last week that's it's ok to cry, Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus.

We are hoping to fly back to Nepal on 11th June, but the airport has just been closed for another fortnight. We will be doubly vaccinated by then but have no idea when we will actually be able to return. In Nepal 7%, have had one vaccination. There is no more for anyone else or for second doses.

My phone beeps again: Jenny didi do you have materials for 2 hours session for caregivers of children, age 5 to adolescent, on trauma care?

ECTC work online continues. I send some materials. I meet with the counselling team on zoom tomorrow and really hope I can support them.

My phone beeps again as we send a flood of photos remembering past ECTC anniversaries together.



A message from Bharat, who we talked about during our recent church visits: 13 out of 19 of us in the hostel are covid positive. Last night one of the girls O2 levels dropped below 90% and she was struggling to breathe. We gave her O2 and sent her to hospital. However, when she arrived she was turned away as there was no available beds or oxygen.

All the news coming out of Nepal is pretty desperate at the moment. They did remarkably well during the first wave but this second wave is just ripping through the country. As officials struggle to catch up with the speed at which the situation is deteriorating we hear that volunteer groups are springing up around the country. Some feed the hungry, others try to source oxygen for the sick and communities are starting their own isolation centres.



It is very hard to know how to pray for Nepal at the moment, but here are some suggestions:

The Prime Minister has just lost a vote of confidence. Pray that despite the lack of leadership there will be a co-ordinated response to the crisis.

Wisdom for Christian leaders trying to support their congregations who struggle to find medical support and funds for treatment.

For effective international aid, especially the donation of vaccines.

It seems trivial to mention our own concerns in the midst of this crisis, but if anyone is going away over half term and would be happy to let us use their house for a few days it would give us chance to see our daughter. Not being sure of our departure date we left it too late to book anywhere.

Personal prayer:

We continue to teach and counsel online.

Katie has some work - hooray!

Ability to handle continued uncertainty re our return date.

Thanks that we can return fully vaccinated and therefore able to get stuck into work when we arrive.

Thank you for your continued support for us, BMS and Nepal. We'll let you know when we have a date to return.

Andy and Jenny.

If you would like to support Andy and Jenny Saunders by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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