

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

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Photo: Reuters

What can you say? What might you say about such a disaster where so many lose their lives ?

I know Nepal well. My first visit was in 1973 when I challenged myself with an extensive trek to Everest base camp and climbed a neighboring peak.

What struck me then as it does now is the beauty of the country juxtaposed with the abject poverty of its people. According to the United Nations Human Development Index, Nepal is placed 145 on the world's most livable countries, (Australia is 2).

Nepal has some 28 million people, 41% of whom live in multidimensional poverty. This is indeed a poor place. It has a negative migration as there is not enough food to support the population. Many millions have left the country to work in India, the Middle East, Malaysia and Australia. They send money back to support their families, and may never return themselves.

Since my first visit I have been working in governance with **International Nepal Fellowship**, the oldest aid organization in the country. We began work in 1951 originally as a medical mission. Over the last 60 years we have added such areas as community development, women's empowerment, self-help groups and migration assistance, to meet evolving needs. Our major hospital is in Pokhara, where many spinal injuries are treated as well as other illnesses. An ear hospital is currently under construction.

INF works with and for the poorest of the poor, so we identify the poorest in the country and seek to help them. We have set up teams in remote areas in the west of the country. Before we began work in Mugu, some 50% of children died before the age of 5 years.

So what can you do? Pray for this land. Give so that help can become a reality.

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ABM has launched an **Emergency Appeal** for the people of Nepal in the aftermath of the 7.9 magnitude earthquake that has devastated Kathmandu and surrounding areas.

ABM has earmarked \$10,000 in order to provide emergency relief for those affected. ABM is working through ACT Alliance members, a network of Churches around the world providing emergency relief and development to the world's poorest.

[Download more information about the ABM appeal.](#)

Graham Morrison is Chair of the International Nepal Fellowship and Chaplain of the Ministry Team of the Snowy Mountains Anglican and Uniting Churches.