

Katrina and Martin Butterworth

Prayer letter, June 2014

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Last month the Pastor of our church went away for three weeks and in his absence Martin was called on to officiate. Now while Martin is part of the church leadership, being Pastor is not his core gifting, plus he has full time work and language constraints. Thankfully the other leaders covered very effectively.



It's not the first time we've seen this. Folk here don't lose sleep over things that might not happen, why would we waste time and energy on that? So it's only when the gap appears that anything is done to fill it. As we plan towards our departure from Nepal in July 2015 its good to remember this.

Martin's work is split between responsibilities, so smaller gaps but more of them. At United Mission to Nepal it's eighteen months now since he handed over his line management responsibility and became an advisor, so that gap is sorted.

The other big part of Martin's life is church and its charity. His official role is developing the management of the charity. Like church, the charity has grown dramatically and there is a real problem finding capable people with the right commitment. It's great to be involved and busy with something which is growing, but it won't make handover easy. Martin's role in church is less formal, except when he's standing



in for the Pastor. Our biggest concern is that Martin's presence will be missed. These days he's reluctantly become a "wise elder" in the leadership.

Katrina's role, though she's only working for one organisation, is similarly split into numerous responsibilities. The good news is that leadership in the medical school are very aware of the



importance of smooth transition, and have already started to put in place people for Katrina to mentor and guide to take over her various roles. The most important is probably the appointment of two senior doctors this month to work with her in the examination section.

Having children, the other part of our lives here is school. The girls are currently taking external exams; AS-levels for Ruth and the first GCSEs for

Esther. With our somewhat unusual situation, both girls born and living in Nepal, we're already starting to look into how their education can be transitioned.

Ruth will attend some University open days this summer, and then she'll be into the application stage. She should get a place based on academic work, it's the status as a "home" student and eligibility for student loan we're less sure about. Esther will start Sixth Form next year and this summer we're visiting a local school to hopefully convince them we really will be in the area when the time comes.



Katrina has an academic transition to make too. She needs to "retrain" as a General Practitioner before applying for a job in England. Thankfully there is a system for this but it's not simple and the timing seems critical. She's already taken one exam, has another coming in July and an unpaid training placement of six months arranged from

July 2015.

It's going to be an interesting year or two.

Things to give thanks for:

- Successful handover of Martin's line responsibilities at United Mission to Nepal.
- Encouraging growth at church and in the church charity.
- The good relationships Katrina has with doctors and administration in Patan Academy of Health Science
- Ruth and Esther's schools and the facility to take British exams here.

Things to pray for:

- Development of church leaders to build up the groups and daughter churches.
- Capable and committed staff for the church charity.
- The doctors that Katrina is mentoring to take over her roles.
- Provision for Ruth and Esther's ongoing education, particularly after we return to England.
- Katrina's retraining as a doctor, and finding a suitable placement for her in England.

Katrina and Martin

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

