

NEPAL

Ark of Hope



Healthbridge
GLOBAL



Nestled between the two global giants of India and China, Nepal is a land of staggering natural beauty. The nation is defined by dramatic Himalayan landscapes, remote mountain villages, and fertile southern plains. More than 120 ethnic groups and languages coexist within its borders, weaving together a rich national identity shaped by centuries of deep tradition.

For most of its modern history, Nepal has functioned as a Hindu kingdom, and only became a democratic republic in 2008. Political instability, a decade-long civil conflict, and a devastating 2015 earthquake have left lasting marks on the country's infrastructure and economy. Today, Nepal remains one of the least developed nations in Asia. Many communities, especially those in mountainous regions, face limited access to quality, compassionate healthcare.

The city of Pokhara (poh-kah-ruh) sits in the heart of central Nepal, cradled beneath the towering Annapurna mountain range and reflected in the still waters of Phewa (fay-wah) Lake. Beyond its natural beauty lies a rapidly growing city filled with spiritual complexity and deep need. Like much of Nepal, Hindu temples and Buddhist shrines are woven into daily life in Pokhara. It is here, amid breathtaking mountains and great visible need, that our project seeks to bring tangible hope, compassionate care, and the light of Christ.

Population Density

Nepal is home to 30 million people. It is roughly the size of Iowa, but with 5x the population density.

A Nation of Mountains

Nepal is home to 8 of the world's highest peaks, including Mt. Everest, the tallest mountain on earth.

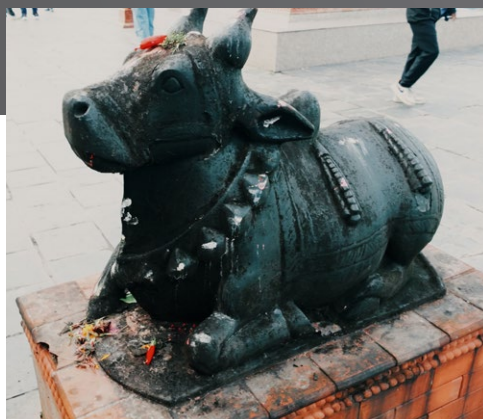
A Unique Flag

Nepal is the only nation with a non-rectangular national flag. Instead, it consists of two stacked triangles symbolizing the Himalayan mountains and the two major religions.

MORE GODS THAN PEOPLE

“Nepal is beautiful, but spiritually dark. We are three million people, serving thirty-three million gods and goddesses.”

-PETER GURUNG



Nepal is indeed spectacular, and to the visitor it may seem like a slice of paradise. Yet, beneath the surface, Nepali culture and religious practices can reflect deep spiritual oppression. Nearly all Nepalis are Hindu or Buddhist, with 1% or less being Christian. Many Nepalis carry the burdens of karma, caste identity, ritual obligation, and the fear of offending deities or ancestral spirits. The spiritual atmosphere can feel brutally heavy, and is driven by appeasement rather than salvation, duty rather than grace.

Caste, Karma, and Hopelessness

Although outlawed, the caste system's influence remains strong. One's birth often determines social status, opportunity, and dignity. The idea of karma reinforces this, as suffering is commonly viewed as the result of past actions, whether in this life or a previous one. If suffering is your destiny, there is little expectation of rescue. This produces quiet despair with no hope of salvation.

Spiritual Fear and Oppression

In many regions of Nepal, animistic practices blend with Hindu and Buddhist beliefs. Fear of spirits, curses, and witchcraft retaliation is common. Families may spend their already scarce resources on rituals, sacrifices, or shamans to appease unseen forces, furthering bondage on multiple fronts.

Limited Gospel Presence

Christ followers represent a very, very small minority in Nepal. Conversion can bring social rejection, family division, and persecution. Anti-conversion laws restrict overt evangelism, and open expressions of faith must be handled carefully.

Healthcare is a bridge that helps overcome these barriers. We are partnering in Nepal to build that bridge.

THE GURUNGS

Peter & Dr. Roni



Peter Gurung

Peter was raised in a small Nepali village by his Hindu parents. As a young man, he left home in search of better financial opportunities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He found a job with Unilever and rose through the ranks during his time with the multinational company. While in the UAE, God used a former Buddhist from Bhutan to lead Peter to Christ. Shortly after, Peter founded and pastored the first Nepali church in the UAE, ministering bi-vocationally to first-generation Nepali believers while continuing his professional career.

Peter holds a degree in theology and an MBA from the University of Gloucestershire in the UK. Sensing a growing call toward healthcare ministry and leadership, Peter joined a Leadership Residency Program at a Christian Mission hospital near the border of the UAE and Oman. After completing that program, Peter and his wife, Roni, chose to leave the comfort and security of the UAE and follow God's leading to return to Nepal.



Dr. Roni Gurung

Dr. Ronima "Roni" Gurung is an eye doctor from the Philippines who came to faith in Christ during her university years. As her faith deepened, so did her sense of calling to serve the Lord through medicine. She pursued advanced training in optometry and later earned her PhD, equipping her with both clinical excellence and academic depth.

God also led Roni to the UAE, where she served for 15 years at the same mission hospital where she and Peter would eventually meet. While there, she helped launch the hospital's first ophthalmology center, expanding access to specialized eye care in the region. She also served in the chaplaincy department, reflecting her desire to care not only for physical sight but also for spiritual vision.

God introduced Peter and Roni during their overlapping time at the hospital. They married, and have committed themselves to integrating church planting, discipleship, and healthcare in service to the people of Nepal.



A COLLABORATIVE CALLING

Peter, Roni, and the emerging team around them are uniquely equipped by God to work at the intersection of healthcare and gospel ministry.

Peter carries the heart of a church-planter, pastor, and disciple-maker, combined with a mind for business and operational leadership. Roni brings both deep compassion for souls and the clinical excellence required to restore physical sight.

Together, they embody a rare blend of spiritual conviction and professional competence. Their credibility is matched by their commitment. Rather than continuing to pursue greater financial security abroad, they personally invested much of their own life savings to help launch what will be a community healthcare center.

They have already secured land, permits, and constructed a five-story shell. While some limited eye care services are already being provided on the ground floor, when completed, this will be a fully functioning, multi-specialty community clinic in a high-traffic area of Pokhara. **This clinic project is called Ark of Hope.**

“We will build an Ark of Hope in Nepal, even though we have no sea.”

-RONI GURUNG



With a clear gospel strategy, a sustainable business model, and proven personal sacrifice, Peter and Roni have demonstrated that they are leaders worthy of deep trust and meaningful partnership.

Together, we will complete and open the Ark of Hope.

BUILDING THE ARK OF HOPE

“The medical field is such a powerful and approachable way to serve the community; reaching people who are in great need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Of course, we treat the patients, but God is the one who heals.”

-PETER GURUNG

The current 5-story structure of Ark of Hope is permitted for 7-stories.

The exterior is complete, but it is mostly an empty shell. This project is to complete the structure, finish the interior, and open it as a clinic and discipleship center.



Ground Floor

Primary Vision Care, Retail Optical Shop, and a Cafe to create a community gathering space.

Floor 2

Medical Vision Care and Administrative Offices.

Floors 3-5

Dental, Primary Care, Lab Services, Imaging, Physical Therapy, and potentially more.

Floors 6-7

Training, Discipleship, and Ministry Spaces.





Cost Breakdown

Remaining Construction & Finish Work

\$198,000

Medical Equipment

\$332,000

Project Permits, & OpEx

\$88,000

Timeline

Finalize Operational Plans & Medical Specialties

2026

Finish Construction

2027

Purchase Equipment & Open

2028

Total Project Budget: \$618,000

PROJECT FAQ'S

What is the Ark of Hope?

A multi-specialty community healthcare clinic and discipleship center in Pokhara, Nepal. Ark of Hope is led by Peter and Roni Gurung. Peter is a pastor and church planter from Nepal, and Roni, his wife, is an eye doctor originally from the Philippines.

What is Healthbridge Global's role in this project?

We are partnering with Peter, Roni and their team to help complete, equip, and open this much-needed community health center. We are advocating, consulting, networking, and helping fund this project to completion.

Does Healthbridge provide operating support for this project?

Generally, no. Rather than providing ongoing operating funds in perpetuity, we partner on projects and with partners that have the capacity to cover their operating expenses moving forward. Some early Operating Expenses are incorporated into the larger budget.

Other questions?

Feel free to reach out. We'll answer any questions you may have.

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