


# IN TOUCH

*“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation,  
be constant in prayer.”—Romans 12:12*

After the  
earthquake:  
Update from  
Nepal



**(Top)** Father Joseph consults with a staff member to make sure food and supplies are on their way. **(Center)** Father Joseph Thaler, M.M. listens to a woman describe what happened the day the quake struck. He says sometimes all you can do is listen. **(Bottom)** Since a massive earthquake struck Nepal last April, Father Joseph Thaler, M.M. has traveled from village to village on motorbike, overseeing the distribution of emergency supplies and caring for the people.



his is the monsoon season in Nepal.

The heavy rains can produce floods and mudslides, which are an even higher risk now because of the terrible earthquakes we had last spring.

Yet, we know God is with us—and so are you—as we minister to the people left homeless, injured, orphaned, and grieving for their dead.

Thanks to you and every donor who prayed with us and made a special gift for Nepal, we are rebuilding and restoring hope.

Life in Bhimtar village is a good example of the role you are playing in Nepal’s recovery. Bhimtar is where over 900 of the town’s 1,200 homes were totally destroyed. So our first priority was providing food and water for the most vulnerable.

Then villagers formed themselves into groups for mutual support and to receive the construction materials we were able to provide thanks to your generosity. The rains are making it difficult to frame out the homes, but each day, people do what they can. They are a living lesson in just how determined the Nepalese are to overcoming their personal tragedies and the pain of a nation.

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers have a reputation in Nepal for getting things done. So in several districts, officials have asked us to help with the rebuilding of schools. Right now teachers are making do, in some cases conducting class outdoors or in temporary space.

With your help, Maryknoll is providing construction materials, desks, chairs, computers, and pipes



**(Top)** Maryknoll joined forces with other local groups to speed up the delivery of foodstuffs, especially in outlying regions.

**(Center)** Just a few weeks after the quake, these children of Bhimtar village were all set to return to school. **(Bottom)** Villagers of Bhimtar receive food, blankets, and other goods immediately after the quake.

for water and toilets. I wish you could see the enthusiasm on the faces of the children. They are so happy to be back!

As the rebuilding continues, people are also returning to work when possible. Among the missions that Maryknoll supports are income-producing projects; like mushroom growing, composting, vermiculture, and briquette making. These businesses are mostly back on track, providing people with some badly needed security. Our partner, the *Trans-Himalayan Environment and Livelihood Program*, has done an outstanding job of supporting these efforts.

Another Maryknoll-funded mission that has returned is our 10-month sewing program for the differently-abled. Students learn sewing skills as well as accounting and literacy. One of our teachers, Govinda, who is a graduate of the program and almost died in the first quake, was adamant that we resume classes immediately. I love his passion! By July we had 15 students enrolled and classes began as scheduled.

People always want to know how I cope with the suffering and destruction of the past six months. Yes, there have been difficult moments. But for me, it comes down to this: the presence of God as reflected in the spirit of the Nepalese people.

A note I received from a friend shortly after the first quake explains it best:  
“God will weave millions of graces, blessings, and miracles into that deep sadness and destruction to create a new tapestry of life, meaning, and purpose in the years to come.”

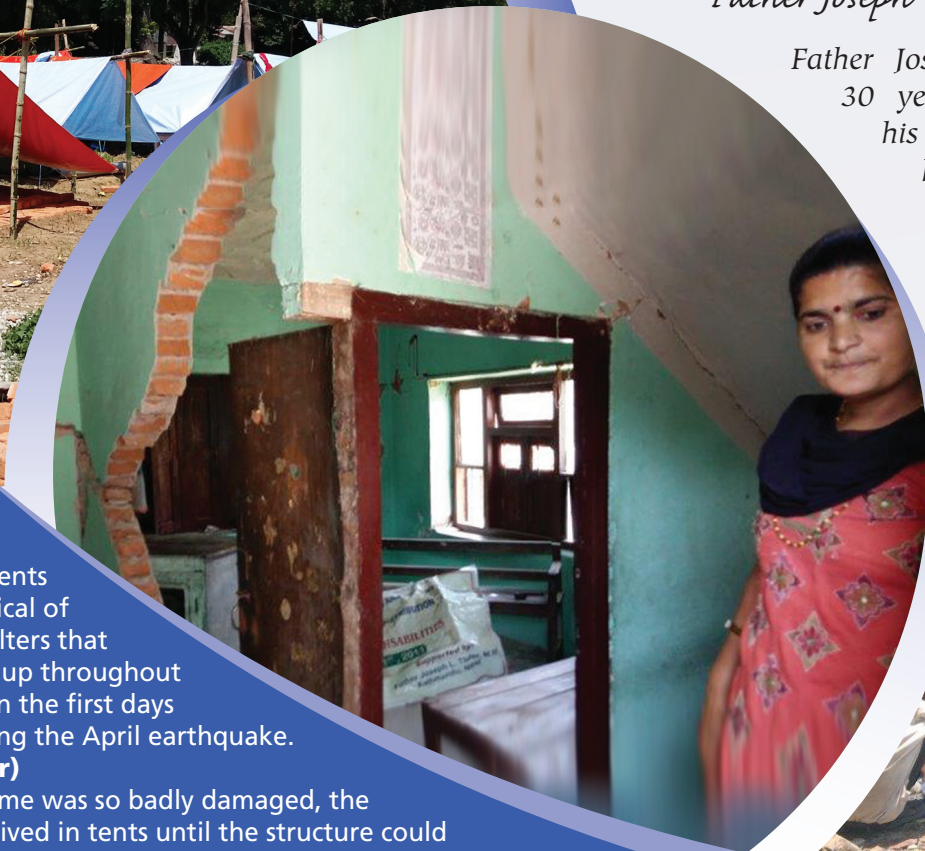
I believe with all my heart that the threads of our new tapestry are being woven into place, blessed by God and by your prayers and gifts. We are all so grateful.

*Father Joseph Thaler, M.M.*

*Father Joseph has served in Nepal for 30 years. Thanks to your support, his missions provide job training, healthcare, schooling, and social services for the poor and displaced.*



**(Top)** These tents are typical of the shelters that sprung up throughout Nepal in the first days following the April earthquake.



**(Center)** This home was so badly damaged, the family lived in tents until the structure could be repaired. **(Bottom)** Volunteers move roofing tins to remote villages in Kavre District where the destruction of homes was near total.

