Fourth Sunday in Lent

Written by Ron Coughlin

Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,

the Spirit leads us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities.

Here we are taught to pay attention to those whom others ignore.

Jesus insists that God's grace is revealed in unlikely people.

God's realm is a place where all are welcome, regardless of their state or position. In a world of disparity, we recognize that some receive what is denied to others.

Let us break through barriers that keep many from receiving the grace that they need.

Rabin Smiles Again

Produced by the Mission and Service Fund The United Church of Canada

In Nepal, 22-year-old Rabin Budha kept finding dry red patches all over his body. He ignored the issue for weeks and when he could no longer do so, he mentioned it to a health outreach worker in his village who recommended Rabin go for a check-up. After an initial test, a dermatologist suspected that Rabin had leprosy and sent him to hospital for further testing.

Rabin began treatment at the Shining Hospital, where doctors admitted him after finding his blood pressure very low. Upon receiving medication and close supervision, his condition improved and treatment is ongoing.

Today, Rabin is grateful for the support, care and love he received at the Shining Hospital and is optimistic about a full recovery.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to provide care and hope to those who are suffering. Through the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada, we help people build healthy lives.

In Nepal, the Mission and Service Fund supports the Shining Hospital, which provides health outreach in remote villages, and care and treatment for those experiencing illness, in particular leprosy and tuberculosis.