

Christmas — December 2022



Nepali Family Inc

Thresh the Mountains (Isaiah 41:15)

Dear friends,

After not being able to travel to Nepal for more than 3 years, on our recent trip we found that the roads were the worst they had been in the 23 years we have been visiting Tansen. Our return trip took 12 hours for just over 300 kilometres!

Thankfully, the project is doing much better than the roads and although we had some maintenance to attend to on our buildings, our children and young adults are doing remarkably well.

Silom, our main children's house, which we support through Abiyan Nepal, has 22 children. Five of the children have varying disabilities, some of them quite challenging to manage, but they are well supported with compassion and love by the carers and have many friends among the other children in the house. At this stage, there is no other place for these children to be cared for.



Walking to the picnic

All the other children are doing well at school. A number of them take their junior certificate at the end of the Nepali year, and we wish them well.

Opportunity Nepal, our Nepali NGO, supports the other parts of the project, and continued to do so even during the worst parts of the pandemic. We thank Ganesh and all the committee members very much.



Law student and Baburam girls at new Mahima Hostel

We at last managed to open Mahima, our student hostel and skills training centre. Some students had been living there with Arjun as house parent over the last few years, although it was not properly furnished. The hostel is now fully operational, including a floor for girls with Puja as chaperone.

Two of the girls who are to join the hostel we supported in 2003 when their mother arrived at Tansen Hospital and to everyone's surprise delivered triplets— two girls and a boy. Although small they all survived, partly due to the recently donated incubator from the Atherton Tablelands Soroptimists, the only one working at the time.



The triplets with their family in 2003

Their mother, Bandana, fed all three babies with no bottles in sight! At one stage she became rather depressed which worsened when it was time to go home. The family matriarch refused to accept the girls at home, as there was already one older daughter, and their father had fled to India to avoid Maoist recruitment during the civil war. A room and a carer were found for the mother and triplets in Tansen and continued to visit them. Finally after almost a year, the children were back on the farm.

Over the years we have kept in touch and during our last visit met them once more. The girls, Ganga and Jamina have been accepted for Kathmandu University Tansen Campus, which is fantastic news!

Our final story of many during our last visit, is of two other young girls we have been supporting since they were 7 and 8 years old after their parents were electrocuted in Bhopal, India. These girls have been living with their grandparents, and Puja has recently graduated as a civil engineer and Priya is studying assistant nursing. Both of these skills lead to jobs in Nepal, and we are so delighted for them.

The uneven spread of wealth in Nepal produces a very small number of rich people and many, many poor people. The only route out of dirt, hunger, overcrowding and unemployment is education and job training. Our annual costs at present are around \$100,000. Please can you help this Christmas time to give some of these children a future with hope and dignity as you have so generously done before.



Girl (on left) recently arrived at Silom after escaping an arranged marriage at aged 14

All our blessings.

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