



Dear Friends, Hello from Kathmandu!

August 2022

Summer: We are so grateful to have been able to spend time with family and a few friends over the summer and are happy to say that all are doing well. Mum's 90th birthday was a highlight, bringing us all together for a garden party at our house in Warwick with four generations of her family including her 7 great-grandchildren. Highlights included pass the parcel, paddling pool and a bouncy castle.

Landing: Here we are, back in Kathmandu, planning to go to Besisahar on Saturday this week. A section of road to Besisahar slid down the hill early in the monsoon, just after we had left, making travel in and out more challenging but still possible. Hopefully as the monsoon subsides next month things improve. Whilst leaving family felt particularly tough this time, it is good to be here, and we have enjoyed getting stuck-in to work-related things quickly.



Landslide damaged Besisahar road

Palliative Care Toolkit Launch: This landmark event saw the official launch of the Nepali language edition of this valuable resource marking the culmination of a three-year project (lengthened by Covid). It took place on 11th August with Chief Guest, the Director General at the Health Services Department. Thirty-five people who represented the government and the wider medical community, along with other supporting organisations, attended.



Differentiation Training Workshop: On Sunday 14th, Phillipa was privileged to spend a day with 42 teachers from the Christian Educators Network, delivering special-needs awareness training and demonstrating some fun interactive ways to 'Teach Everybody', including those who have different learning needs. It was a bit of a challenge to be ready so soon after travelling back, but we had a good day, and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm among the participants.



Group work – create a poster 'for the staffroom, to promote inclusive teaching and learning.'

Dyslexia awareness: Last week, Phillipa was able to visit the Special Needs Education Department at a University Campus near Kathmandu. 'Nepal Dyslexia Centre' (NDC), a new NGO, has been created and registered and plans are progressing for a workshop at the campus in September to mark Dyslexia Awareness Month. (It's actually in October but this is tricky due to festivals and holidays.) The workshop will be primarily for students in Psychology and Special Needs Education courses and will involve a film show and some discussion groups; we hope it will be the first of many activities to raise awareness of Dyslexia in Nepal.



Sanuthimi Campus

KISC EQUIP: The team are getting ready for another round of teacher-training visits to Rukhum in September, and Lamjung in November, with exciting plans emerging for additional areas. However, just now we are more occupied with farewell celebrations for our leader and friend, Khim Khandel. After 18 years at KISC, and being the founder of KISC EQUIP, he is moving with his family to the



KISC EQUIP family retreat

USA to take up new opportunities there. We are all very sad to see him go and will miss

his presence among us: his godly vision, enthusiasm, patience and persistence, always grounded in faith and prayer. Last weekend we enjoyed a retreat for the whole team and families, a special time for all of us.



Khandel Family Farewell

Church: Some of you had the opportunity to purchase greetings cards that were handmade by our Nepali pastor's family. They are raising funds to build a toilet for the church to use, instead of having to share their family bathroom. Thanks to the card sales and a couple of very generous donations, we are delighted to be handing over a significant sum which will help progress the project.



The palliative care Sunita Project which is funded through a UK Aid Match-funding grant, which INF is delivering with our partner organisation EMMS International started on 1st April. We have had the opportunity to employ a

number of Nepali staff who will be working to develop a model of primary palliative care for rural areas. We have a research team who will be exploring the need for palliative care in rural areas. This will focus on how families and communities care for those with advanced illness or who are frail and old, how they access health-care and how caring affects young people's attendance at school. Our clinical, community development and education teams will be helping health post workers develop skills to deliver basic palliative care in these rural areas, whilst raising community awareness.

Dan started working at District Hospital, Lamjung in April as part of the Sunita Project. He has been delivering some training, going on ward-rounds, helping staff identify and care for people with palliative care needs and mentoring medical officers in outpatient clinics. He needed to put this activity on hold in June because his work visa expired and unfortunately because INF is still awaiting the renewal of their health service agreement with the government, he will not be able to resume this activity for the time being.



Many thanks for your interest and for your prayers. We'll continue with (ir)regular updates through this next year to let you know how things are going.

Greetings from us both,

Dan and Phillipa.

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Dates:

Sept 22nd: NDC Dyslexia awareness event.

17th November: INF 70th Anniversary Celebration