

May 2022

Dear Friends, Hello from Besisahar!

This morning Dan set off on his motorbike to go to Pokhara.

In our last letter we asked you to pray for a number of things and now we give thanks to God for some encouragements:

KISC activity week: Nineteen year 9 students and a few teachers made the journey from KISC international school in Kathmandu to spend their annual Activity Week here in Lamjung. They had prepared a selection of fun educational activities to bring, and over three days they visited six of our partner schools to spend time with the younger classes. Origami frogs, story-telling, Korean language



lessons and frisbee all featured in the programme which was very well received. We give thanks there were no accidents and the students excelled at being flexible when things were not quite as they had imagined. The evenings included swimming in the hotel pool, devotions and time to reflect creatively on the day's activities. One student said, 'I'd never really thought about God before, but now I will...'.

Sunita Project: The Palliative Care project now has an office in Besisahar, and following a long and fairly challenging recruitment process, project staff will be joining Dan and Vordan, the project coordinator, from next week. We look forward to the team getting started on some research activities as they also become familiar with the district and the community.

Lamjung Hospital: Dan has been enjoying the opportunity to take part in some ward rounds and clinics in recent weeks and is getting to know the hospital staff. He also delivered Palliative Care training to the medical staff in their morning professional development session. We give thanks for

a new doctor from Romania, Emil, and a young nurse, Johanna from Germany. We are really enjoying their company together with Emil's family, and have had some fun social times together.

KISC EQUIP: In our Lamjung office, my colleague Joy has been working hard on developiong a phonics programme and I have enjoyed being able to help out with proofreading and making resources. This method



transforms the teaching and learning of reading in English, something all school children are required

to do, and it is exciting to see it becoming established on the timetable in some of our schools, starting this new academic year (i.e. now). I still don't have a date for delivering the training on differentiation, but continue to look out for individuals I can help whenever we visit schools. I was delighted to arrange a meeting between my friend Prof. Krishna Thapa, who teaches on Special



Needs Education, and the KISCEQUIP leadership to discuss how we can move forward in promoting dyslexia awareness. We are hoping to hold some events for Dyslexia Awareness month in October.

INF retreat: This was a good

time to relax and reflect and also get to know the INF 'family' members better. Phillipa had a lot of fun with the childrens groups which required chocolate, marshmellows, spaghetti, glue, cameras and bibles among other things. The youth group created a beautiful dance for the Lord's Prayer and a Psalm, both of which featured in the final all-age communion service.





Church: We've been enjoying fellowship with a small church about 15 minutes walk from our house where we have been made very welcome. Last week we prayed for a young man who is going to Scotland to pick fruit for 6 months!

Expect the unexpected! There have been quite a few challenges this year due to events beyond our control. Of

course, not long ago there were still covid lockdowns, and thankfully covid is at a low ebb here at the moment. Schools and offices also need to close regularly for festivals, political events, exams and most recently local elections, which all makes it difficult to build and maintain relations for our work, especially as dates for closures are often published at the last minute! The EQUIP April training has now been moved to June. The same issues affect everyone of course, not least progress with getting the Sunita project up and running. However, we might be learning patience and how to ask for grace for the day, trying not to get too upset when our plans are thwarted. It's not always easy.

We're really looking forward to being home for a few weeks over the summer, and an action-packed time with family and friends.



Greetings from us both, Dan and Phillipa.

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Dates:

May 24^{th-} Palliative Care training for Nurses (Dan) and Phonics training day (Joy and Phillipa).

June 13th Fly to UK August 9th Fly to KTM.