

Link Letter No.10 March 2016

Dear friends,

Demolition and creativity hand in hand describes life at KISC these past few weeks. While we have been sad to watch the demolition of our wonderful sports area, which had to be returned to the landlord, we are optimistically looking forwards to signing a long lease on a new school site. More about that, hopefully, in the next link letter. Meanwhile, the creative talents of KISC students have been seen in two spectacular events. The KISC inter-house music festival included song, dance and instrumental groups. All students had to take part in the set song, which required a fair bit of challenging teamwork; it was a privilege to see how they learnt to overcome their differences to produce a great performance on the day! The KISA (Kathmandu Inter-Schools Art) event was initiated from KISC and KISC EQUIP (our teacher training section), and attended by staff and 100 students from 12 local schools. They spent a whole day learning to create, connect and collaborate, by making art out of recycled saris and fabric scraps. The resulting “gallery” around the British School futsal pitch fence was spectacular.

Phillipa was also excited to be part of another recent collaboration with other schools, in setting up an “Inclusion Network”. This is an opportunity to promote the idea of “Inclusive



Nepali teachers attending the Inclusion Workshop



Dan and Phillipa Munday
CMS mission partners
Nepal

Dan and Phillipa Munday are CMS mission partners living and working in Nepal. Phillipa is head of student support at Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC), and Dan is exploring opportunities to develop palliative care.

Education”. We started with a half-day workshop raising awareness of the barriers to learning faced by children with difficulties such as dyslexia, autism, and speech and language delay. About 25 teachers from a number of schools attended and there was a wonderful sense of excitement and demands for more! Meanwhile, we were able to use our in-house faculty training day, to focus on understanding dyslexia, with all the KISC teaching assistants, which they found very helpful.

Outside KISC, Phillipa is also getting increasingly involved with



KISC student support team on a faculty development day

the children's ministry at our Nepali church, teaching a group of 10-13 year-olds. They are a precious group and I would value your prayers for them to know Jesus in their own hearts as we study the Bible together.

The border with India has been open now for a few weeks, and you might think that would mean everything is coming through as normal.

However, we still haven't been able to get a cooking gas cylinder refilled. For the last three weeks we've been told it will come in "two days". The taxi driver who brought Dan from the airport a couple of weeks ago had been sitting in a queue for five hours waiting for petrol, only to find that the pump ran dry four people ahead of him. After having dropped Dan home, he planned to rejoin the queue and sleep in his car, in the hope of more success in the morning. Our landlord has just severely pruned a fruit tree in the garden for firewood.

Life is still very hard for many folk. The political situation remains fragile and there is still a great sense of uncertainty about the future. Some groups are threatening to resume the blockade; others say that won't happen. The issues run deep through social and political history and will not be resolved easily. Please continue to pray. The post-earthquake re-building is slowly starting to get going. Building homes out of bags of dirt seems to be a popular way to go. The bags come on a roll, like bin bags, but much bigger and stronger. They are filled with mud to make building blocks for well insulated and earthquake-proof homes. Some friends have been helping with this in a village in Sindupalchowk, an area that has suffered more aftershocks and property losses than most; apparently they are very happy with their new homes.

Meanwhile Dan has been continuing to work on the palliative care development programme. Manju began training as a specialist nurse in palliative care in January. Together with Dr Ruth Russell, a palliative care specialist from Australia, based in Pokhara, and Cathy Ratcliff from EMMS in Edinburgh, Dan and Manju visited Lamjung, an area which was severely affected by the earthquake. EMMS are funding a small project looking at the palliative care needs of people in earthquake areas. Following this trip they all attended the Indian Association of Palliative Care conference in Pune, India,



Demolition of the KISC sports site



A home severely damaged by an earthquake, seen during a visit to Lamjung in February

where they presented some papers about work in Nepal and India and were able to meet many colleagues and share ideas.

After the conference in India, Dan took part in a forum in Kathmandu where they were discussing the development of a national

strategy for palliative care in Nepal. The forum was attended by professionals interested in palliative care, WHO and government officials and Dan was able to present some results from a review of palliative care in Nepal which we are in the process of completing. We are now writing the strategy and Dan has a lead role in this as an adviser to the Nepalese Association for Palliative Care. In addition to this work, our needs assessment projects have gained momentum and last week Manju and Dan had a trip to Tansen Hospital to complete a survey of palliative care needs. The



A beautifully clear day when flying to India



Presenting at IAPC conference in Pune, India

next few months will continue to be equally busy.

The recurring theme of visa problems has come up again. INF is in a long process of renewing project agreements with the government of Nepal and Dan and many of his colleagues are in danger of temporarily having to leave the country, if it takes much longer. This is not a new thing; it happens. But it is none-the-less stressful for those concerned. Please pray for the process,



Preaching at Lamjung

discussions and negotiations, and for the responsible officials to be willing to sign the agreements as soon as possible.

On a more personal note, we value your prayers for our family. Our house in Warwick will be vacated in April when Ben, Liz and Noah move to their own new home. So, we will need to be looking for tenants. Please pray that we will be able to keep it occupied. We are thankful that Alasdair has secured a good job ready for when he graduates this

summer, and that James has been able to get started on post-graduate study, which he has wanted to do for a while. Phillipa's parents continue to keep quite active and meet regularly with their Nepal prayer group, which must be over 25 years old! God is so good and his faithfulness always amazes us.

As we think of Easter and the great sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, we are so grateful to be called his children and to be part of his amazing family. We are humbled by the people we meet day by day, who love and serve him, and even suffer persecution for his sake.

Thank you as always for your love, prayer and support.

Lots of love

Dan and Phillipa

www.cms-uk.org



Church Mission Society

Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ Tel: 01865 787400 Fax: 01865 776375
Email: info@cms-uk.org www.cms-uk.org Registered Charity Number 1131655