



**Name:** Dan and Phillipa Munday

**Location:** Nepal

**Our call:** After working in medical mission in Nepal from 1988-1991, we felt called to return to work alongside missions and Christian nationals to see God's love in action.

**Our role:** Dan is developing palliative care services across Nepal. Phillipa is head of student support and student admissions at Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC).

## Hello from Nepal!

Dear friends,

It is high time to write a link letter to update you, our faithful supporting team. We are so very grateful to everyone who has been praying for us, and at last we have good news to share about the visa situation: we were both able to return to Nepal on 11 October.

For those who didn't know, Dan's International Nepal Fellowship (INF) visa expired last December, so he had been on a tourist visa since January and used up all his 150 days annual allowance. Phillipa remains on the KISC visa but the renewal process for these has been extremely slow and so Dan, having no remaining visa options, had to leave in mid-August. We finally met up again in Bangkok at the end of September, as Phillipa had an education conference she was attending there.

On Monday 26 September, the day we arrived in Chiang Mai, we heard that KISC visas were finally being granted; however, the Dashain festival was on in Nepal, a time when many people return to

celebrate with their families, so we were not able to get return flights for a couple of weeks. Fortunately though, we could stay at this lovely Christian holiday and retreat centre, The Juniper Tree, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. When we did make it back to Nepal, Dan finally had a KISC spouse visa once again. If you have a really good memory you will now be wondering whether that affects his ability to do medical work. Yes, that is still a concern. INF continues to work on the health project agreements with the government, so please keep on praying that this process will move forward quickly. Many INF colleagues had to leave Nepal some months ago and they are still living with great uncertainty about the future.

Whilst in "visa exile", Dan took the opportunity to visit various palliative care projects in India and



*Photo top: Prayer garden at Juniper Tree*

*Photo above: Alasdair's graduation at York University*



*Top left: Honk! JR - KISC musical production*

*Top right: Eldoret palliative care team at the APCA conference*



Malaysia and also attended the African Palliative Care Congress (APCA) in Kampala, Uganda. Together, this provided good networking opportunities and links that will help with future palliative care development work in Nepal. The visits also provided opportunities to do some teaching and mentoring, particularly around evaluation and research, which are areas many of the places he visited are keen to develop for their services.

Meanwhile, the work at KISC continues. The school year began for Phillipa with a little apprehension, as her colleague Lizzie was required to be a full-time class teacher, leaving all her work in primary student support to be covered. But, as always, God had a plan, and along came Amber, a well-experienced special needs teacher, looking for a couple of days' volunteering work. It has been a great relief and privilege to welcome her to the team. Also, Sophie has started school, aged 13, for the first time. Sophie loves learning, but on account of severe cerebral palsy has never been able to go to school. Again, the Lord brought along just the right volunteer to be her learning partner and she is so happy to be able to come to school two days a week, with her siblings.

The term ended with the performance of HONK! JR, a musical production based on the story of the ugly duckling. Many weeks of hard work and commitment by both the production staff and the students came to fruition in

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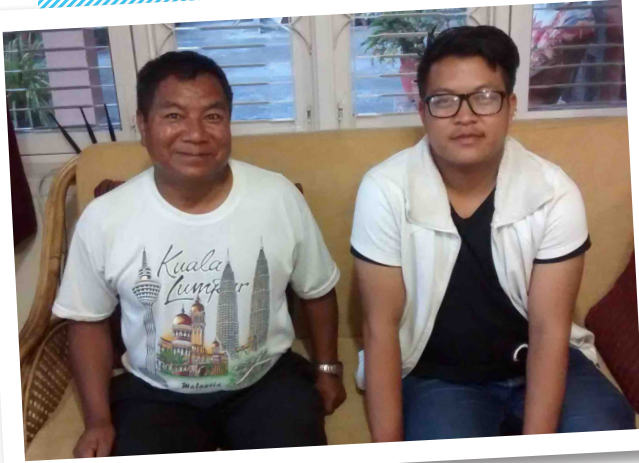
an amazing, entertaining and impressive performance. It's such a blessing to see how the Lord provides the right staff, materials, costumes and technical expertise for our students to have excellent educational opportunities in a place with limited resources, and how they are able to develop their talents to his glory. One example is an ex-student, who has an events

business and was able to bring extra equipment and run the sound and lighting for the show, which makes such a huge difference to its success. We are praying for him as he heads off to university in Europe.

KISC Activity Week comes around every year in October and this year Phillipa was excited to be accompanying the Year 9 students to visit a village school near Tansen for a few days. This involved about 12 hours of bus travel each way, and a daily hike to the school and back to the hotel in the town, where we stayed. The main focus was to repaint the classrooms, supplying all materials and hoping to bless the school and showing them God's love in action. Activity week is always a time for the students to experience physical and spiritual challenge, team-building, learning and making lifelong memories, and this year was no different.

KISC is about to embark on a major building project. The buildings will be owned by its parent NGO, Human Development and Community Services (HDCS), which will also be moving up to the new site. This is a wonderful opportunity for the school to have its own purpose-built accommodation and to be more closely linked with HDCS. If KISC ever needed to “wind up”, the buildings could continue to be used by HDCS for its ongoing work. There are many challenges along the way – legal, financial, construction and other operational issues. If you





Above: Near the Notre Dame in Paris

want to see more, please visit the KISC website: <http://www.kisc.edu.np/kisc-future-development>

A short while ago, our friend Gajendra and his son dropped by for a cup of tea. You may remember I was teaching English to Ashish and his brother Isaac when we first arrived. It is exciting to hear how they are growing in their faith and careers. Isaac is now a qualified trekking guide, a photographer and learning graphic design; he is also active in the youth ministry at his church. Ashish is studying medicine in Bangladesh, and after much prayer has been able to establish a regular fellowship of about eight students meeting together. We are praying with him for more "brothers and sisters".

A lack of visa has meant that some of the palliative care needs assessment work has been delayed, particularly our post-earthquake survey. It has been quite a frustrating year with first the blockade of Nepal meaning travelling was a problem, and then the visas. Still, our hope is that these projects will get back on track shortly.

Manju, our trainee specialist palliative care nurse is now working at Tansen mission hospital, where her new skills are being used to great effect. She spent a few weeks in June/July on a course in

Hyderabad in India and really benefitted from the training. Dan visited Hyderabad on his recent travels, and the staff there had clearly been very impressed by Manju's ability. Fortunately, Skype has meant that Dan has been able to communicate with her regularly and

they have discussed patients and other aspects of work together. When Phillipa visited Tansen for Activity Week, Dan came along, literally for the ride, and spent the time at the hospital with Manju, doing some teaching, and planning future work with the hospital leadership team.

As things unfold, we can see a really strategic role for Manju in the future, in the area of palliative care leadership. A few weekends ago, she gave a presentation on palliative care at the National Hospital Christian Fellowship and Nepal Medical and Dental Association Joint Conference. This was an exciting opportunity for her to start building this important role.

We had a lovely break in the UK in July to attend Alasdair's graduation from York University, to spend time with our family and to do some professional development training. We are likely to be in the UK from May-July next year on home assignment and hope that we can meet up with many of you then. We send an email update every month or two. If you don't receive that and would like to – please let us know by emailing us at [danandphillipamunday@gmail.com](mailto:danandphillipamunday@gmail.com)

With love

*Dan and Phillipa*

## PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for God's guidance and provision during the visa process.
- Give thanks for palliative care initiatives around South Asia.
- Give thanks for God's faithful provision for KISC staffing needs.
- Give thanks for Gajendra and his family.
- Give thanks for Manju and her growth as a palliative care specialist.
- Pray for International Nepal Fellowship (INF) project agreements to be settled.
- Pray for guidance for Dan, developing palliative care initiatives across Nepal.
- Pray for KISC as it embarks on its building project – for the board as they take decisions (Dan is the board chair).
- Pray for Ashish and his student fellowship group.
- Pray for ongoing staff needs for KISC (checkout <http://www.kisc.edu.np> vacancies for details).

**You can give online to Dan and Phillipa at:**  
[churchmissionsociety.org/munday](http://churchmissionsociety.org/munday)

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