



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,

We can hardly believe it is already February! So we would like to say a slightly belated "Happy New Year" and thank you for sticking with us and for reading another link letter. Since we returned from Thailand in October we have had a busy and varied time with many exciting developments.

Scottish TV came to make a documentary about the palliative care development work Dan has been involved with around the country. Susan Ripoll, a video-journalist and reporter, came and visited the projects in Tansen, Pokhara and Lamjung areas, filming and interviewing staff and members of the communities who have already benefitted from the new medical approach to caring for their needs. EMMS, the organisation funding the projects, was featured as the Scottish TV Christmas charity, celebrating 170 years of their involvement in medical mission work, and so our documentaries were screened during the early evening news programme on three consecutive

days. They can be seen on the EMMS website. www.emms.org

At KISC we celebrated our 30th birthday on Friday 3 February. This was a wonderful time to remember the faithfulness of God through many ups and downs, five different sites, over a thousand students and hundreds of staff, and lots of political and spiritual challenges. The kitchen staff cooked a beautiful meal, which was shared freely by all staff and students, a good number of parents and other invited guests. The hall was packed to overflowing for a celebration assembly, with time to worship, pray and remember our history together.

We are getting excited about our new site. The building plans have been downscaled a bit and we are hoping to be moving at the end of this year.



Photo top: Filming with STV

Photo above: The new KISC site



Top left: Taking a rest - Trekking for Fieldwork

Top right: Walking in the hills around Kathmandu



Phillipa continues to work with students with special needs and we really value your prayers for these students, whose difficulties range from Dyslexia to ADHD to autism spectrum and severe language processing issues. It is a constant challenge and a joy to be part of their lives and facilitate a better school experience for these precious young people. Sometimes their learning difficulties seem to be compounded by the inevitable transitions between their home countries and Nepal, causing stress and a sense of not really knowing where they belong. The idea of TCKs – Third Culture Kids – is well researched and described, and we see it played out often at our school.

Thank you so much to all who joined in our KISC Global Day of Prayer on February 2. All the online prayer slots had been booked, so we should have had a continuous 24-hour prayer chain going all around the world. It is a powerful thing when so many pray, and we are very grateful for your part in that. Please continue to pray, especially for teachers. We still have a number of key vacancies for August. We know God is faithful and will provide for our needs, as he does year on year. We still need you to be a part of that, looking out for suitable people

whom God is calling to come and serve here. It is still the best teaching job in the world! More info at www.kisc.edu.np/be-involved

The issues around visas and medical registration for Dan continue; they seem to be a fixed part of our life at the moment. It

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means he needs to visit the UK fairly regularly to engage in some clinical work, to maintain his licence in order to practice. One such visit was over Christmas and the New Year, when he worked in a hospice in Birmingham for a few weeks. Phillipa was able to enjoy time with her parents and also friends and family in Warwickshire before returning to Nepal three

weeks ahead of Dan, in time for the start of term on January 9. This is becoming quite a trial and we do not enjoy being apart so much! Please continue to pray for International Nepal Fellowship (INF) health project agreements and consequent visas for Dan and his colleagues.

The second week of February, Dan was in Tamil Nadu, India, with his team, presenting their work at the Indian Association of Palliative Care Conference (IAPCON). Manju, Regina and Dan all gave oral presentations. When they returned, they were immediately back hard at work getting the post-earthquake palliative care needs assessment research completed in the Lamjung area, while the weather is still dry.

Palliative care isn’t just about dying. Manju was referred a baby which had been born with oesophageal atresia (lack of an oesophagus). The surgeon had explained that without surgery the baby would die and that she would need to be taken to a hospital in Kathmandu. The parents said they would not take the baby, so she was referred for palliative care. Through talking to the parents and exploring their concerns, they changed their minds and took the baby to Kathmandu where she will have had a very good chance of survival. Palliative care is about communicating well with people and helping them make the decision which is right for them. Through the palliative care training



Above: Manju listens to a patient

Manju has received, she is developing those good communication skills. We believe that palliative care can make an impact in Nepal, by making medical practice more patient-centred.

In other news, we have had electricity all the time since September, with no power cuts or load shedding! This has definitely been a cause of much rejoicing. Also our lane, commonly known among expats as “Sheep Lane” because some sheep used to graze on the grass verges, has finally been surfaced. This has substantially cut down the dust levels on our walk to school and the INF office.

“Jesus loves you”! We had a special moment recently with our student support work. D has great difficulty processing information he hears without any pictures or objects to

relate it to. He also has a hard time just making connections and understanding new concepts, and with social awareness. Before Christmas, we were reading together a simplified version of *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. We discussed Scrooge,

his personality, how he was feeling, and how others around him were feeling when he was there. I was not at all sure that D was connecting with the emotions or ideas at all but I then asked him: “*So if you met Scrooge, what would you say to him?*” D replied without hesitation: “*I would say ‘Jesus loves you’, because if someone is being a bully we should tell them Jesus loves them.*” Amen!

Balancing the demands on our schedule is tricky at the moment. We plan to be in the UK for a short home-assignment this summer, but we will be limited in how many churches we can visit. If we don’t get to you this time, please accept our apologies, and we will be back summer 2018 for more!

With our thanks as ever for your generous and prayerful support as we seek to share Jesus’ love in this place,

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for 30 years of KISC, since its small beginnings in 1987
- Give thanks for the opportunity to share about the Nepal work at IAPCON
- Give thanks for the wider publicity given by Scottish TV
- Pray for the palliative care needs-assessment research
- Pray for KISC students with special needs
- Pray for teachers for KISC (check the website)
- Pray for the KISC building project and funds needed
- Pray for INF and the health project agreement.

With love

Dan and Phillipa

You can give online to Dan and Phillipa at:
churchmissionsociety.org/munday

Contact details:
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Left: Sheep Lane