

February 2024

Dear Friends, as we are already in the season of Lent, it's a little late to wish you a Happy New Year, but we do hope that 2024 is looking good to you. Lent is a time of waiting, of anticipation, and also of heart-searching as we prepare to remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Saviour. We are enjoying reading the Archbishop's lent book recommendation, *Tarry Awhile*, by Dr Selina Stone. It's very challenging and good.

Answered prayers:

- The newly configured leadership of the Sunita Project is going well, with team members stepping up into challenging roles and responsibilities.
- Dr Rachel and Toby and Dr Alice have all arrived safely from England and are a huge blessing to the ongoing Palliative Care work, with their clinical mentoring and training presentation skills. Rachel and Toby will be here for a year, and Alice for four months; they are also bringing much encouragement and joy to the international community.
- The project begins to bear fruit and the team are exceptional in their ability to work together and value one another.

International impact



Four members of the Sunita team took part in the Indian Association of Palliative Care Congress again this year, presenting their work to a wider audience of Doctors and other health workers from across South Asia. The research team are growing in confidence and their work is recognised to be of a high quality and useful in the discussions about what is possible in this context.

Caring for children with disabilities

A recent highlight at Green Pastures Hospital was the Sunita Project workshop run by Dr Amrita (centre back) for children with cerebral palsy

and their carers. With a mix of assessments, talks, discussions, play therapy, creative arts and even a ride up the cable car, parents were encouraged and affirmed in caring for their precious children.



Lamjung again

As I write we are back in beautiful Lamjung for 10 days. This is the week for the KISC EQUIP team to wind up their teacher training programme with the Lamjung schools (which I, Phillipa, was part of 2021-2023). After 10 years working with up to 15 local schools, the project agreements are coming to an end and the work is done. As part of the celebrations, Prior to the formal programme on Wednesday, with school principals and local dignitaries, there will be a Maths Exhibition with participants from all the 15 schools on Monday, and a Literature Festival on Tuesday. These will be large community

events and a wonderful testimony to the accomplishments of the project. I am so happy to be here to share in the team's joy and their deep gratitude to God for his faithfulness and sustaining grace.



At the same time, the Sunita Project research team are here, meeting with community groups, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), school groups, municipality stake-holders and hospital staff to review progress and the impact of the awareness-raising and training to date. This is so that they can begin to design the formal evaluation stage of the project which will begin later in the year. The photo depicts today's meeting with members of a local community group. It is still quite difficult to explain how a patient-centred palliative care approach is relevant to their daily life.

Summer is coming

We are planning for a summer in the UK, with Dan working remotely as he continues to advise and support the ongoing project here. I will return in March to begin a course in Intercultural Coaching at All Nations Christian College (ANCC), and also to attend a family wedding. Dan will join me in April. We also look forward to spending more time with the various family members and friends we have missed so much. In May, we will take a road trip to Barcelona, for the European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC) Congress, and enjoy some holiday time driving across Spain and France and visiting family in Switzerland.

A Biblical scene

As I watch this couple tilling the ground below the hotel window, two thoughts come to mind. Firstly as we do our best to work for God's kingdom, it is good to remember that we are all assigned different tasks in God's plan – one prepares the ground, another sows the seed, just as the woman follows on behind with her bucket, spreading the seed into the newly ploughed furrow. As they completed their work, it poured with rain! Perfect! Secondly, unlike the straight beam that serves as a yoke for these poor buffalo, Jesus says to us in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me.....and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

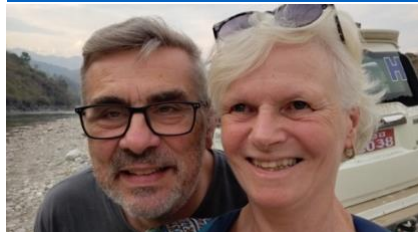


Our prayer is that we will all learn to rest in God and learn from him as we walk daily through this life in a challenging and broken world.

We are always so grateful for your prayers,
With our love,

Dan and Phillipa

danandphillipamunday@gmail.com



Prayer pointers:

- For Community groups and FCHVs to understand the basic Palliative Care teaching, to improve quality of life for chronically unwell members of their families and communities.
- For good ongoing relationships with partner hospitals and municipality leaders.
- For the KISC EQUIP schools to continue to use good teaching methods after the team has left.