



Dan and Phillipa Munday  
Nepal

May 2023

Dear Friends,

We hope this finds you well as we are already in May, enjoying warmer weather and we are both officially another year older!! Happily, this has been a season of progress and we are delighted to share some highlights as we see God's faithfulness in the midst of the challenges.

### KISC EQUIP training and wider Dyslexia Awareness.



*Science class using practical demonstration and group work to apply 'How to Teach Everybody'*

The KISC EQUIP team are visiting Lamjung from 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May for Phase I of the new Nepali academic year programme. For Phillipa, this will mark a final opportunity to visit the teachers who attended 'How to Teach Everybody'\* training and encourage them to keep on trying something new in their lessons. As we move away from Besisahar to Pokhara (see below) she will no longer be working with KISC EQUIP as that is not one of their project areas.

The team at Tribhuvan University Education Campus held a follow-up seminar in February. About 30 Special Education students attended and listened to a range of helpful presentations. Phillipa was excited to present her MA research findings and share evidence that the need for differentiated teaching and learning in schools is real and widely recognised, and that many practicing teachers really do want to engage if they are equipped to do so.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> she will have the opportunity to lead a day of training for all teachers and TAs at KISC International School in Kathmandu, on Dyslexia awareness. Prior knowledge and views among the group will vary widely. Please pray for wisdom so it will be beneficial for everyone. It's a wonderful challenge to deliver a session on differentiation to a diverse group!

### Sunita Project news:

Sunita Project is really making some significant steps forward. Following our visits to Surkhet and Chaurjahari, West Rukum in October, we are now ready to begin research and training in these areas, as well as continuing the programme around the new HDCS hospital in south Lamjung.

While carrying out house-to-house research in Lamjung, the team found several people in need of palliative care. One elderly person had bed sores after a stroke; another elderly gentleman, was sleeping all day on a bench outside his house with a family member bringing him some food. The researchers were able to interview patients and family about their needs and this will help us target palliative care training effectively.

We visited Rukum again from 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April and were able to have collaborative meetings with both HDCS Chaurjahari Hospital and local government leaders. Dan was able to meet two new nurses who have been appointed at Chaurjahari Hospital to work for the Sunita Project. They will receive training in Pokhara as well as on site so that they are equipped to deliver Palliative Care awareness sessions to community 'mothers' groups and local schools. They will also be trained to teach more clinical aspects to the Health Post staff and Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV).



*Dan explaining the project to hospital staff in Rukum*

Our research coordinator was also able to visit with us. She and Dan met with local officials and discuss which communities to focus on for data collection in Rukum.

Dan and team will be returning to Chaurjahari on 21<sup>st</sup> May to do a week of training at the hospital and the research team will also return to continue the house-to-house survey there. It all feels a little rushed, but we need to complete this work before the start of the monsoon in early June, when it will be much more difficult to travel.

Before our trip to Rukum we have the visit of colleagues from the Global Health Academy, University of Edinburgh, who are supporting our researchers. They will visit the first research site in Lamjung, where the team did data collection in March, then they will facilitate some workshops to help the researchers improve their skills. The Sunita Project is giving an opportunity to invest in some excellent clinical and research staff; after the project is complete, we trust that their skills and expertise will continue to benefit Nepal.



*Looking across the valley to the new research area.*



*Houses perch on the steep hillsides in West Rukum.*

### Summer plans

As we did last year, we are grateful that we can spend a couple of months in UK from June to August. It's a good time to be away as monsoon rains make travelling in Nepal such a challenge. Dan can continue his work as much of it takes place on Zoom. He will attend the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) Conference in Rotterdam and teach on the Developing Health Course run by the Christian Medical Fellowship in London. We can't deny though that the real pull of returning to the UK is seeing our rapidly growing grandchildren and the rest of the family.

### Move to Pokhara

At the beginning of June, just before we return to the UK, we will move from Besisahar to Pokhara. It is disappointing that focusing the Sunita Project in Besisahar did not work out as originally planned. Living in this part of Lamjung is therefore no longer helpful. From Pokhara, Dan will be able to travel back to south Lamjung to visit the hospitals there, as well as to the other project sites, which are further west from Pokhara. In addition, most of the Sunita Project team are based at Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara, so living there makes much more sense at this stage.

We praise God for a new apartment that is located near to the hospital, also near to several friends and an excellent coffee shop! We plan to move before the monsoon rains set in as the road out of Besisahar is so poor these days; we wonder whether it will survive the heavy downpours of the early monsoon. Joy, with whom we live, is moving back to Scotland so we need to pack up the whole house. We have booked the last week in May for that purpose. It will be very sad to leave our friends and our church family here, but we will definitely come back to visit.

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



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### Dates for prayer: travel (road and air), wisdom and help!!

May 1-12<sup>th</sup> KISC EQUIP training and school visits, Lamjung.

May 7<sup>th</sup> Dan to Green Pastures Hospital, Pokhara.

May 10-20<sup>th</sup> Edinburgh research team visit to Kathmandu, Lamjung and Pokhara

May 12-27<sup>th</sup> Phillipa in KTM, working at KISC.

May 19<sup>th</sup> Dyslexia Training Day at KISC

May 20<sup>th</sup> – We manage one day together in Kathmandu!

May 21-27<sup>th</sup> Sunita Project training and research visit to Rukum.

May 29<sup>th</sup>- June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Pack up and move!

June 10<sup>th</sup> Fly to UK.

June 14-17<sup>th</sup> Rotterdam EAPC Conference.

\*Credit: Ann Clucas. "How To Teach Everybody: Strategies For Effective Differentiation." OUP, 2018.