

## ***Dan and Phillipa Munday – Nepal Update***

*October 2020*



Dear Friends,

Well, what a year this is turning out to be! We last wrote in April, grateful for Dan's safe return from India and Nepal, and just as Covid19 was getting taking hold all around the world. At that time we were still hoping that we would be back in Nepal from September to continue with various projects there. Well, of course we are not. We are still in Warwick, but have much to be thankful for and are grateful for God's timing and mysterious ways of working in our lives.

Perhaps the most obvious of these is that Phillipa's father's health deteriorated rapidly over the summer and sadly he passed away on August 12<sup>th</sup> after a short stay in hospital. We miss him loads, but were grateful that in addition to a small gathering at the crematorium, we were able to hold a thanksgiving service with all the family and a few local friends to honour his life and be together in saying our goodbyes. We were acutely aware of so many who have not had that freedom this year. We give thanks for his life and his example of service and godliness, to which many people bore witness in their kind messages.

Dan has continued to keep occupied through his connections in both Nepal and India. With colleagues in India, Nepal and Edinburgh University they have been doing a survey of how mission hospitals in India are working during the pandemic. Many are on the frontline working in remote areas with people who are marginalised, so there is much to learn from them.

We have also continued to plan our palliative care development work in Nepal. The palliative care clinical, education and research unit at Green Pastures Hospital is now complete and the opening ceremony will be on 11<sup>th</sup> November. We have had some exciting news in the last few weeks about funding for the unit and our project in Lamjung to develop models of palliative care for rural areas. This will also involve some fund-raising in the coming months and there will be an "appeal launch" on 20<sup>th</sup> November with our UK partner EMMS International. We can't say any more at present, but will be in touch with more details when we are given permission to spill the beans!

Meanwhile, back home in Warwick, the garden has benefitted a great deal from lockdown and we have even grown some vegetables for the first time in years. Very satisfying. We've also had lots of fun times with our family, when legal and safe to do so.

Dan has been doing some clinical work in a couple of hospices and will be at our local hospice from 1<sup>st</sup> November again. In the meantime he has signed up for a tropical medicine course (DTMH) and is enjoying being a student again.

Phillipa is now at the stage of 'just' needing to do a dissertation to complete the MA. (All Nations Christian College comes highly recommended if anyone is thinking of doing some study.) The plan is to find out about barriers to learning for dyslexic children in schools in rural Nepal, how the teachers feel about it and what they could bring to the challenge of helping those children remain in school and achieve their potential. Ideally, that means taking a trip to Lamjung, to interview teachers in the schools that the KISC EQUIP teacher trainers work with, which is rather problematic at present. Caring for the marginalised, in this case children with learning difficulties, is we believe close to God's heart. In chatting with colleagues in the country, there is still a sense that this is a viable project and that God is in it somehow, so we're currently hoping to go early next year, but of course no firm plans can be made yet.

Nepal is currently in the Hindu festival season, with Dasain and Tihar, lots of family gatherings, religious rituals and parties. It is also in the grip of Covid and the infection rate is rising, hospitals are full and many people are suffering from the effects of lockdown and a struggling economy. This will make the festivities very different and more difficult this year. A number of our expat colleagues remain in Nepal although some have left and travelling to and from the country is very challenging. Do remember Nepal in your prayers, particularly the churches as they demonstrate God's love by reaching out to deliver food, help and support to neighbours, as they are able.

Thank you so much for reading about our rather crazy and unpredictable life. We'd love you to keep praying for the work we still feel called to and really appreciate your support in this way. We'll be in touch with news of the EMMS appeal in a few weeks.

Blessings,  
Dan and Phillipa