



November 2021

Dear Friends,

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.” (Eph.2:19). And so we find ourselves settling once again into life in a new place and being the foreigners and strangers. By God’s grace we also find brothers and sisters here with whom we have an immediate connection, along with many very friendly and helpful neighbours. This is the miracle of the family of God!

This time we will try to answer some FAQs.

Can you see Mount Everest? Not from here. It is much further east, But we can see some other snowy peaks of the Himalayan range, and beautiful hills.

Did you have to isolate when you arrived? No. The rules changed just before we came and those who were fully vaccinated were not asked to isolate. We spent four nights staying with friends in Kathmandu, and were both able to do some office-based induction for our new roles. Then we travelled to our new home in Besisahar.



How long is the journey from Kathmandu to Besisahar? It should be about five hours but the road has been damaged by landslides in several places during the monsoon so at the moment it takes about six.

How long is the journey to Pokhara? Again, longer than it should be due to the state of the road; currently about four hours.

Are there other foreigners in Besisahar? Not many. We think that we three, including our house-mate Joy, are the only westerners

living here at the moment. There are a few tourists around who stop off on the way to the trekking routes.

What do you eat? Breakfast is usually porridge or muesli, toast and marmalade and coffee. Many days we have dal bhat or other Nepali food for lunch. Evening meals could be bread and cheese/peanut butter, omlette, or soup. Oranges are really juicy at the moment.

Do Nepali people celebrate Diwali? Yes, they call it Tihar and there is lots of singing and dancing. It is a festival of light and for us is a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the world. It’s also a good time to stock up on fairy lights for Christmas!

Have you started work yet? Yes. Dan had two days of meetings at Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara last week. We both went, and were also able to enjoy a short weekend break in the tourist area of Lakeside before returning to Besi. The palliative care team are gathering here now from Pokhara and Kathmandu for an intensive week of meetings and to deliver the ‘Palliative Care Toolkit’ training that was postponed from March 2020. The training is a two-day workshop which will be run twice in order to keep the event as covid-safe as possible – about 15 doctors, nurses and healthpost staff will be at each one. The other meetings will be preparing the way for the new ‘Sunita’ project. Phillipa has also started getting familiar with the KISC EQUIP programmes and helping Joy prepare for her upcoming Early Years Teaching and Phonics training sessions. Joy is also writing



chapters for a Grade 4 English textbook following the Nepali curriculum, and Phillipa has been proofreading for her.

What next?

Dan will continue working with the team on the details of Sunita project – budget, job descriptions, strategy.... He is also trying to buy a bicycle so that he can get back into some good cycling. It's not easy to find one big enough here! Nepalis tend to be smaller.

The KISC EQUIP team will be travelling to join us here from 14th – 26th November and we have a full programme of central training events, school visits, one-to one follow-up from previous training, launching a poetry competition and delivering Covid-awareness posters to the schools. Phillipa will be sharing in some school visits and also observing central training sessions in Science, Maths and English.

We are both hoping to improve our ability to communicate in Nepali language. Dan has had a few lessons. Phillipa is hoping to arrange lessons with a teacher in one of our partner schools.

The big thing we don't like talking about is visas! Phillipa should be getting hers soon. Dan's may take a little longer, but he really needs it, ideally by Christmas. It's complicated, but please pray urgently that the processes will be completed for this to happen.

A True story: While out walking, Phillipa and Joy were invited by a 15 year-old lad to come and share tea and 'selroti', a special kind of bread eaten at Tihar. We sat under the porch in the sunshine, chatting with the boy's mother as she threaded marigold flowers on a string, making a 'malla' garland for the next day's celebrations. Her husband is working in Dubai. There were also children from two other, poorer families, pupils at our partner schools. One girl has completed school and really wants to go to college and train as a teacher, but as one of four daughters, and with a much younger brother, she has to get married. It was so hard to see how sad she is about this and yet how resigned to the inevitable. Even harder, knowing that this is not an unusual experience.



For your prayers

Give thanks for safe arrival, a warm welcome and settling in.

Give thanks for the Palliative care team delivering training this week. (Nov. 11th-15th)

Pray for the ongoing planning for Sunita project.

Pray for the KISC EQUIP Lamjung training visit to go smoothly, and renewal of good relationships with Principals and teachers after Covid. (Nov. 14th-26th)

Pray for our visas to be issued soon.

Pray for good progress in language study.

Pray for hope and light in the lives of people living with so many challenges.

Thanks so much!

With our love,

Dan and Phillipa



P.S Both of our organisations also publish regular newsletters:

INF Palliative Care Ripples, and KISC EQUIP newsletter

If you would like to receive either or both of these, please drop us a line.

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