



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Newsletter No 2

April 2004

Nepalese Culture

There are many Festivals in Nepal. At LBU we only celebrate the most important ones. This year, the Holi festival, also known as the festival of colours, was celebrated on the 6th of March. That day, Nepalese people throw water at each other as a reminder of the cooling monsoon days to come. Coloured powder and coloured water are also dispensed. With the Nepalese New Year (13th of April), two important festivals will take place: Seto and Rato Machhendranath.



Reshma and Kalpana soaked with water during the Holi festival



Machhendranath has great power over the rain and the festival is a plea for good rain. Rato Machhendranath celebrations are particularly important in Patan, the town near LBU. Each year, a towering and creaky wooden temple chariot carrying the image of Machhendranath proceeds through the streets of Patan.

The Story of Suryaman

Suryaman is 12 years old. His life after his parents' death was very hard. Suryaman's father died of tuberculosis and he and his little brother Kirtiman became farm boys, helping their mother as much as possible. In 2000, their mother died from an illness and Kirtiman stayed with an aunt, while Suryaman went to live with an uncle. When we first saw Suryaman he was in rags, looking for food in the garbage pits and we realised later that he was beaten up by his uncle and used as a servant.



Kirtiman and Suryaman

In August 2002, we convinced Suryaman's uncle to give us the custody of Suryaman and his little brother Kirtiman. They are now reunited at LBU and love each other very much.

Kirtiman and Suryaman never attended school before LBU. Now they are both in Class I. They work very hard and Suryaman is always 1st or 2nd of his class while Kirtiman is always in the top 5.

Suryaman loves the karate lessons he receives at school and is very good at drawing. He is further encouraged by his sponsor, Sylvia, who in addition to the money she sends us every month to pay for the care of Suryaman, sends him nice drawing materials and postcards.

Please do not hesitate to send your comments to info@childactionnepal.org.uk
Child Action Nepal, Reg. charity number: 1097447, www.childactionnepal.org.uk
c/o Florence Krief, PO Box 39679, London W2 6YP Tel. 07773 277 647



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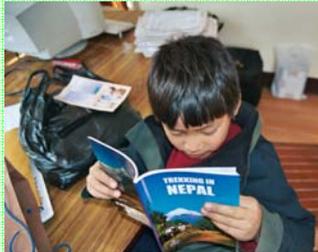
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Healthcare

Since our last Newsletter, we are happy to report that all our children have been in excellent health. We see that after more than a year of good care they are stronger and they all went through a particularly cold winter without any illness.

Bikash who has one lazy eye is making progress but will have to keep the patch on the good eye for a few more months.



Bikash

A healthy sponsoring

Among Andy's new resolutions for 2004, stopping smoking was at the top of the list. This was further encouraged by the increased price of cigarettes. Andy realised that he was spending nearly £80 each month on cigarettes. He decided to better spend his money by becoming the sponsor of two of our children. Young and single, Andy is very pleased to receive regular information on the two children, their school results and beautiful drawings. He can see how his donation contributes to giving a better life to two Nepalese orphans who are very grateful for his kindness.

Education

The children have been working hard and we are very proud to see that 13 of them are always in the top 5 of their class (including 9 in the top 3). Most of them really love studying and they all love to go to school. Because of their difficult past, they feel it is a privilege and a chance for them to get a better life. The fact is that they are lucky. A recent report from the UNESCO shows that the drop-out rate of children at primary schools is 35 to 38%. Nepal follows closely behind India, Laos and Myanmar (Burma). As a result many young children are earning a living through very hard labour. In addition, the Maoists rebels recruit more and more children in schools for their militia. Mr Kamal Shahi, a central secretariat member of the Maoists' students wing declared last February: "There is no age limit for recruitment to the child militia"



Children labour



The new study room

On the 14th of April, all the children will start a new school year. It is an expensive month for us because school fees will be higher (5 of the children go to a better but more expensive school) and we will need to renew most of the uniforms. The children of LBU will study in better conditions as we have built a study room at the top of the house. It will be furnished with desks, benches and cupboards for books and school materials and will have a computer. We are soon to receive a large donation of children's books and hope to receive a donation of more computers in the future.

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Volunteering at LBU: Karl Bryant, 18

'Karl Uncle! Karl Uncle!', 19 Nepali orphans all screaming at you at once may sound like hard work but with the background of each of these children in mind I was more than willing to try and make a difference. I spent two months in LBU teaching the children English and helping the house manager Rolak with his work. Each and every child in LBU has something special and unique about them and seeing these children so happy after their dreadful pasts is equally as special.



Karl the day of his departure with the traditional Nepalese hat

Karl with Rolak and the children on the roof terrace of the house



The work that I did with the children was very rewarding, occasionally hard, but more than anything enjoyable. Seeing the huge smiles of each child every morning was something to look forward to and something that I miss very much. I was taken care of very well and felt like I was part of this large Nepali Family. I hope to return to LBU in the not so distant future and highly recommend LBU to anyone even considering volunteer work, it is one of the greatest experiences you can have in life.

Art and sports

We believe that artistic activities are especially important for these children. Most of them have horrible memories buried in them and they do not like to talk about it. Artistic activities give them a way of expression. We encourage them to do drawings and every week, 3 Nepalese volunteers come to LBU to teach them dancing, singing and to play the flute and drum. Sport is also very important to help them channel the aggressivity or resentment they can have developed in their past life. At LBU, they can play football, volley ball and badminton and at school, twelve of our Children have decided to take karate lessons.



Som Bahadur and Arjun play the little piano used for singing lessons.

Entertainment

Our children love it when we organise a day out. For example, thanks to the support of Gabriella and Ian, the children and the staff were able to visit the Manakamana Temple, one of the most important Hindu worship places in Nepal. Before we needed 3 to 4 hour to reach the temple (1034 m altitude). Now there is a cable car (the only one in Nepal) which reaches the temple in 9 minutes. More recently we organised a picnic in Nagarkot, a beautiful area, 30 km from Kathmandu with an outstanding view of the Himalayas. The Rhododendrons (national flower of Nepal) were blossoming and the children had great fun picking them.

This picnic was organised with another orphanage and therefore gave the possibility for the children to make new friends.



Kaushila, Bikash and Arjun in the cable car.

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Thank you for your support

We need £10,000 a year to run LBU and more if we are to open new homes.

We are delighted by the support we have received so far from our British sponsors as well as from our sponsors from continental Europe. We also would like to thank Karl and Ellie for volunteering at LBU and taking such a good care of our children.

We are looking forward to see you at our fund raising event on the 29th of April!



Sponsoring a child

Any donation is welcome and even £10 or £20 make a difference for a small charity like ours. However, should you wish to sponsor a particular child and follow his/her progress as he/she grows up, the cost is £40 a month. If this amount is too high for you, you can co-sponsor a child with friends or family or we can arrange for you to have a co-sponsor.

Gratefully yours

Florence Krief



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Standing Order Form

Name(s) and address of the account holder

Title:.....Forename:.....

Surname:.....

Address:.....

.....

Postcode:.....

E-mail:.....

Name and full address of your Bank/Building Society

To: The Manager.....

Bank address.....

.....

Postcode:.....

Bank/Building Society

Account number:

Sort code:

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society:

Please pay* monthly/quarterly/yearly from account

number above, the sum of £.....to Child Action

Nepal's account at Caf Bank Ltd:

Account No: 00010441 Sort code: 40 52 40

until further notice starting from:

DD MM YY

(date of first payment**)

Signature:Date:

I want all donations I have made since 6th of April 2004 and all future donations to be Gift Aid until further notice. I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and the income tax and/or capital gains tax I pay will be at least equal to the tax that the charity will reclaim on these donations.

Signature:Date:

Please do not send this Standing order form direct to your bank. When completed and signed please return to: Child Action Nepal c/o Florence Krief, PO Box: 39679 London W2 6YP

* Please delete unwanted options.

** Please allow three working weeks from date of signature

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