



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Newsletter No 6

May 06

Join us on the 22nd of June on board HMS President!

For those of you who are living in the Thames Valley, we will welcome you for a great evening on Board HMS President (1918). You will be able to enjoy a buffet of international dishes with wine and jazz in a Nepalese ambience. We will auction Nepalese and Buddhist artefacts and have a raffle. Trustees and volunteers of Child Action Nepal will be here to answer your questions and we will show you films of the children of LBU which demonstrate how your donations help us give back their childhood to our Nepalese orphans. This year the benefits of our annual fundraising party will go to buying a house with a large compound to ensure a long term stable future for LBU's children.

Som Bahadur, Kaushila and Shila

Som Bahadur is now 14 years old and is very smart and very straightforward, always saying what he thinks. He joined LBU three years ago a few months before his two younger sisters, Kaushila and Shila who are respectively nine and eight years old. Their mother died in August 2002, after a long illness (possibly tuberculosis), just one year after the death of her husband.



Som Bahadur

Som and his sister come from the Western part of Nepal. Their uncle heard about LBU and decided to bring us Som Bahadur, but his sisters continued to live with family for another three months. In the countryside, families often favour the education of boys. They believe that girls only need to learn how to undertake domestic chores and care for children prior to marrying. Three months after Som Bahadur's arrival, we managed to convince the family to bring his two sisters to LBU.

At the beginning, Shila and Kaushila were a bit intimidated and wanted to sleep in the same bed. They are now very pleased to be reunited with their brother and are very much at ease.



They never went to school before joining LBU and were enrolled in nursery class with four other children from LBU at their arrival. Som Bahadur went to class I directly. He is very smart and hard working. Shila is extremely clever but it was very hard to make her work at the beginning. Kaushila is living in a world apart, I first thought she was autistic but she can be very extrovert and sometimes naughty when she is playing with the other children. She is also often fighting with Shila which is quite "normal". Over the years she has opened up considerably but still sometimes retreats completely into her world.

Shila, Kaushila and Som Bahadur in 2003



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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The Impacts of the Maoist War on Nepalese children

Nepal today has a shot at ending the 10-years old armed insurgency of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and achieving durable peace. Toward the end of April 2006, after almost three-weeks of general strike and street protests around the nation against direct royal rule, King Gyanendra gave up executive powers of state, which he had assumed in February 2005, restored the last Parliament and allowed the formation of a government composed of the Parliamentary parties.

As a result of the strife, children's rights are violated and their lives are profoundly disrupted on a daily basis. According to a 2005 report by Child Workers in Nepal, over 40,000 Nepalese children are estimated to have been displaced over the course of the Maoist uprising. Tens of thousands have been abducted for short periods for political indoctrination by the Maoists. Some of these children have then been recruited into the Maoist forces or militia. There are also reports that mines and other explosive devices have been placed in and around school buildings and playgrounds.



Displaced mother and children at a camp in Rajhena of Nepalgunj, Nepal. IRIN



April 2006,
05.00,
Children
sleeping
rough in the
Street of
Kathmandu



April at LBU

Last April I went to Kathmandu with my mum. Like every year I was planning to spend a few days with the children and the staff in a nice place away from Kathmandu. Unfortunately the curfews and blockade of the town prevented us from doing so. Therefore I was happy to have my mum around to be with the children. In a country where family links are so important our orphans need to feel part of a family. They immediately adopted my mum as their grand-mother and she was happy to play this role. Older people are important and respected in Nepalese society and even the young ladies of LBU found some comfort in the presence of my mother. Our stay was also marked by the New Year lunch which ended up in the hallway because our kitchen was being refurbished. As the local swimming pool was closed, we all went to a nearby hotel where the children enjoyed the first swim of the year.



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Back to school

The Nepalese school year ends at the end of March and normally starts a few days after New Year's Eve which is mid-April. However with the recent uprising in Kathmandu the schools remained closed and the children had two more weeks of vacation which they enjoyed very much.

This year they are all in the same private school which is more expensive but provides a good quality teaching especially in English which is as important as Nepalese in the Nepalese education system. Our children all come from very poor families and they realise how lucky they are to be able to go to school. They work very hard to catch up with the other children and were quite excited to go back to school.

With the Maoist War, education has suffered, particularly due to enforced closures during strikes, which have cut the school year to nearly half in some areas. Teachers have been threatened, assaulted and even killed. Schools in conflict-affected areas have been used for political meetings and enforced indoctrination sessions, have been bombed or attacked, and



some have been turned into barracks. In addition, many children who might otherwise attend school are kept at home for fear of abduction.



Charlotte experience as a volunteer

"My time spent at LBU was incredible and was an experience which will stay with me for the rest of my life. The children are amazing and never failed to keep me entertained and amused. They thrive on your involvement and are incredibly keen to learn. The children all study very hard but also play hard too! Teaching them new skills and games was incredibly rewarding for me and for them; seeing their proud faces when they had completed hand sewing their own drawstring bags and purses was amazing. They are all very talented children who thrive on new challenges.

On the last day of my visit I went with Rolak to the local bike shop and bought three new bicycles for the children; the look of sheer delight on their faces was worth every penny spent, they truly loved the bikes and couldn't even wait to remove the protective wrapping on them before trying them out!"



Lotty giving the 3 bicycles to the children



Lotty with Karishma and Binita trying some Henna drawing

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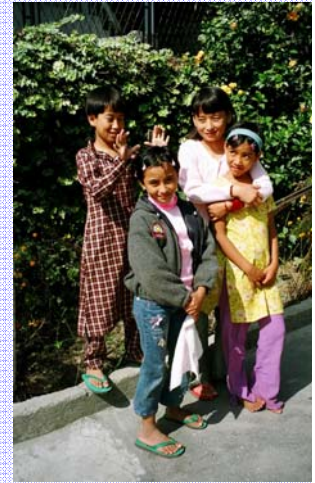
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Thank you for your support

With the blockade of Kathmandu and the continuous curfew, the beginning of the year has been a bit difficult for LBU. All the prices increased two or three fold and we had very little time to buy food and healthcare products. As a result our on-going expenses increased significantly but we were able to cope thanks to your regular donations and the children did not suffer too much from the situation. They had to stay inside the house and our volunteers Lotty, Trixie and Sam did a great job keeping them busy. However the House being such an important refuge we have decided to buy one with a large compound - we will be very grateful for your support.



Sponsoring a child

Any donation is welcome and even £10 or £20 makes a difference. 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 or £20 if you want to 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

Our website now accepts on line donations!

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 2005 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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