



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Newsletter No 7

June 07

Join us on the 5th July 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 with many prizes.

Trustees and volunteers of Child Action Nepal will be at the event to answer your questions. You will be able to see films of the children of LBU which demonstrate how your donations help give back their childhood to our Nepalese orphans.

Kalpana

Kalpana in 2002 in the bad shelter

Kalpana is 16 years old. She is a wonderful young girl, very kind and affectionate. She often behaves like a little mother with the younger children.

She endured a very hard life before arriving to LBU. Her father committed suicide when she was 8 years old and her mother became very depressed, started drinking alcohol and died one year later.

After the death of their parents, Kalpana, her two older sisters (both of whom are now married) and her younger brother, Krishna, (who is now living with her at LBU) stayed for one and a half years with their uncle. A simple farmer with children of his own he accepted an offer from a refuge in Kathmandu to take care of the children.

Unfortunately, this refuge was a shameful place. The children, as witnessed by Florence during her work there as a volunteer, were malnourished, often beaten and were not enrolled in school. Kalpana stayed there nearly 18 months until we convinced her aunt to take her from the refuge and re-unite her with her brother in LBU.

Kalpana today



Kalpana when she joined LBU in 2002

When she was seven years old, Kalpana suffered third degree

burns to nearly half of her body from boiling water. In early 2002, she underwent reconstructive surgery to release a burn contracture and in September the same year, Dr Rai, performed additional surgery to further release the contracture thus improving the mobility of her arm and neck. Before LBU, Kalpana barely went to school. She has had to work very hard to catch up with the children of her age. She is very clever and has a wonderful sense of humour but is dyslexic which makes things harder. She is now in class VII and we are very proud of her.

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



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Newsletter No 7

June 07

Moving to a larger house

Our children loved their house as it represented for them the start of a new happier life. Therefore, they were not particularly thrilled when I told them that we were going to move to a new, larger house. The fact is that our house was becoming too small.

The children are growing up and they have more clothes, personal belongings and school books. They need more space to study and more space to play (our courtyard was so small that only a small group of children playing the same game could stand there at one time). In addition, a few of them are now adolescent and need a bit of privacy. In particular we had only two bathrooms for 25 people and even with the outside toilets this was really not enough. We also needed a larger dining room so that everybody can have their meal at once instead of having three sittings. Finally, Rolak, his wife and four years old son were living in a very crowded bedroom where there was so much furniture that there was not a lot of space to move around in. The three female staff members did not have much space either in their fairly small bedroom. They are part of LBU family and largely responsible for the happiness of our children.

Our crowded old kitchen/dining room



It is therefore important that they feel valued and have a comfortable life at LBU to keep on enjoying what there are doing. Rolak, Kamala, Tulasi and Kumari work with all their heart and love the children very much. This is why people do not feel they are in an orphanage when they visit us, but in a large extended family.



Since last year we have raised funds in order to buy a house as we were expecting a new law to be passed which would have enabled CAN to own indirectly a house in spite of the fact that only Nepalese people/entities can own a property. With Rolak, we visited many houses. Last November we actually found a house, which would have been ideal but the cost was £100,000.

The front courtyard of the new house

However, when I went back to Kathmandu at the beginning of April, I realised that the political situation was not improving and the new law was not going to be passed before an indeterminate time. We therefore decided to move to a new rented house. We found a house that suits our needs in the north of Kathmandu but within the Ring Road.

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



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Newsletter No 7

June 07

The owners are a couple with two children. One of their children is now living abroad. The house is only 5 years old and in good condition. We had however to start some work to adapt it to our needs. For example the garage was transformed into a study room and the vegetable garden was transformed into a courtyard where the children can play basket ball. We also had to enlarge the “servant quarters” to make a storage and laundry room with a strong roof supporting clothe lines, create a Cycle Shelter and a Prayer Room on the roof.

The backyard with the Laundry/storage room under construction



The other difficult part of the move was the repair and transportation of our solar panels and tanks, but eventually everything came into order. We have now 9 solar panels and a much larger capacity to store water. In addition, we are now able to buy additional water if need be whereas in our old house the trucks could not have access to the house and sometime in summer there was no tab water for 10 to 15 days. As things never happened as you predicted, none of this work was achieved when we moved in at the end of May. The painting inside was not finished and the carpet was fitted a few hours before the first trucks arrived with our furniture. In addition we had a bit of the surprise when the double decks beds arrived cut in the middle so we had to order new ones! I guess you all know what it is to move house so you can imagine it when the house has 25 people!

Our Vacation in Pokhara

The children in Nepal have their “summer vacation” the last week of May and the 2 first weeks of April. They then start in a new class just after the New Year which is mid-April. I take this opportunity to organise a trip outside Kathmandu. This year we went again to Pokhara, but as the youngest children are seven years old, I decided we should have a small trek of two days in the Annapurna region. The children liked the challenge and it was funny to see that the youngest and frailer were often the fastest. When we arrived at the lodge we were all tired but after a good meal they were all ready to go whereas, with my aching legs, I was starting to doubt if it was such a good idea! The trek was also a good occasion for them to go back to their roots and enjoy nature. The effort was rewarded by a promenade on the lake and a lot time in the swimming pool of the hotel.





CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Newsletter No 7

June 07

Thank you for your support

We are very grateful to our supporters who have been faithful to Child Action Nepal years after years but also to our new supporters such as Nick Evans.

Nick is a colleague of mine. Less than one month after I joined my new firm, he decided to run the Reading half marathon for Child Action Nepal and raised more than £1,000 when doing a very honourable time.

Well done Nick!



Child Action Nepal makes a huge difference to the children it helps, offering shelter, education and most importantly a loving family environment in which to live

This year as you know, we have organised a trek to raise funds for our new house. We have 12 courageous trekkers who are training hard as well as asking all their friends and family to help them. They have been extremely creative in raising funds. For example, Paola Giovanelli who is also in charge of the project as a volunteer, has organised with Leo Dolias, another trekker, an evening in the Theatre of Regent College where small plays illustrating Heidegger's philosophy will alternate with Tango and Songs. Tickets are £20 and you can buy them at the entrance on the 29th June (www.beingandtime.Internetcosmos.co.uk). This is an example among others and we would be very grateful if you could support our trekkers. They all have a page on

www.justgiving.com/childactionnepal/raisemoney/.

You can also support the runners who will do the London 10K on the 1st of July.

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.



Our website now accepts on line donations!

Gratefully yours

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