



Update: July 2021

Dear Friends,

Wow! Life is so changeable at the moment and we are so thankful that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Apologies for the long gap in news. It's been difficult to know what to tell you but now we think we have some idea of what's next.

Since we last wrote, we have cycled the distance of the Annapurna Circuit and thank you all for your generous support with that. Dan has done some work at the local hospice and completed his studies for the DTM&H. Phillipa has completed her dissertation, by God's grace, with lots of zoom interviews with people in Nepal. The garden has grown a lot and is now being tamed again. We have two more beautiful grandchildren: Ezra arrived in January and Milo last week.

Meanwhile, the work in Nepal is gaining pace again. The EMMS/UKAID Fund Matching appeal was very successful and funds will be available to progress palliative care development, in ways we could not have imagined. The funding will enable the new palliative care unit at INF Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara to be established as a centre of excellence for clinical service, education and research. It will focus on developing models of palliative for rural areas in western Nepal, starting in Lamjung, where district hospital and surrounding health post staff will be trained and supported to deliver palliative care to patients close to home. Lamjung has been chosen as the initial district in which to develop the rural model because it has an excellent district hospital run on behalf of the government by Christian NGO, HDCS (which also runs KISC), it is quite close to Pokhara and we have already done some development work there. As the programme develops, Lamjung will become a demonstrator centre for other districts to witness the model which can then be rolled out elsewhere. Dan will be leading the Lamjung work so we will be based there.

Phillipa is excited to have accepted a role with the KISC EQUIP teacher training team, working with fifteen schools also in Lamjung District. This gives the opportunity to apply some of the things learnt from the MA research, as well as being part of an amazing group of educationalists, working to build quality provision and to bless the schools and their communities. The work will involve regular visits to the schools to follow up on training delivered by the team. Most of the trainers are

based in Kathmandu and will visit four times a year. Lots of hill walking will be involved, so there is plenty of motivation to keep fit!

We are hoping to be able to travel to Nepal in mid-October, Covid rules permitting. We expect to be there for three years, hopefully managing a trip home each summer. We are really happy that we will be able to share a large house in Lamjung district centre, Besisahar, with our good friend Joy who is also part of KISC EQUIP. The photo at the top is taken from her balcony. Besisahar is in the Himalayan foothills, about 5 hours by road from Kathmandu and about 3 hours from Pokhara. It has a busy shopping bazaar, several churches and a real coffee shop(!) It is also the starting point for the Annapurna Circuit Trek, so if you're up for a long walk, (or even if you're not) come and visit!

Nepal has suffered badly from the effects of the pandemic, and while the majority of health workers have been vaccinated, the supply has not been available for most other people. News from Lamjung District hospital is encouraging, as they have been able to install an oxygen plant and enable many covid sufferers to make a good recovery. Across Nepal, it has been reported in Christianity Today that over one hundred Christian pastors have sadly died, leaving a significant leadership gap in some churches. Schools have been closed for most of the past 18 months, and it is still not clear when they will be able to re-open. In addition, the country has suffered severe flooding in recent weeks as the onset of the monsoon has brought unusually heavy rainfall. In Lamjung many homes and some bridges have been destroyed by the waters of the raging Marsyangdi river.

We are excited to see how God is leading us and detailed arrangements are coming together. We are also a little apprehensive as there will be many challenges along the way, and leaving the family for extending periods will be really hard. We are so grateful for your prayerful support and will keep you updated as things progress.

With our love,

Dan and Phillipa



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