



Yippee!

2nd of June 2017: James phoned me, "Sandra, we got a visa." I didn't really know what to say at first... 18 months of waiting, hoping, disappointments and a lot of travel and uncertainties lay behind us. 18 months of waiting and asking every day, "Has the visa process moved ahead?" 18 months of *not* planning anything except another quick trip out of Nepal... It was a time of asking ourselves, family and friends

whether we should continue our work in Nepal or pull out. A time of prayer and asking God for His guidance. Is this still the place where we are meant to be?

And in this time of waiting James and I both got various confirmations, that yes, Nepal is still the place for us in this season - not easy to comprehend when we still had no visa. But finally we could celebrate, rejoiced and begin to look ahead again!



Celebrating the end of a school year

We have had to miss the end of school year for the last few years. It was great to actually finish something properly, to go to the end of year school party and to receive school reports. We are very thankful that our kids were able to finish well, even though they missed

two school terms. We are very proud of them all!



Celebrating Birthdays

We just celebrated Sam's 6th birthday. He listed friends he hoped to invite. We realized half of the friends had gone, and some won't return after the summer. A sad realisation for little Sam. He too has to learn to say goodbye... We had a fun party and are thankful for Sam's joyful and positive heart, "My toes are wriggling from side to side, because I am so excited about my birthday."

We also celebrated Tom's birthday - we now have two teenagers! Tom enjoyed playing Minecraft with his friends. They consumed a huge amount of food over the weekend and had lots of fun! Tom continues to be very creative and can also play the flute very well, when encouraged to practise! ;-)



A time of celebrating for women in Nepal

The Fistula Centre, that is being built in Surkhet, has a roof! This Centre is being built for women who have often endured many years of shame and isolation due to incontinence, often caused through protracted or traumatic deliveries. Chinchali was in labour for six days... 30 years of misery and urine flowing uncontrollably came to an

end after an operation at the fistula camp in the spring. Chinchali, now almost 60 years old, is able to start a new life with dignity, health and joy!



Celebrating [and surviving!] summer holidays

Monsoon isn't all fun. It's hard work to get muddy each day, to live permanently in a sauna, and to have to active wildlife in your home. But there are also lots of beautiful things which we choose to enjoy this summer - juicy mangos in muesli, cakes and smoothies, adventurous cycle rides around the Kathmandu valley, and trying to get even more sweaty playing football and table tennis with the kids in an unsuccessful attempt to wear them out! We will appreciate your prayers for James and the kids as Sandra escapes to the UK and Austria for a month doing her second year of Masters in Membercare. James and the gang will spend time in Pokhara where more friends are around and everyone has to do something creative, something active, something helpful for the family, and some learning each day.



Celebrating the "Normality" of life

It's been so good to be in "normal" day-to-day activities each week, without worrying that this might be the last time. Sandra continues to support a local Nepali women's group and enjoys the fellowship there. James cycles to and from work through crazy traffic [not so enjoyable] but it certainly keeps him fit! We continue to enjoy visitors in our home and are thankful that we don't have to say goodbye yet. Our kids enjoy friendships as well as sports and music activities.

Getting stuck in!

After an initial orientation with UMN [getting to know who's who, how things work, and reading dozens of policies] I have properly started work - now allowed since I have a Visa!

One of my first projects was to run a workshop helping the Nepali and expatriates better understand each other. When you don't appreciate the differences, you tend to see the behaviour of someone from another culture as confusing or just plain wrong. UMN wants to become more multi-cultural -

an organisation with Kingdom values, not managed western-style [suiting the donors] or Nepali style [suiting the partner organisations we work through across the country]. We hope to build an organisation that can truly transform Nepali society.

I also facilitated the final workshop in our latest group of potential future leaders - another great bunch. Several of the graduates said they had "Never felt so free to discuss and grow so much. Now we can lead in our context, because we are accountable to God."

Celebrating a permanent home

Sandra recently went to Surkhet to encourage colleagues working there, as well as visit the "Grace Children's Home" which we've supported for years. They recently managed to build their own home - no glass in the windows, no running water and no electricity yet, but Ratna and Dipema are so thankful that they and their 12 children won't have to move again. Thank you for those who have helped support this beautiful and special work of helping kids grow in a loving environment!



Prayer & Praise

Visas until Feb 2018!!

INF's Health Agreement with the Government was finally signed, giving permission for work to go ahead.

Nepal suffers so many landslides and problems during the monsoon. Please do remember those who live from the land and whose lives are changed by the weather.



With lots of love from

James & Sandra + David, Tom, Katie & Sam

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