



## Summer hols



This summer was a little unusual for us – Sandra’s studies required that she was in the UK for a few weeks whilst James and the children holidayed in Pokhara. Whilst Sandra caught up with her classmates and took on new modules for her Masters in

Member Care, she was also daunted by the work that still lies ahead! She also got to pop over and see her family!

James, David, Tom, Katie and Sam tried to make different routines in Pokhara with homework in the mornings and sometimes swimming in the afternoons. Pokhara was chosen as there were more friends and things to do [especially for the younger ones]. It was actually quite nice to be in



Pokhara [in our hold house] and experience the proper monsoon again – hot and very wet!

Now we are all back home. David started his second year of IGCSEs and happy with the results he got from a couple he took early. Tom is figuring out how to merge quantum physics and Minecraft into a YouTube video.

Katie is pleased to be back with her friends. And Sam... managed to break his arm [someone fell on him from a climbing frame] but he’s really quite happy about it – he doesn’t have to wash that arm!



## A shower of blessings

Since getting our Visas, I’ve really gotten into work with [UMN](#) - leading workshops on working cross-culturally, working with the Leadership Team to really understand the culture of UMN and see ways of altering it, and started developing a whole range of management and leadership course materials. Along with supporting a couple of All Nations students and the development of some young Nepali leaders, and running various trainings and workshops – life is very full and really quite fulfilling!

Another change is coming up though. Since we first came to Nepal our finances etc. have been coordinated through the INF/UK Office. Now James is no longer working for INF we

need to find another route. The details still need to be worked out, but from next summer it won’t be INF/UK. The timing isn’t great [Visa and Nepali taxes have pushed our costs up a lot, and a high inflation rate also affects

everything] but we are confident that this change is in God’s hand. If you would like to help us financially, please do feel free: [www.give.net/20029829](http://www.give.net/20029829) or see the details at the foot of this newsletter.



## Monsoon

The rains have been very varied this year – in some areas late, in others early, but in most places heavy! Whilst the world media has been absorbed with other challenges, yet another natural disaster has

been unfolding in Nepal. The flooding has affected India and Bangladesh as well, but just in Nepal over 460,000 people

displaced, and nearly 70,000 livestock lost. This is a huge burden for such a small country. Because the world’s attention hasn’t been here, many of the regular relief agencies are unable to engage, and so this has left UMN in a nearly unique place to help – food and basic supplies for nearly 6,000 households so far! If you want to contribute, please do so

[[www.umn.org.np/page/give-tfrp](http://www.umn.org.np/page/give-tfrp)]

– it will change someone’s life!



## Rather a dampener

It's now likely that the President will soon sign the "Anti-conversion law" which would criminalise any activity that "offends religious sentiments" in Nepal. Church leaders here expect this will lead to an increase in persecution, but many are optimistic that God can use this to bring unity and strengthening across the churches of Nepal.

Having decided that all UMN and INF could no longer have free work-Visas, now it seems the Government are reconsidering. This is potentially very good news [saving many thousands of pounds]!



## Averting storms

"Managing conflict" was one of the modules in Sandra's summer school in the UK. Recently she had the opportunity to lead a workshop for expats in Nepal on this topic. The "Western" responses to "how do you confront someone about wrong

## You know it's a cross-cultural marriage when...

1. Your spouse doesn't recognise *well known* nursery rhymes.
2. Going home for Christmas involves passports, international flights, time zones and a refresher course in local manners.
3. You celebrate multiple Mother's days and Christmas isn't on the day you thought it was either!
4. You constantly work in multiple time zones and currencies.
5. Writing a newsletter requires different keyboards, translation, spell-checking, re-writing jokes [which are no longer funny], and manipulation of several distribution lists.
6. You have access to perspectives you would have never thought of before – ever! Really, never ever!
7. You have multiple "homes". You love them all, but they will always be thousands of miles [or kilometres] apart, and one of you will always be homesick.

8. You can't assume so much, so you talk more, you listen, you go much deeper and you learn together. Or you just get



## Not a drip

The staff from the fistula team just returned from giving training for 2 weeks in remote parts of Nepal. Putting up with rain, rough roads and barely any clean water to wash they are glad to be home. They are thankful that they were able to raise more awareness about fistulas and the need to prevent them!



doings", were pretty similar - coming from a "guilt culture" we want to set wrong things right. But the approach to conflict is very different in a shame culture - Bina [Nepali] explained, "Well, I know someone is taking money from our church collection, but the young man is ill, it's very difficult for his mum to raise him. His dad is not around any more. What can I do? I have to be more responsible and keep the money in a safer place so as not to tempt anyone, but I won't say anything to him. He is already suffering and it is very difficult for them." Different?

frustrated and shout "that's simply wrong!"

9. You have to learn another language, because "I love you" is not the same as "Ich Liebe Dich".

## Prayer & Praise

Please pray for the thousands who have lost everything in the flooding [and have no insurance].

James has several workshops and trainings [on culture, leadership and Jonah!] to run in the next weeks/months.

Sandra has a Fistula Camp in November, and more assignments

We are looking forward to a few days trekking in the hills [along with Sandra's Mum and another Family]!

That Sam's arm would heal completely!



With lots of love from

*James & Sandra + David, Tom, Katie & Sam*

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