A light on a hill May 2018

#### House on the Hill

We moved! And we are enjoying the new place.

When our children's school moved "up the hill" that signalled that we would probably have to as well. We all dreaded it, but now the move is over we are all loving the new place. Out of the Kathmandu smog, we have a small garden, we're surrounded by fields and there is a friendly community

#### nearby.

Of course there are all kinds of challenges to moving to a new place: where do you buy paint and screws, how does one buy gas here, how can you get milk, etc. And little by little, getting to know some of the neighbours.

### KISC - a very special house on the hill

So thankful for the school, more space... A blessing to the community.

One high ranking police officer's wife was looking around for a school for her son. Her husband had heard about KISC and went to see it. Afterwards he told her, "I have found the school for our son. I love the values they have, the community and peace in that place." That is how little "A" joined KISC and Sam's class. KISC does not only serve a

wide Mission

does not only serve a community but is also a big blessing to Nepali children and schools. KISC is involved in teacher training via a programme called KISC Equip, and supports many local schools, including the school Somang next door to us. Somang is one of the very few schools which also allows children with disabilities to join, which is a big step forward.

#### Got the visa

One might have thought that the challenges of last year would be enough, but no, this year was not to be simple either! When our visa expired we had to start paying for Tourist visas until the Official ones

were finally sorted 42 days later... Some things are just not easy.

# Rukum – UMN's light up that hill

Musikot is a long way from anywhere! It is a small town balanced along a ridge in the hills of the Rukum District, where UMN is working with a number of small partner organisations helping battle poverty and inequality, food insecurity, poor education, early marriage, poor nutrition, disability, etc...

I saved myself 12 hours of bus journey by flying to Nepalgunj, but then still had to jeep up for a further eight hours to get there. Once there, I could enjoy the views and the fresh air. I loved being with the staff, most of whom don't come from there but are all committed to the work of transforming that community. I was there for three purposes: to gather some info for our Leadership Team; to run a workshop helping these young Nepali managers with time and task management and the skill of delegating well; and simply to encourage the team and their Leader – because working at the end of the world doesn't attract much thanks.

As I drove back down to UMN's next project in Butwal, the horrendous 15 hour journey reminded me that being a witness, and a light on that hill comes at quite some cost to those guys!

Vision Trip

We were really pleased to host a "Vision Trip" of 8 Austrians and 2 Germans who came to Nepal for a couple of weeks, partly to see

what we are up to, but more importantly, to see what God is up to in Nepal. We gave them a flavour of Kathmandu with temples, ethical businesses, UMN and Church, and then took them across the country to see Surkhet, INF and the Fistula work. We rounded off with a mini trek back in Pokhara. Each day we had devotions and each evening we had them reflect on what they were experiencing. Sandra worked really hard to bring it all together and at the end, most people seemed to have been deeply touched – PTL!

"Staying salty"

UMN has a little over 50 adults and 25 children who need, from time-to-time, encouragement, refilling, re-equipping, and generally a refocus. James led a small team to organise this year's UMN retreat, entitled "Staying salty". Although he didn't get much of a break, we all really enjoyed seeing people getting fired up again to re-engage, knowing they were living out God's mission.

### Change of sending route

A friendly reminder to our generous supporters: Before the summer, any financial support should to be redirected to come through www.give.net/20029829 instead of INF/UK. Many thanks to all who make our work possible in this way!



Young life changed

To the latest Surkhet fistula camp, 39 women came for treatment. This time, among them were a couple of young girls. One of them

was Mina, the same age as our Katie but with a very different life. She cannot remember a time where she didn't have a problem with leaking urine. Walking to school, she tried using old clothes to stop the leaking, but as she walked for 3 hours each way, that didn't help much. The kids teased her and called her names for being smelly. She didn't want to live anymore and was very sad.

A health worker in Mina's village heard about the fistula treatment centre in Surkhet and encouraged Mina and her parents to go there. That proved to be life changing. Mina went home dry the first time in her life and is very much looking forward to going to school "not smelly".

## Cake baking in our community up the hill

Ganga, our finance officer in INF, one day said to me, "Sandra, please can you do a cake making program in our community in Thecho? It's so good to get to know the community and the ladies to know

you." And, so that is

what we did..... making cakes on miracle ovens which just sit on a gas ring on the stove.

# Prayer & Praise

Sometimes it is hard to cycle up and down this big hill - especially for James. But we are thankful that we have a place in the community, thankful for new opportunities and also for some fields around us.

Please do pray for us as this summer will involve a lot of travel, upheaval and so on. None of us find this easy, and it can be especially hard on our kids.

We are thankful for 18 years with INF/UK but will value your prayers and ongoing support into the future.

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### Summer plans: Austria / UK

Our next deputation is rapidly approaching, and we're hoping to see as many of you as we can in the short time we have! We will have a couple

of weeks in Austria and then a couple in UK. During the latter, Sandra will need to spend a few days at Redcliffe (for her Studies) and we will be at New Wine (week 1) – so actually there are very few days... Still, we'll see what we can manage.

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

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