

Mark and Jo Nepal Update

- Newsletter #2, March 2010



Jayamasi,

Well a lot has happened since our last newsletter, we are now fluent in Nepali (just kidding!!). When it comes to language we have found that we both have very different learning styles. Jo is picking up the vocabulary very quickly where as Mark is finding the sentence structures easier to understand. Many of the Nepali words are quite entertaining, for example; whakwhak means to vomit and gadang gadong means thunder.

Future Happenings for the Dowle's

It has now been confirmed that we will be based here in Pokhara. Mark will be working under the superintendent at Green Pastures Hospital as a project manager for a development project funded by the Finnish government, a major part of the project is the addition of a new outpatients department at the hospital. Jo will be working at Western Regional Hospital (a local government run hospital) where she will be working in the physio department doing her best to pass on as many skills as possible to the Nepali physio's. It is also likely that she may spend some time working at PFR (Project for Rehabilitation) which is an INF organisation based at the Green Pastures Hospital site. The current Nepali physio has indicated that he is likely to resign in the near future to pursue his career elsewhere.



Picture 1: Jo at language training with Jyoti



Picture 2: Shining Hospital

INF History Lesson

Every Wednesday as part of our orientation program we have a site visit which typically is a tour of a project or hospital that INF has had some involvement in. Our first week included a visit to INF's head office which is in Simpani across the other side of Pokhara. The head office is adjacent to the original INF hospital known as the Shining hospital. The hospital has since been relocated to the Green Pastures site but the original buildings are still there. The story goes that the Shining Hospital got its name from the fact that the aluminium half round sheds (See Picture 2: Shining Hospital) shone in the sunlight like a beacon for Nepalis from far and wide. I wouldn't have liked to have been a patient or staff during the monsoon, it would have been miserable.

Church Happenings

We have been to several different churches and have settled on Ram Ghat church which has a long history with INF and happens to be the first church established in Nepal. Ram Ghat church is about a 30 minute walk from home. There is a much closer church where most of the other expats worship but we felt that it might hamper our ability to build relationships with the Nepalis when it is easier to hang out with other expats. Ram Ghat church also has the added bonus of an overhead projector, we've bought the Nepali song books but by the time we have worked out what page the song is on we're onto the next song. We're both now able to follow the songs on the overhead but are still not quick enough to read and sing at the same time.

The Great Mid-West Trip

We're off on our Midwest trip next Friday; we travel to Ghorahi to look at the INF projects operating in the region. We then get back in the jeep and head down to Nepalgunj for three days and then off to Surket for three days (See Picture 3: The Great Mid-West Trip). Both of us are really looking forward to the chance to escape the class room and also to visit Ghorahi. Ghorahi is where we were originally going to be located. I suspect that we will breathe a sigh of relief that we are now able to enjoy the comforts of Pokhara where you can buy toilet paper and western toilets are common.

How's that weather?



Picture 3: The Great Mid-West Trip

With every passing week the weather gets noticeably warmer, by the time the monsoon comes around in July it is going to be rather unpleasant. Pokhara receives some of the highest rainfall in the country we have had a couple of thunderstorms as a teaser but it is still very dry and we ran out of water for the second time last weekend. Fortunately there is a man who has drilled a well nearby and we were able to purchase a tanker of water to fill our ground tank. Pokhara is now down to 13 hours of power a day, most of which is in the middle of the night when it's not really of much use.

Prayer Points

- Language training is the ongoing battle at the moment so please continue to pray for our language.
- We have both had a dose of the flu so please pray for a quick recovery, so far we have avoided any stomach problems please continue to pray for healthy stomachs.
- Please pray for safe travel on our Mid-West tour and pray against any Bandh's (protests/strikes) occurring while we are there, the Mid-West region is a hot spot for Bandh's.

We're regularly updating our blog so please check it out for more on what we're up to:

www.markandjoinepale.blogspot.com

Thank you all for your support and prayer

God Bless

Mark and Jo Dowle



Picture 4: Nepali farmer ploughing his field