

Spring 2011 Update

As you might have noticed, RAN has updated its website which is now at www.rannepal.org. Here there is a summary of what has been happening since the last update in December.

NEW WEBSITE www.rannepal.org



New look home page to RAN's website

Check out the new website. Problems with the pa-nepal domain meant that RAN has now its own super new website. Keeping most of the old content, it's been updated to include new projects and provide more information on volunteering.

Big thanks go to Mike and his brother from the US, and to Andrei in Romania for the wonderful help in setting up and helping support the website.

Kathmandu Chorale: Do you hear the people sing?

Donations for the performances of the chorale's concert get split between charities. From the concert in a few days (May 7th), half the money will go to RAN and will be used to buy a couple of Embrace Infant Warmers for use at the healthposts. These have been developed by students at Stanford University and will be first trialled in India, but will be available for global release later in the year.



Bhalubang Community Hospital



Setting up the hospital management committee

RAN is writing a proposal and seeking funding to set up a small community hospital in Bhalubang. The main focus is to provide emergency obstetric services and minor surgical procedures. Very few hospitals in Nepal outside Kathmandu can even provide the basics. Close to Pyuthan and Rolpa in the mid-west of Nepal, this was one of the worst affected areas during the Maoist insurgency and healthcare facilities are very poor. Doctors in Nepal generally do not want to work outside the capital, but Dr Kashim Shah has never wanted to work anywhere else. The local community is donating community forest land at the edge of the village, beside a sub-healthpost that is neglected, with absent staff and lack of medical resources.

Shree Jagadamba Higher Secondary School, Madhela, Bardiya

Marianne is visiting this school next week to see how the new primary school teacher is getting on. Sacred Heart Primary School in Bolton, Lancashire is helping by supporting the salary of the teacher. Thanks also go to Meaghan, who spent a few weeks in January volunteering here and at a couple of other schools in the village.



Primary school teacher at Bardiya

Bangeswal Higher Secondary School



Bangeswal Higher Secondary School, Pyuthan.

In January, electricity reached the school. Soon after, a computer arrived for teachers and students to learn some basics. Thanks go to Jacqueline, the school's first volunteer, who help teach computing and English. Royal Mountain Travel, a Kathmandu travel company, has already donated computers to Garimudi school and has put RAN in contact with a Dutch travel company, Avontuur & Shoestring. They have very generously donated three more computers to Bangeswal school, and are paying for furniture at Pokhari primary school in Garmimudi in Dolakha. RAN works here with the secondary school, and a friend's charity, Aid for Nepali Children is rebuilding some primary schools here.

<http://www.aidfornepalchildren.org.uk/mypokharipage.html>

Deusa sub-healthpost, Solukhumbu

Kamala Rai has been on maternity leave, giving birth to a son in February. Mendz, a New Zealand charity has built a birthing centre and clinic to help handicapped children in Deusa. The 'Ideal Centre' is opening in a couple of months, and Dev Kumari will transfer to run the centre. Kamala will continue to run the government sub-healthpost. Thanks go to Christina Ølgaard Møller and her friend who spent a couple of weeks helping here earlier in the year.



Kamala Rai, midwife at Deusa

Rawadoulu school, Okaldhunga



Rawadoulu secondary school, Okaldhunga

In January, Nick arrived to spend about six weeks at the school, helping teach English and providing very useful assistance to the teachers by helping with classes that were being split to teach computing. The school has just received computers as part of the government scheme to make it into an information centre. This village has worked hard to build a hydro-power station and now benefit from electricity.

Gulmi District Hospital

Supported by the Nick Simon Institute (NSI), doctors at Gulmi District Hospital can perform vitally needed surgery. A victim of its own success, while before there were only twenty or so patients a day, there are now often more than a hundred. Until a few weeks ago, only the two NSI doctors were working there, though now three junior government doctors have joined the hospital. Three medical students from Manchester University spent a month completing their elective here, followed by a couple of doctors staying for several weeks to help out. Dr Sophie is there now, helping with a major free surgical camp that has been organized with doctors from Tansen, Palpa and Kathmandu.



Ward round with medical students

Money for medicines

In response to an appeal for donations that could help very poor families afford medicines for children brought to Kanti Children's Hospital, a donation was made that is making a big difference already.

Some of the money was spent a few weeks ago to help a very poor father get antibiotics for his eight-year old son with rheumatic heart disease (complicated by TB). Just as I was meeting with the senior pediatrician at Kanti to set up how to help these kinds of patients, he told me about this case. The father on learning how much the medicine would cost was about to take his son away, with the help of the money raised by medical students in Australia, the boy received the treatment needed and is now recovered and will get the operation needed at the heart hospital, which is paid for by the government.

At Tamghas, a girl is receiving help for medicine that has to be brought in from India for a rare condition, Myasthania Gravis. She comes from a poor family and is studying to be a teacher. She will receive support for the next couple of years, until she finishes her degree and can get a job.

Volunteers



Medical student assisting with OPD

Medics: doctors, nurses and medical students have been volunteering for varying periods of time, with several coming over the next few months. Medical students can gain a wide range of experience under the supervision of doctors at Gulmi and Bajhang district hospitals. Medics are going to Bhalubang, where the community hospital is being planned, to help raise the standard of healthcare until the hospital can be built. Big thanks to the doctors, nurses and medical students who have been helping at healthposts and Gulmi hospital during the past few months.

What is needed?

The salary of a teacher (10,000 to 15,000Rs) works out at about £100-£150 a month. Nurses earn a similar amount and will become especially important to help set up the new community hospital.

Big money is needed for the construction of the hospital, and work is underway to contact donors who can help. Any ideas of who might be potential donors would be very welcome.

Thanks go to Christine Miller who has done a great job keeping the finances in order. She will be stepping down in a couple of months and George Hall will be taking over as treasurer.

Donations can be made to the Rural Assistance Nepal's charity bank account. Please send cheques to Mr George Hall at 25 Hever Gardens, Bickley, Kent BR3 2SN. For payments made from outside the UK, please contact Marianne for details.

RAN works in partnership with The Mountain Fund (www.mountainfund.org) and for US taxpayers, payment can be made via The Mountain Fund.