

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2011

Despite all the promises about a Newsletter before I left Nepal, I am back in Australia and writing the newsletter. There was so much to do during the last few weeks once Latrobe University students arrived. The load shedding meant the power was off for ten hours each day and usually just when you had time to use the computer.

I did leave Nepal with a sense of satisfaction. Netra is running Dreamland Computer School efficiently. He has typing and photocopying work from the local private school and the laminating business will start to make money shortly. There are enough students for the business to make some money and with careful management he should be able to make a small profit.

Bright Future Community Center has benefited from several volunteers. Bronwyn Russell and Elizabeth Sparks expanded the work started by Robyn earlier in the year. Netra is hoping to start an English class for some of the local ladies. It should be easier for future volunteers now we have some sort of program.

Netra and I visited most of the children in school and also talked to some of the parents in their homes. Where possible we try to help the families. All children are doing well at school, but it will be March before we have final results. Two of our university students are second and third in their respective classes, which are very good results for government school students.



On the trail to Ghandruk with Latrobe. We had beautiful weather for the whole time.



Ramesh and his father selling vegetables from a barrow which is the family's source of income



Children wearing the jackets donated by Latrobe students



Visiting one of the families. Children were sleeping on the floor in their one roomed home.

A small group of kindergarten has started attending BFCC and the older girls are teaching them some basic skills. We are also trying to help two young girls who are servants with local families.



Two nursery students wearing donated jumpers



Cathy Ryan helping with the education in the clinic



The Red Cross building has three rooms almost completed



First coat of paint to seal the walls of the clinic

The Bright Future Health Clinic has made some progress. The young nurse has continued as a volunteer and wants to continue running the centre. She is also teaching about health to the young children. We hope to provide funds for her education as a nurse. It was an advantage having a nurse, my niece Cathy Ryan, with us. She was able to offer advice and help with the education. Latrobe University students hope to raise \$4000 to complete the building of a new clinic. Bright Future Health Centre will move there and BFCC will have an extra room which can be a place for specialist teaching such as music. The planned sewing school is under construction and we hope to 'rescue' some of the local ladies from the building sites and provide employment opportunities for our students. The long term plan is for a small local business which will provide some funds for BFCC. We have discovered two of our students at BFCC are servants with local families and do not attend school. Kausilla works for an elderly couple and seems quite happy, but her family lives in far eastern Nepal near the Indian border. She should be able to attend a local school. Thank you so much to all the people who continue to donate money and goods to the BFCC project and all the related community projects. We are making a big difference to the lives of many children and their families.



Kausilla, always smiling