



The LAMP Post

Loving Arms Mission
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The Loving Arms Newsletter - October, 2011

www.LAMchildren.org

~ News from Kent Rogers in NEPAL ~

First and foremost, I would like to express my deep, heartfelt gratitude to the Loving Arms Mission Extended Family—all those people who are in any way supportive of what we do and so enable us to do what we do. It is humbling and inspiring to reflect on the fact that the Loving Arms Mission's efforts to provide care and love to orphans is sustained by individuals and groups from every



corner of our beautiful earth. Care and love are ambitious goals—goals that, in my opinion, even a world-wide network of people alone are not capable of fulfilling. Since its inception, “Love one another as I have loved you,” has been the inspiration and foundational effort of the Loving Arms Mission. I feel fortunate to be able to say that this has remained constant throughout the now 15 years of LAM's existence. Although not all of our supporters share with us an intellectual dedication to these words of our Lord Jesus, the generosity of all who support LAM is a living witness to love as that which binds us together, transcends our differences, our personalities and our intellectual vision, animates us to our best selves, and makes us truly alive and closer to truly human. In a word, Love is both Divine and Human and does live here and now within the human race every time one has been inspired to bless another in any way. I see the Lord of Love alive and active, thanks to all of you.

And I teach this to our children - that we eat, drink, dance, play, learn, sleep safely, squabble, cry, forgive and love one another only because people all around the world have first loved us. I believe that God is love. I understand and hope our children do too, that every gift, every word of encouragement, every supportive act is in fact a living expression of the Lord's love for us all.



Nepal is a place of great contrasts. There is such beauty in the people and the landscape, and there is also a great deal of pain and desperation. Between ten and twelve thousand Nepali girls under the age of 16 are trafficked into Indian brothels every year in what has been called the most extensive and grave slave trade on earth today. Many thousands more are sold into sex work domestically or to other countries. Five thousand boys are homeless in the streets of Nepali cities. More than 8,000 children were left orphaned by the Maoist insurgency. It is estimated that 40,000 children were displaced by the war and close to 30,000 children were abducted into the Maoist army. Nepal remains one of the poorest countries on earth. According to a UN report, 50% of all children are malnourished. 49% of children under the age of five are stunted. One quarter of the population lives under the poverty line.

Many of our children—due to terrible pre-LAM early childhood experiences—have walked deeper and longer in the valley of the shadow of death than I will likely ever know. The family model is ambitious and in many ways more difficult than larger orphanage models. The interactions are more personal and so go deeper emotionally. More psychological and spiritual issues will come up; but simultaneously, more issues will be addressed and move towards resolution.



This year our oldest, Santosh, now 22, has moved out and is working very hard in a local restaurant. We are proud of him and though we miss him, we know that this is as it should be. Chandra and Amrita both continue to work hard at a factory and a childcare center, respectively. We are proud of them. Alisha just graduated 12th grade in flying colors. She also entered into Miss Teen Nepal and won third prize. We are proud of her. On top of his schooling, Nick dedicates up to five hours a day practicing to fulfill his dream of becoming an amazing break dancer. He has risen quickly to the top of his class and now helps instruct. He has a job teaching an after school program at the American Lincoln School—arguably the best school in Nepal. We are proud of him. Pasang ranked first in his class and was a starting player in his school's winning basketball team. We are proud of him.



Rajendra, Puja and Ganesh all passed the demanding national tenth grade SLC exams with excellent marks (distinction, distinction and first division respectively). All three received scholarships for grades 11 and 12 in what here in Nepal are called plus-two colleges. We are proud of them. Sharmilla and Sunita continue to study hard in grades 10 and 9 respectively. We are proud of them.

To all of you who have given hard-earned wealth, precious time and effort to support LAM's goals—giving children who were cast into deprivation, sorrow, fear, loneliness, and anguish, a home of joyful memories, re-socialization, education, high spiritual ideals, hope, and a chance to participate in the nitty-gritty long term effort of learning how to live and love one another despite our shortcomings—always, you have my deep and heartfelt gratitude.

~ News from Nadine Rogers in NEPAL ~



Hello to all our dear friends and supporters! In some ways, things are quite different than when we first opened our home 5 years ago. We now have 8 teenagers in our household! It is amazing how fast they are growing up- and how hard it is to keep their stomachs full! Teenage boys are always hungry, it seems. We also have our new baby Isaac, who all the children love and care for. It is delightful to hear them squealing with laughter as they play together. Having a new baby has also brought out some difficult feelings in the children. Some have expressed insecurity that Rajendra and I will still love them now that there is a biologic child in our family. The youngest have struggled with jealousy at the time I must give to the new baby. One child even briefly ran away shortly after the new baby came home, which probably was not just coincidental. No doubt the birth of the baby brought back memories of their own biologic families and longings for love and caring that they were deprived of in their younger years due to the loss of parents or abusive situations. However, these feelings that have arisen have brought opportunities for reassurance that we will always love each and every child in our household, and that we understand how they are feeling. It is my hope that Isaac feels to them like a real brother in every way, and that the joy of loving a little baby will be healing to them.

In some ways, things seem very much the same day to day, however. The academic difficulties still exist for many of our kids, there are the usual squabbles between them, there are the battles of will in trying to get chores done, etc. It is easy to get bogged down in the day to day grind and forget what a miracle it is that the children are alive, healthy, and thriving, given what could have befallen them. Many children in Nepal still die from malnutrition. Many must work in order to survive, whether it is hammering gravel in a quarry or working as a housemaid in return for a bed and food. Many are even sold as slaves into factories or brothels. When I remember the sobering truth of what can happen to orphans here, even the fact of squabbling youngsters and a messy house are comforting in a way. Yes, we have difficulties. We make mistakes in parenting, our children have various issues to work through, and problems come up in our daily lives. However, our kids are safe, healthy, loved, and have a hope for a stable future. This is a miracle that occurs because of you! All you who donate are saving lives, and giving the gift of hope. We can only do what we are doing because of your generosity. You are heroes for our children. Thank you for letting this miracle continue.