

Village Hope Partnership

700 South Claremont Suite #223 San Mateo, CA 94402

To: Friends of Village Hope Partnership

From: Don Gielow, President

Date: December 26, 2016

Warm greetings from all of us at Village Hope Partnership! As the year draws to a close, we want to share an update and express excitement and gratitude regarding our most recent visit to Nepal. The team that went (Frank VanderZwan, Silas Khadka and Don Gielow) returned from a visit there a month ago with amazement and thanks with what was able to be accomplished in fulfilling our mission of helping to give hope to villagers in rural areas of Nepal.



Village meeting. On this trip we traveled to many locations, meeting with village leaders who proposed projects for VHP consideration. Shanti Giri, our project coordinator, has been making contact, encouraging communities to develop and propose ideas. Left below: Shanti on a village visit.

Nepal is a poor country, one of the poorest in the world. Our hope and goal is to be able to assist Nepalese people at the village level in meeting some of the basic human

needs that most of us take for granted: adequate food, access to medical services when needed, education for both children and adults, clean water, adequate housing. The task seems overwhelming in a country where there are about 5,000 villages with most of them needy. But it does not need to be overwhelming when you take one village at a time, listen to the villagers' ideas and needs, and do what you sense God is leading you to do.



When we go into a village we look at food and nutrition, job situations, education, medical services, housing, hygiene and sanitation. We talk with village leaders and listen to what they see as key things which will improve their situation long term. We try not to just give things-- this is hard when there are so many needs--but instead to develop a partnership to make it possible for them to make the needed changes with some help from the outside. Here are some of the partnerships we developed through this last trip to Nepal:

- Many villages lack basic sanitation. We are assisting in getting some of the supplies so that 12 villages will be able to build a total of 64 outhouses. This was all at their request. This does not resolve the sanitation

problem but it is a start in the right direction.

- We ask about literacy. Sometimes there is no interest at all even though 95% of the village cannot read or write Nepalese. However a village in the west on our previous trip jumped at the possibility and we hired a local women to teach 25 adults how to read and write their language. A few months into the class I inquired how it was going, expecting many to have dropped out. We found out that the class had grown to 50 adults meeting six days a week. This last trip we added classes for three additional villages.
- To help with diet and adequate food, we distributed over 80 sets of chickens, goats, pigs, ducks and 2 cows for milk and 1 water buffalo for plowing. As the animals multiply the owners are to give some offspring to new families so the program spreads.
- We are talking to several village areas about the possibility of establishing a medical clinic to serve rural villages.
- A huge need for families in villages is jobs that can provide a family with basic needs. Many villagers do not have land and are laborers for others. Salaries are marginal at best so we are trying to develop employment opportunities. We have helped start a block making business which is so



needed after the devastating earthquake. We have in process 20 women from a village taking sewing lessons which will result in business opportunities. We will start two new sewing classes from this last visit. We hope to develop a honey business for villages interested in raising bees. Early on we developed a partnership with Eden Reforestation that is using local labor to reforest parts of Nepal. This last year they planted 800,000 trees and expect to plant about that many again this next year. This effort gives people good work that helps to meet their immediate needs, and also meets the long term environmental needs of the country and environment.

THANK YOU! There is much more we could share, but this gives you a taste of the projects that have been done this past year and that we will continue to do. Thank you very much to all who have encouraged us through your interest, prayers and support. With joy, hope and in anticipation of the coming year, we send our gratitude and best wishes.



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