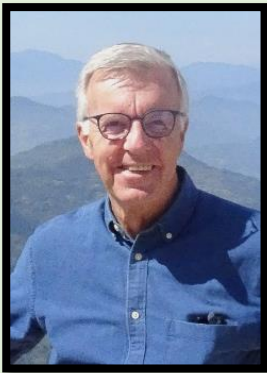


Village Hope Partnership Newsletter

To: Friends of Village Hope Partnership
From: Don Gielow, President
Date: November 2024
Re: VHP Newsletter 24, Special Report



Greetings from Village Hope Partnership! In this newsletter we have a special report from Board Member Frank VanderZwan, who visited Nepal and VHP projects in November. Please enjoy his travel report as well as the gratitude, innovation and joy he experienced along the way.



Visiting Nepal November 2024 *from Frank VanderZwan*

A few days ago, I returned from a trip to the fabulous country of Nepal to check on our work with VHP. It was an incredible and encouraging trip to see the results of ten years of collaboration with the amazing people of Nepal. I was overwhelmed by the reflections of successful ministry and impact that has been made over these past years. It was clear that from very small beginnings can come incredible results.

Into the Mountains

The first project I looked at was a small village high in the mountains in Bagmati, a three-hour trip by four-wheel drive. After leaving the highway we embarked on a climb up a sling shot trail with the car winding up and up into the mountains.

This village has a spectacular view but more importantly we were able to see the results of our work. Initially three years ago, among other things we gave a family two goats.



The entire village is now involved in “goat raising.” There are now about five hundred goats in the village which provide a sizeable income and take care of many needs in the village. There was a real sense of community among the people which is really crucial in these isolated places.

Sewing Classes Change Lives

Next, we visited the area of Nepalgunj in the far west of Nepal. In the small village of Bheri we were able to see the results again of the VHP vision over the years. Our concentration here had been ways to impact women. Through offering sewing classes and literacy programs we were able to impact a group of women in a powerful way. What began with a sewing class resulted in several women receiving sewing machines from VHP and then beginning small businesses.

One such woman has now opened a shop and has five machines and others working for her. She is a beautiful humble spirited woman who had incredible pride in the work she was doing for the villagers. It is safe to say that this simple sewing class truly changed her whole life. It was wonderful to see a small investment reaping gigantic results.



Literacy & Transformation

In the same village we reconnected with a woman who had graduated from the literacy classes that we offered. She was a woman who was now filled with self-confidence and was so proud that she was able to read and communicate with others. She was able to read the Bible and memorize scripture and taught a small Sunday School class. The transformation was amazing in her. Her husband also was so proud of who she had become.

Community Center and Reconciliation Feast

VHP also provided funds for the building of a community building in this area. It is a building that is used for weekly church services but is also available to the community for any events which include every religious group and non-believers. There had been some major problems between the Christians and Hindus and others in this area which had been resolved through reconciliation. The day we were there the villagers were going to have an evening celebration at which over three

hundred people would come to enjoy an evening together. A pig had been slaughtered and prepared for the feast that would take place. It was wonderful to think that VHP had played a part in making life better for these people and that finally they could be accepting of each other and come together as one group. It is heartening to see these things happen in these distant places.

Remarkable Reforestation

Next it was off to the far East to Badarpur, flying past the Himalayas and Mount Everest. There we came to see the results of our reforestation efforts. I was shown what was once an open field and is now a thriving forest filled with deep undergrowth, wild animals, insects and birds. It was an incredible experience to walk through a forest that nine years ago was an open field.



The difference has been immense, bringing back wildlife, protecting the villages from flooding, and even cooling the air around the places where these people live. Again, a small beginning with huge results.



Sanitation & Innovation

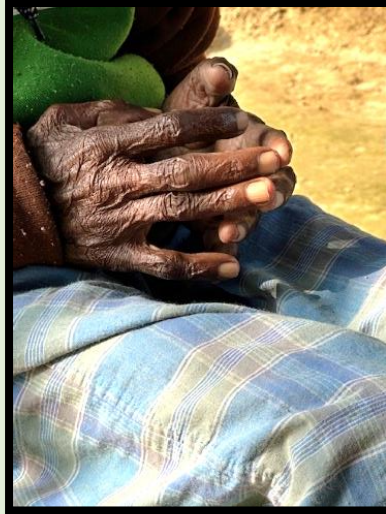
Another project that we have been involved with is bio-outhouses. It seems strange to us perhaps but we have built several outhouses that are connected to tanks in which the methane gas is stored and then used for cooking. This makes a huge difference in the lives of these people's health.

One of the villagers was anxious to show me how effective this project was working.

Flood Relief Still a Blessing

We also visited the home of a 90+ year old woman (she was not sure how old she was). After severe flooding, VHP assisted with funds to build her a home where she now lives with three generations of her family. It was so touching to see her here with her daughters and granddaughters, able to live out her life with at least four walls around her.

Her face and particularly her hands are evidence of how difficult life is in these rural parts of the country. What a blessing to be able to help her through this stage of her life. A small amount of investment and care makes such a huge difference.



Closing Reflections

There is so much more to say and report. In all my years I have never seen such great need and such incredible results with modest resources. Please know that your contributions go a long way in changing the lives of individuals, communities and indeed a large part of the country of Nepal. We obviously can't help everyone, but we can respond to people that come across our path, and God can bless and multiply what is given, beyond even our knowledge and expectations.

As we look ahead to 2025, some key pieces of our projects include reforestation, sewing and literacy classes, providing for the needs of villages and individuals with start-up animal projects, providing health through building outhouses (some connected to the bio-system that I described), and supporting community buildings that can be used for churches and collaborative events.

What can you do? First, thank you so much for all the ways you have supported this work in Nepal. Any who have read our reports, listened with curiosity, rejoiced in this work, prayed for us, supported VHP in many creative, generous and caring ways--it all has made such a difference. As you feel led, please consider continuing to support this vital ministry in a country that few people know much about. It is a land filled with wonderful people who have an enormous number of problems. A lot can be achieved with small resources. Thank you for considering helping us in our endeavor to share the love of God in this way.

Village Hope Partnership is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, EIN# 47-2774879 Donations go 100% to programs supporting impoverished people & communities. Contributions can be sent to our office in San Mateo at 700 South Claremont Suite #223, San Mateo, CA 94402 Website: www.villagehopepartnership.org