

Annie Tanner

Christmas Greetings and Update

December 2020

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O come; O come Immanuel!

Advent Greetings!

A season of Watching, Waiting...Expectation, Hope.

Waiting and hoping. The story for us all this year. For me, waiting, hoping to get married in May; to get a flight to the UK by July; for that newly arranged wedding date in August. And now again waiting, hoping to get back to Nepal in January.

Uncertain times. Yet the certainty of Immanuel - God is with us!

**What will the teachers I train remember about me?
What do I hope they will remember?**

The impact of a teacher can be huge. Think back to your own schooling. You may have memories of a teacher who encouraged and built up your self-esteem. Or one that damaged your confidence for years.

My work with EQUIP is not just about imparting knowledge and skills. I want to encourage teachers to value the context in which they teach. To think about their attitudes and how they can influence the character of their students through those values.

Building a culture of love, care and encouragement in a school is not easy, but it can be transformational and have a life-long influence for the students.

All of this is challenging in normal times. We travel long hours across mountainous terrain to reach our partner schools in rural Lamjung and Nuwakot. Now with the schools shut since March, helping our teachers to re-establish such values, when the EQUIP team are spread across the world, is a new challenge.

However, I have been amazed at the resilience of our team of trainers and of the schools who want to stay connected with us. Even when staying in touch means teachers getting on-line at odd hours by mobile phone, with limited electricity to charge up in a rural village.

But they are doing exactly that! This week the EQUIP team have encouraged over 75 teachers and 15 principals through our zoom meetings.



An insight into impact

In a previous update, I shared the story of a teacher that I have been mentoring. Her challenging home circumstances were draining her of the energy and will to teach. But she saw an opportunity through her teaching to bring a better future for her pupils. Being stuck the UK, this relationship could have been lost. But my long-term friendship with a lady of a similar age from my Nepali church, with a similar life-story, has enabled the love and support to continue. It is a reminder that my role in Nepal is often that of 'conduit'. A connection for a moment of time, to enable and encourage others.

We know that *thief that comes to steal and kill and destroy*. Our **Advent Hope** is that God came to earth *that they may have life and have it to the full*. John 10:10

Personal Update

We are currently living at Chas's home, in the small town of Leslie in Fife Scotland, as we wait to return to Nepal.

We continue to connect online with our work. Mine with KISC EQUIP teacher training programme and Chas supporting hospitals with HDCS (Human Development Community Services).

What we originally thought would have been a 2 week 'post-wedding' stay has become a much longer wait. But this has brought new opportunities to build links with the local church and community where we are. Also, where Coved restrictions allow, to spend time with friends and family.



Thank you for your ongoing interest and prayer support for me.

Please pray for:

Wisdom for those in authority in Nepal making important decisions to help the country in uncertain times.

My EQUIP colleagues, in Nepal and also stuck across the world, making plans to be able provide the right support for our schools.

Plans for Chas and me to return to Nepal in the New Year.

This coming summer 2021, I plan to undertake a UK home assignment. BMS will be in touch shortly with churches to set up dates.

This time it will be very different as I will be with Chas! We hope by the summer to be able to visit as many churches as possible in person.

I hope that you and your loved ones, despite any restrictions, can experience the Love, Joy, Peace, and Blessings of Christmas.

Annie

If you would like to support Annie Tanner by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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