

Ekerö 30th April 2016

Hello, Tashi Delek, Namaste

News from the School home.

The school is since a few months running after winter holiday and part of this year's planned investment have been started. Our biggest project this year is to build a new kitchen. We will also repair a water tank built in 2010 in the hills above school home and plant new Apple trees. As last year, we have received cuttings. The planting last year did not succeed so well so this year we will get help from an expert who will plant and teach us so that, if necessary, we can do it ourselves in the future.

Hawthorn is a useful plant that can be found wild in Humla. It has been planted with good results in Ladakh in northern India. It would be good if we could test with a few plants at the School home.

I guess that everyone at the School home is happy with the water and sanitary project which, in principle, was completed in year 2015. Now there are several water taps and two more toilets. We also have stoves in the children's room so that they at least occasionally may have a sleeping temperature higher than the temperature outdoors. At the altitude of three thousand meter it can be cold at night, even in spring. With our standards, their living conditions are still very primitive, but we are trying gradually to make them more bearable.



In the old dining hall you had to protect your food.



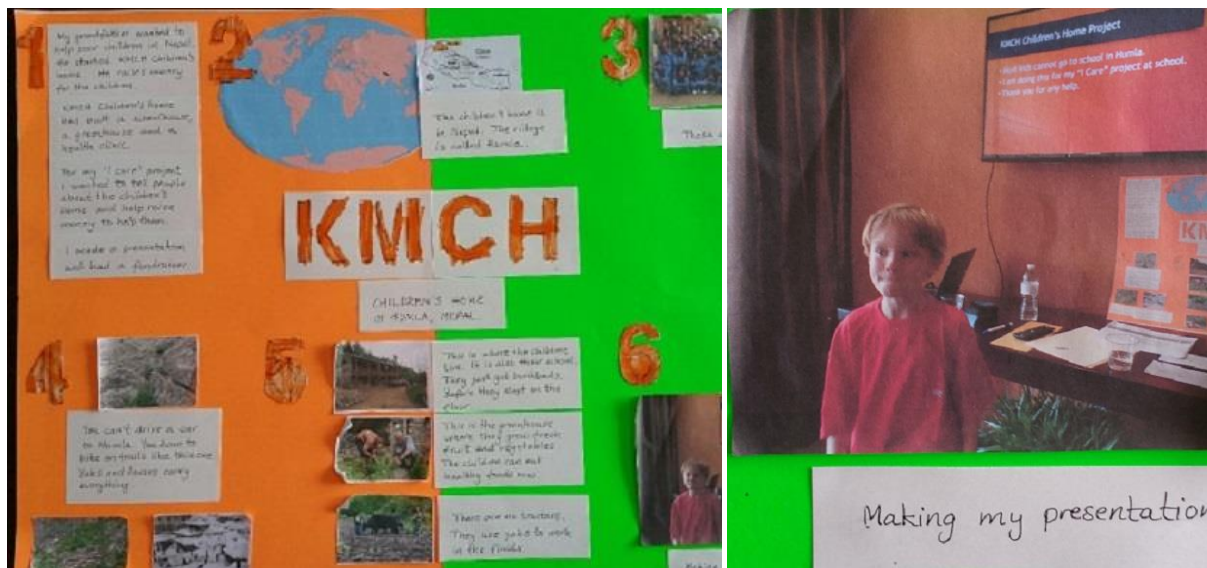
In the new you can both eat and study in peace although real benches are still missing.

Now we think that we have a solution for our two "students" further studies.

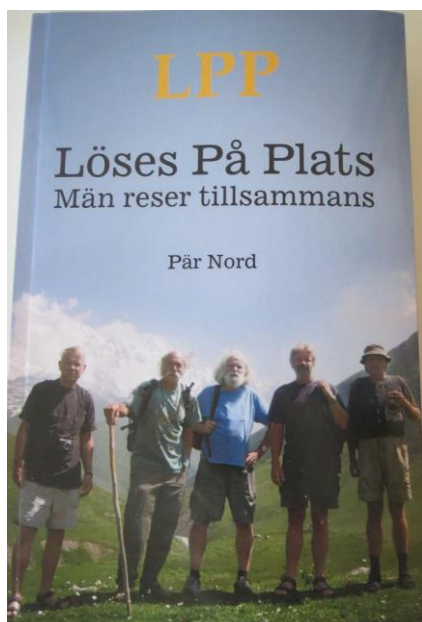
Our two students, which have passed class 10, are the girl Sonam Dolma Lama and the boy Gangshar Dorje Lama. They did at the beginning of April a national test which in Nepal is called the "The Iron Gate". The test is very difficult. If they pass the test well enough, they receive a so-called "School Leaving Certificate" and become eligible to further studies. We hope of course that they will pass the test, because it seems now, that we have secured their opportunity to continue their studies. Sonam wants to become a nurse (study period 3 years) and Gangshar want to become a teacher in science (study period 2 years). They will, if they succeeded in the test, study in Kathmandu. The costs of the study to be a nurse are very high in Nepal. The association "Gatubarn i Nepal" is working to secure Dolmas studies and one of our sponsors have promised to be responsible for the costs of Gangshars studies. Likely Gangshar is going to study in a school, we got contact with via the association "Nepal Education". Both of these associations have been started by and are run by Swedes. We are grateful for their help of and for the collaboration with them.

"All pull their bit."

This winter my grandson Scott - 7 years old and living in Florida - got a task in his school on the theme "I care". He chose to make a presentation of KMCH. He made a poster with texts and pictures about KMCH and Humla. Later the project was expanded, with Mom's and Dad's help, with a few PowerPoint slides so that he could make a presentation in their residential area. The interest was great, and he raised some money for KMCH. THANK you Scott for the great initiative.



Scott's poster with information about KMCH



”LPP- Löses på plats.” A book by Pär Nord from which all income goes to KMCH.

The book is written in Swedish. It describes journeys in different parts of the world that the five old men in the board of KMCH have done the last ten years. The title can be translated to “SOS - Solved On the Spot”. It means to travel almost without plans.

Click on the links here and you'll read about the book and see where you can buy it.

<https://www.vulkanmedia.se/butik/bocker/resor/loses-pa-plats-av-par-nord/>
<http://www.allehandas.se/kultur/vi-planerar-aldrig-fem-granade-backpackers-tar-odet-i-hand-och-reser-dit-nasan-pekar>

A speech about KMCH on Saturday May 7th at Ekebyhovs Slott 2 pm.

Saturday May 7th at 2 pm it's time again. We in the KMCH will inform about our School home in "The hidden Himalayas" in northwestern Nepal. You will listen to songs from the song group “Kvinnas”, captivating stories about and see the beautiful images of how the School home and our health clinic have developed.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

Humla – some facts taken from an UN report from 2013.

(This is a short extract from a summary I made of a report from United Nations Field Coordination Office (UNFCO). Mid Western Region, Nepalgunj, Nepal-2013. (My summary of the report can be read on our website.)

"Most of the population of Humla lives from farming and animal husbandry. Since very few families can live on this so trade, collection of medicinal plants and seasonal work outside Humla and Nepal are common alternative pursuits. Illegal sale of timber into Tibet is a fairly common source of income. Large quantities have been sold through the years and deforestation creates major problems with landslides, etc.

Because they can't get enough food from their own agriculture, malnutrition is still common. About 60% of children below 5 years are estimated to be malnourished and 15% severely

malnourished. 53% have anemia. (These are probably very unsure figures but it is an indication of a very difficult life for many people in Humla. Comments by Hans.)

10% of the households receive harvests that are enough for the whole year, 18% receive food that last for six to nine months, one-third get food for three for six months and for 28% the harvests are sufficient for less than three months. The need for income from other activities is thus significant. The harsh climate specifically in upper Humla, with long, cold and snowy winters do not make life easier. There they cultivates, among other things, wheat, buckwheat, barley and potatoes. They have started to plant apple and walnut trees to supplement their own diet and to sell. Humla is an eco-region where chemical products and fertilizers are not allowed to use. ”



There are rather few fields that are so large that they can be plowed by yaks. You harvest with a sickle and plows with plow made by tree. Sometimes with a edge of steel.

Be a member of KMCH Support Group.

Do not forget to pay 100 SEK as a membership fee or tell us that 100 SEK of your gift is a membership fee. We would like to see that many of our donors also become members. It is possible to use PayPal.

Greetings from the Board of KMCH SG

by

Hans

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