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Newsletter no. 3 2020 from KMCH Support Group

Ekerö June 2 2020

Hello, Namaste och Thashi Delek

In this newsletter you can, among other things, read some schoolhome nostalgia, about our planned exhibition in Kathmandu and about the current situation in Nepal.

Our Annual meeting is postponed until the autumn

As previously announced, our planned annual meeting on 29 March had to be cancelled due to covid-19. We long hoped that it could be held before the summer, but we have decided to postpone this until after the summer. Sometime in September we now have as a plan. We hope for a normal "physical" meeting but we must probably also prepare to have a "virtual" one.

News from the school home

The authorities have decided that Nepal will be "locked down" at least until June 14. We hope that the schools can open then. We will see.

A serious problem for the Humla people is that the border with China is closed. Not only do we in the school home buy the bulk of our food in Tibet, but also others, who can afford to buy food and other things from there. Transport to Humla from other parts of Nepal must take place by air to Simikot, the main village of Humla, and then by small aeroplanes and to high costs.

Because of the "lock down" we do not have any special news, from the school home. This gives room for a bit nostalgia.



The KMCH Family 2007



KMCH rented the first floor in this house

The photos are from our first visit to the school home in July 2007. It was then situated in Kathmandu. KMCH rented the lower floor of a house and there were 12 children in the home. I have followed up these 12 children as best I could and know that five of them have been with us all the time to class 10. Three of them are now studying in Kathmandu and one in Simikot. One of the children graduated from class 10 in December 2019.

Sonam Dolma Lama, seen on the far left of the children in the picture, is studying in Kathmandu to be a nurse. Ganshar Dorjee Lama, back in the middle, has completed his studies to be a teacher in technical subjects but has continued to study in Kathmandu. Tenzin Rabgay Lama, far left in row two, studies "Science" in Kathmandu and Nagawang Gyaltzen Lama, in yellow shirt behind the two main children, studying "Commerce" in Simikot. Kunsang Tsomo Lama, at the front in red, graduated from Class 10 last fall. I do not have knowledge of what has happened to the other kids. The 12 children came from 11 different villages in Humla. The adults on the photo are from the left Chhukel, who then studied to be a teacher. He was a teacher at the school home in Yangar until a few years ago when he got married and moved to another village in Humla. Chembal, chairman and founder of KMCH, was then a monk but is now married and runs a travel agency. Lhamo, was

then our cook. She is also back in Humla. The last time we met her, she was married and worked at another school home in Humla. The next is Paljor. Then he studied to be a teacher and he has been working as such in Simikot since 2010. The man on the far left worked more temporarily at the school home in Kathmandu. Chembal, Chhukel and Paljor are the founders of KMCH in Nepal.



In July 2007 there were 12 children in a rented apartment. In 2019 there were 67 children in KMCH's own complex with hostels, eating and teaching facilities, a separate kitchen, decent hygienic conditions, with among other things, shower rooms with sun-heated water as extra luxury. (See photo to the left.). **THANK you for all support.**

Bedside lamps for the children, a library and perhaps a meteorological station to follow the environmental changes can perhaps be a reality within a few years. We will see.

All 11 children from KMCH who have graduated from class 10 until 2018 have scored so well on the final exam that they have been

eligible to study further. Eight do it now in Kathmandu and three in Simikot. There can be no better grades for the teaching at the school and at the school home. All children have received partly or full support for their further studies by the Olofsson Family Foundation and/or from the association Street Children of Nepal. The costs of the studies after the children left school in Yalbang are not included in the reported costs of KMCH.

In 2019, eight children from KMCH graduated from class 10.

Because of Covid -19, they have not been able to write their School Leaving Certificate (SLC), so we do not know when their possible future studies might begin.

We hope the newsletter after the summer can contain good news from the school home, the school and from Humla.

KMCH's exhibition at Taragaon Museum in Kathmandu (Italo)

Our plan was to open the exhibition about Humla at the Taragaon Museum in beginning of october. We have invited seven schools to take part of the exhibition. We know that teenagers in Kathmandu have a very vague knowledge about rural areas like Humla. After visiting our exhibition we hope they will know more about life in Humla. But the corona virus does not stop us! Of course, we can not go through with the exhibition this coming fall. No one can say for sure when it will be possible, but Hopefully we can open our exhibition sometime next spring.

Visit <http://taragaonmuseum.com/#> and you will get a picture of the exciting architecture and exhibition hall

News from Nepal (Italo)

So far the corona virus has not hit Nepal so hard. Around 1 600 have been confirmed with the virus up to May 31 and eight have died. No infection has been reported in Humla. There are probably a very high number of People who are infected but haven't been tested.

More than half a million nepalese work in India. Many of these migrate every year to find lowpaid manual jobs. With the virus forcing India to a complete lockdown many want to go back to Nepal. Only in the last days, ten thousand Nepalis have entered Nepal from India. Around half a million Nepalese work in India. Most of them are day laborers who have lost their jobs because of the Corona. Many of them want to go back to Nepal. Many of them come from western Nepal.

In Western Nepal there is now a food shortage and this food crisis will definitely increase when a lot of People now go back to their home districts. There is of course also a fear they will carry the virus with them from India.

Nepal has been in a completely lockdown for almost ten weeks. No travels have been possible. The Nepalese economy is taking a hard hit, and as always the poorest suffer the most.

At the same time, the Nepal primeminister Oli is in a constant battle for power with his political opponents within his own goverment and party. No wonder the opposition accuse the goverment of spending more time on powerstruggle than fighting the virus.

Support to KMCH Support Group can be paid to our bank on: BIC-SWEDSESS IBAN-SE57 8000 0832 7990 4500 6518.

Greetings from the board of

KMCH Support Group

by

Hans



Two children in April 2019. Photo Jonathan Stenvall

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