

## **Newsletter no. 4 2015 from KMCH Support Group**

Hello, Tashi Delek and Namaste

*In this newsletter we tell you about what has happened in the school home this summer and about the new doctor at the dispensary/hospital in Simikot. Anton has a new section in the KMCH-school, which this time deals with the history of Nepal. We finish with a poem by a girl at school home.*

### **Some of what has happened at the school home this summer**

In June, we were told that those who work with the road which is being built from the Tibetan border to Simikot would soon pass the school home. There they wanted us to engage the workers to build a connection route up to the school home and at the same time to make a bigger plane area for the children to play on. It was urgent to take that chance for you never know when an excavator will pass the school home again. We decided on an additional investment of 23 000 SEK and hope it will be enough.



The road is being built to the school home.



Cement sacks loaded for transport to the school home.

During the summer, they could finally get the building material that has been at the border to Tibet since last fall. The work with the planned water-and sanitation project could then restart. Now they have built two new restrooms, made a good place for washing and are in the process of installing a tank and several outlets for water. The new House has been made tight on both outside and inside and has got a metal roof. Perhaps, the investment in a permanent kitchen building can be started before the winter stops all construction works.

We are glad that we gradually have been able to improve the living conditions for our children and employees. It is good that we now have good laundry facilities. During the summer, three boys from another school home drowned in the river. They were down and washed clothes and bathed when flood waters took them.



Children working in the new classroom with plastered walls both in- and outside.

During the summer, one of our boys has lost his mother. She had been ill for a long time and had been brought to Taklakot/Purang, which is the nearest town in Tibet, for care. There, they could not do anything so they referred to Lhasa and Kathmandu. To Lhasa the humlis may not go without a visa, so it must be Kathmandu for her. She was carried from Taklakot to Simikot. This is a trek of more than a week and over a pass on almost 5,000 meters. Well in Kathmandu she died after two days of a brain tumor. She was 37 years. Even with an earlier finding of the tumor, it is not probable that she, due to economic reasons, had been able to get the care she would have needed. Diseases that are difficult to treat, even here in Sweden, will usually lead to death if you live in Humla.

For several years there have been plans for a Nunnery just outside our village. We saw that the construction work was going on when we were there in the summer of 2014. This summer, the Nunnery was opened. Two of our girls have chosen to leave the KMCH to become nuns. They are 9 and 12 years, both in class 4.



Humla's District Education Officer has visited the school home. He was received with a dance performance and he was impressed, as all of us who have visited the school home, of the kid's boldness, their academic performance and KMCHs support for children's education both before and after the regular school day.

### **A new doctor to the hospital in Simikot**

Humlas District Education Officer visits the KMCH

In spring next year there will come a new doctor to the hospital/dispensary in Simikot. The new doctor will be the recently graduated Meena Maharjan. She will replace Dr O'Neil, of which Anton told about in newsletter no. 4 in 2014. To get the degree, all doctors have to serve two years in the remote areas of Nepal. Meena has herself wished to make part of her two-year service in Humla.

For us, it's extra interesting because Meena has had her studies paid by a Swedish organization, [www.nepaleducation.se](http://www.nepaleducation.se), which supports Nepali girls' education. Meena visited Sweden in June 2014.

We have had the ambition to get a doctor to visit KMCHs health clinic, NCC, during a period when many people visit the monastery in Yalwang. We have so far not succeeded. But now, during a ceremony at the monastery in November, Meena has promised to come to the NCC. She will then get a taste of the environment that she will be working in 2016 and at least half of 2017. (The cost of this project is also outside this year's budget, but we think that Meenas visit to NCC is very important.)

We are hoping for more visits to the NCC during the period when Meena works in Simikot, and that we hopefully together with other NGOs can help Meena to develop the hospital in Simikot.

### **Nepalese politics and history — part 2** (By Anton)

When does a country start? Is it even possible to answer? When did Sweden start? Was it when the first immigrants came, when the ice sheet retreated 10,000 years ago? Or when the Vikings built Birka? Sweden was when someone said that Sweden was just Sweden? If so, what was it before? Is maybe Gustav Vasa's coronation in the 16th century the starting point? In Nepal's case, the question is about as difficult to answer as for all other countries. Any precise answer does not exist.

The area from the Himalayan slopes down towards the plains north of the River Ganges (which can be thought of as the northern and southern border of what would become the Nepalese land area) has been populated for thousands of years. This

area has various clans and dynasties ruled over for centuries, a topic which we now leave. It is in the 18th century that the name Nepal starts to be used in the term of a united country - the first meaning of the name Nepal was referring not to any country, but to the buildings in and around the Kathmandu Valley. During the 1740s began a dynasty, the Shah dynasty, slowly conquer the Nepalese territory. The Shah dynasty came from the province of Gurkha, today known for its soldiers, and came to be an important power in the growing State of Nepal. In 1769 the Nepalese area was relatively united under the Shah dynasty and was called the Kingdom of Gurkha. The name Nepal was not adopted until 1930.

During the remaining 18th century the Shah dynasty tried to expand their territory both North and South, as well as maintain the control of their home territory. The Nepalese expansion northward took an abrupt end after a lost war against Tibet. In the south was India, increasingly ruled by the British East India Company. The border between Nepal and India was at that time not recorded, a potential cause of conflict, which of course would be solved with a war. Between 1814 -1816 Nepal and United Kingdom were at war about the border and about the right for United Kingdom to trade with Tibet. Nepal lost that war. Nepal is one of the few countries outside Europe that never has been colonized. After the lost war against the United Kingdom in 1816, Nepal and could well have been a British colony. However, it was considered that country was too inaccessible and too poor in natural resources to justify a takeover. Nepal turned later out to be a good ally of the United Kingdom when the Nepalese Army contributed to the quashing of an Indian uprising in 1857.

Since then, however, it seems that the Nepalese Government have avoided to declare war on its two giant neighbors and instead directed their weapons against various internal enemies. There were plenty of these in the Nepalese 19th century. The Nepalese domestic politics came to be characterized by power struggles between the leading families, with the Shah dynasty as the Royal family at its center. In the 19th century the Shah dynasty continued to rule the country. The Royal throne, and with that the power, was passed down within the dynasty through inheritance. The real power in Nepal was however then as well as now, in the hands of the one who controls the military. In 1846 the Shah dynasty lost the power to a rival dynasty; the Rana dynasty. The Rana Dynasty replaced the absolute monarchy with a seemingly more liberal Prime Minister post – there however the similarities end up - with a constitutional democracy as Rana dynasty saw to the post of Prime Minister was inherited. During the century that followed the change of power in 1846 the Rana dynasty was in power in the country. The modern Nepalese fight for democracy began in the 1940s, a process that is not yet completed. This I will return to in the next newsletter.

**We finish with a poem by Pema Yangzom Lama from KMCH. Pema is in class 5.**

Written your name in blue sky, taken by the wind.

Written your name on mountain, melts with the snow.

Written your name on flowers, taken by the bees.  
But written your name in my heart, it will never ever be  
taken away.

## **Greetings from the board KMCH Support Group**

**and as always with an implicit THANKS to you all**

by

Hans

KMCH Support Group [www.kmchumla.se](http://www.kmchumla.se) E-mail: [info@kmchumla.se](mailto:info@kmchumla.se)

Org.nr. 802437-1810 Bankgiro: 5604-4019

Vill du inte längre ha våra utskick? [Avbeställ här >>](#)