



Newsletter April 2016

CWA Children's Home, Pokhara, Nepal

We are happy to introduce to you three new children whom we have granted sanctuary in our Home. At the end of February Simran, a 5-year old girl, (on the right) was welcomed. She had been living with her mum in a small home that was completely destroyed by the earth quake. Since the earth quake Simran's Mother has lost her mental stability and cannot take care of her daughter anymore. She has been living with neighbors who are taking care of her. Sagar [6] and Susmita [4] are siblings and arrived in the beginning of March. Their mother died while giving birth to Susmita and their father died in an accident last year. The children had been living with their 90-year old grandma, who because of health and financial reasons could not adequately take care of her grand children.



Since the earth quake we have welcomed 6 new children in our Home and, in all, at this moment we give shelter to 31 children —13 boys and 18 girls— from the age of 4 to 19.

Because of giving shelter to additional children, we had to hire an extra female member of staff, who will support the Team in the kitchen and will help with cleaning chores. Expanding staff meant that we also needed an extra room for staff to sleep as the women are interns and stay overnight. That is why we choose to use the old computer room for housing purposes. We will soon build a new computer room with bigger office space in a separate, single-storey building in front of the Children's Home.

Reconstruction in the earth-quake hit areas drags on very slowly: many people are still in dire need of basic amenities. Adding to the disastrous consequences of the earth quake, severe shortages in food, medicines, petrol, lpg [for cooking] and construction materials were caused by the closure of the border with India for more than 6 months. Yet lately, the supply of these goods has slowly improved and we now are now in a position to realize two more relief shipments to the Gorkha district, the hardest quake hit area of all.

In coordination with an organisation that coordinates the support efforts locally, we will provide 61 families in the village of Muchek with warm blankets. The blankets have already arrived in the Children's Home and are currently being packed for further transport.



The second shipment will be directly to 'Ghat Beshi Primary School' in Borlang, a primary school that up till now has not received any support from the government. We will supply the 57 children in this school with clothes, writing materials, notebooks and schoolbags.

Closer to home though, regretfully, another lightning flash struck our inverter - the heart of the photovoltaic solar system of the Children's Home - destroying it and leaving the Home without solar power. Luckily a temporary solution for lighting of the Home was found, through connecting to our hostel. Besides, Herbert Albrecht, who devised the photovoltaic system for the Home and then assembled it for us, could on short notice fly to Nepal, change the inverter and place a stronger lightning protector/deflector. We are all very grateful for Herbert's effort and help.

We are currently planning the replacement of the solar system with a system that will in the future supply the Home with sufficient electricity, thereby realizing a higher degree of security of supply. When full supply of our own photovoltaic electricity is realized, we can considerably, if not entirely, reduce our monthly electricity bills.

Since the end of October handicraft training classes have commenced in our workshop building. Under the supervision of our handicrafts teacher and using coping saws, fretsaws, etc. the children have, with tremendous enthusiasm, already produced toolboxes, a ropeway and other objects. Following the final exams of the school year various picture frames will be made for the drawings and the photos of the children.

Two of the rooms of the workshop building have from February been made available for a three-months long course in computer and language skills for women from the neighbourhood. A great need for adult education of particularly women exists and we are very happy to provide for the women these two courses in conjunction with an NGO we cooperate with.



The children are finishing their final tests for the current school year. Then afterwards, on April 14, Nepal will celebrate New Year, followed by a short holiday of two weeks before the new school year starts out. We wish the CWA Children Home and all Nepali citizens the best for the year of 2073. May all adversity between the different ethnic groups be resolved and long term peace commence, combined with political stability.

Fortunately, we both will be able to take a year of unpaid leave from our respective jobs. With great pleasure we look forward to staying another year in Nepal, starting in August, and to continue our work for the CWA Children Home on site. During this year, we will gladly update you from the children's Home on new projects and give an account of our personal experience with the children.

We wish you a lively spring time and send everyone many heartfelt greetings

Barbara Rentsch and Peter Vecker

*With kind support of Susmita, Simran,
Mamata, Sagar und Milanin Nepal*

