

## Prayer Letter

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### April 2009

We write this prayer letter from the comfort of a UK sofa. We have now been back here for two weeks. We have returned to the UK for about five months for the birth of our first child who is due at the end of May. We are then due to return to Kathmandu in early September once the baby is three months old.

#### Leaving Nepal

Leaving Nepal has been a smooth and relatively pain free event for us. It involved an extremely busy last few weeks as we packed up our house, moved out, finished off all our work and spent most evenings saying our goodbyes. It has also been a good opportunity to take stock and look back at the last 15 months of our lives.

We have had a great time and have really felt God's blessing on us during our time here. He has taught us so much about ourselves, about our profession, about our relationship and mostly about him. We have both enjoyed our work at KISC so much and will really miss it while we are back in the UK. We have also felt so blessed to be in such a supportive church.

The verse on our prayer card is from Isaiah 26: 3-4: "You, LORD, give true peace to those who depend on you, because they trust you. So, trust the LORD always, because he is our Rock forever." He has definitely been our Rock this year as we have felt so at home in Kathmandu and built some fantastic relationships. He has taught us to trust in him in so many ways but also enabled us to grow and develop in our faith.

Leaving Nepal also meant leaving KISC for Becky. Her stint as geography teacher has been far shorter than expected but has been a very enjoyable time for her. She has really enjoyed teaching the students and developing their interest in geography. While we don't know what the future holds for Becky and her work in Nepal we do know that when we go back she will be a full-time mum for at least the first year.



#### KISC staffing

In our last prayer letter we asked for prayer for KISC's staffing needs. One of these of course was a replacement for Becky and there is now a new teacher lined up. He will actually be teaching history and one of the current history teachers, who is actually a geography teacher of 30 years standing in the UK, will move over to teach the geography. A potential new ICT teacher is also lined up to come to KISC for the new academic year. She will take over the majority of the ICT teaching, freeing up Dan to spend more time in his new role as Vice-Principal. This is not definite yet though so please pray that all the things that need to happen, happen. The secondary school is also still in need of a Principal; as mentioned before we have two Vice-Principals lined up to share most of the work, but it would be better to have a full time Principal so please pray for this.

#### Time in the UK

Our first few weeks in the UK have involved spending time with family and catching up with friends. We are also due to be visiting churches and probably a little bit of work for BMS while we are here.

After the baby is born Daniel will officially be on paternity leave for a few weeks before returning to work for KISC, not in Nepal, but in the UK. Thanks to the wonders

of technology he will be able to connect directly to the school's network and carry on his work for the school from the comfort of a Didcot house. This work will involve developing the curriculum and working on the timetable for the next academic year. Obviously this does involve good connections to Nepal and, with regard to the timetable, managing staff from several thousand miles distance. Therefore please pray that this all goes smoothly and for good relationships and connections to those still in Nepal.

### **Long-term**

Very early on in our time in Nepal we realised that one thing KISC is in need of is stability. Nearly one third of all students turnover annually and staff turnover is nearly as high amongst the mission staff. For the school and its long-term students (many students do complete the full term at KISC) this is obviously unsettling. We felt that KISC really needed staff who could commit to the long-term. Therefore from soon after our arrival we became aware of God 'prompting' us to consider committing to KISC for longer than our initial two year commitment. In fact prompting is probably too small a word as it seemed to be made very clear that we should commit to longer. After much prayer and consideration of what a long term commitment would involve and mean we decided to ask BMS if we could become long-term workers at KISC. The change to long-term will mean that we are fully financially dependent on BMS who are of course fully financially dependent on God. Having committed to the mid-term programme for two years we will remain as volunteers until the end of 2009. We face an interview in July and assuming we are accepted we shall become long-termers from January 2010. Please pray for us as we apply and prepare for the interview and pray for those who will be interviewing us as we all seek God's plan for our lives.

### **Baby**

We have also spent the first week or so here trying to get together bits and bobs for the baby. In fact we are rapidly realising that you need a lot more than just bits and bobs! It has been fun looking around and getting together things for when the baby arrives. It has also been daunting as we come to terms with the prospect of being parents in just a few weeks. We had put off preparing practically for it until we returned to the UK, but that also meant we hadn't really prepared mentally. However, the excitement overtakes all the dread and apprehension we are feeling so in all honesty we just can't wait. However please do pray

for us as we prepare for this baby, and deal with the first weeks and months of parenthood. Also pray for the baby as it comes into this world.

### **If you pray, please give thanks for:**

- A successful pregnancy so far
- A fantastic time of personal and spiritual growth in Nepal
- The continued provision of staff for KISC

### **Please pray for:**

- Our future as we apply to become long-termers
- The safe arrival of our child and for us as we become parents
- That we will make the most of our time in the UK

*Dan and Becky*

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