



**September 2010**

### **October – December 09 Overview**

A lot can happen in three months and in Nepal, there has been much news during this quarter.

In October, Dashain, the festival of lights was celebrated with much joy all across Nepal and at the ISIS Children's (ICF) Foundation. Everyone gathered at the ISIS INGO (international government organisation) office to put 'Tika' and give blessings to the ICF children and staff for the Dashain Festival. Pralhad Dhakal, Nepal Country Manager and Kimber Haddix, Research Manager visited Humla between 11th to 20th October where they held a series of consultations with the villagers in Dharapori, Kholsi, Lamakholsi, Kermi, Yalbang and Yangar about their needs. They also had meetings with district officials and other NGO's.

Andrew Every, an employee of Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Australia, arrived in Nepal on 1st October, 2009 for two months, to provide his skills voluntarily to assist with the financial work of The ISIS Foundation. His assistance was invaluable and has made a huge difference to the team in Nepal and Australia.

A radio programme was aired on Humla's Radio Kailash - the tracks sung by the ICF children. The name of the programme is "Humli Chhachuri ko Dako" and was launched in mid-November. The programme has a social message on anti-trafficking, education, and health and is aired every Monday at 7:30 am – 8:00 am.

Discretionary funds of NRS. 25000/-, were provided to an 8 year old boy, Pema Tshering Lama as his left eye needed a duplicate eye replacement after it was poked while playing with his brothers.

Besides all of the happenings in the ISIS family, political tension remains high in Nepal and at the time of writing this report, the entire country is now at a standstill due to a stand off between the opposition party, the Maoists and the current government. Strikes and road closures are occurring daily and the ICF have stocked up on food, fuel and supplies.

More details are outlined in the following pages.



### **DASHAIN IN NEPAL**

The Dashain festival is a Hindu festival that marks the victory of good over evil and is the longest and most anticipated festivals for all Nepali's. According to legend, Goddess Durga conquered evil on the Dashain day. Animal sacrifices take place during the festival in temples and in homes to please the Goddess Durga. The final day of the festival is known as 'Tika' (which means blessing), a day on which the elder ones give 'tika' to the younger ones and to other relatives who come for their blessings. The festival is a time to visit near and dear friends and family.

For Dashain this year, the children had a 10 day holiday for rest and relaxation from school. Each ISIS home has a 'sacred space' and these altars were decorated with lights. Homes were cleaned spotlessly. The children enjoyed eating lots of delicious food and new clothes were also purchased for them. The children also love the holiday for flying kites.

If you visit Kathmandu or any other city in Nepal during this season, the sky is filled with colourful kites. Laughter and fun was had in each home. This year, the children and staff assembled together at the offices to mark the tenth and final day of the celebration. Mr. Pralhad K. Dhakal and Ms. Dawa Thapa offered 'tika' and small gifts as an appreciation to all the children and staff. It was followed by dances from both the children and staff.

After receiving the blessing of goddess Durga, people are ready to work and acquire virtue, power, and wealth throughout the year. With the same message in mind and spirit, the children now long for Dashain to come by again soon!



## YALBANG SCHOOL AT 10,000 FT.!

### Strengthening education in upper Humla

The ISIS Foundation works in partnership with the Himalayan Children's Society (HCS), an Upper-Humla based non-profit organisation in Yalbang which focuses on strengthening Humla through education of the younger generation. The school has been extremely successful in attracting students and 112 children are enrolled in this school which provides residential facilities as well.

HCS organised a one day education awareness programme in Simikot in association with Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIDRAC). During the program HCS drew the attention of the Chief District Officer, Chief District Education Officer, Chief of District Police and other concerned organisations towards the conditions of schools in Upper Humla.

With ISIS supported teacher's initiatives, in this quarter, various programmes were conducted in the school to motivate the students to learn more. These programmes included :

- Inter house drawing competition
- Inter house quiz contest
- Inter house word meaning competition
- Inter house debate

Second and final term exams were conducted and annual parents, teachers and students meetings were held. In the meetings, one of the agenda items was the importance of educating girls - to encourage girls to attend school (70% of the school's scholarships are for the girls).

With KatKids funding support, bunk beds for all the 112 students were fully constructed. As of this quarter, all the 112 children at HCS hostel have their own beds. In addition, blankets for 60 students were purchased, as well as winter clothes and notebooks for all children, and distributed amongst them. Other infrastructure has been put in place with two more toilets being constructed, a mini solar electricity plant being installed in the hostel and a metal roof being constructed for the hostel.



## PEMA'S STORY

Pema Tshering is an 8 year old boy and lives in a small village called Muchu in Humla. While playing with his elder brother, Lakpa, aged 10 years old, he was accidentally poked in his left eye with a stick, which resulted in his eye bleeding. He was rushed to the local health centre and the health workers there found a white spot on his retina, which meant that he was now blind in one eye. He was referred to Kathmandu, and in Tilangatar Hospital, the eye specialists recommended that Pema would need a duplicate eye. If his eye was left unattended, the consequences would be that the infection would spread to his right eye and eventually cause future brain damage. As you can imagine, Pema's family have huge financial constraints and would not have been able to afford the surgery. They approached Mr. Kumar Lama, the head of the Himalayan Children's Society and he asked ISIS for help.

The ISIS Foundation has set up a discretionary fund which allows for funding of such cases that do not fall under the general mandate of the Foundation and are one off cases, where urgent help is needed.

Little Pema has since had the surgery and is recovering. We hope that one day he will be able to go to school again and play with his brothers - this time staying far away from any sticks!



Pema Tshering, with Father Tshering Lama.

## HUMLA UPDATE

### Supporting primary health care in Humla

The Amrit Tibetan Medical Service began as a means of providing a medical/health service in the form of a mobile camp to the remote regions of Humla where medical service is rare and mostly unavailable, basically due to the topography of the region, which makes transportation and communication impossible.

At present the medical service that Dr. Kelsang has been providing, with the help of The ISIS Foundation, has been immensely appreciated by the people of Humla.

Many Humli people of both genders and all ages are being treated with positive results in their health. The mobile camp is a great boon for the Humli's especially where no health services are available.

Dr. Kelsang is currently in Humla with medicines for about 2000 people.



Pralhad and Kimber in discussions on water schemes in Kholsi, Humla.

### Conducting research in Humla

Kimber and Pralhad visited Humla in October 2009 for about two weeks. Kimber flew in from the States and went on a small plane straight to Nepalgunj, a small town on the Indian border. They then had to drive to Surkhet, getting a flat tire on the way, before flying up to Humla (see map below which shows you what the topography is like in Humla). They met with staff on the ground and some of the parents of the children in the ISIS Homes in Kathmandu. Their journey of two weeks took them through Dharapori, Chauganphaya, then on to Yalbang and Yengar. Pralhad had stocked up generously on chocolate and nuts to keep them all going!

They achieved a whole lot of things during this trip – they talked to villagers about the notion of a ‘service trek’ to find out the views of village elders, they prepared an inventory of what has been achieved in various villages, and consulted with local people on key needs. Kimber even wrote a paper on the “Socio-cultural Dimensions of Cluster vs. Single Home Photovoltaic Solar Energy Systems in Rural Nepal”. Contact Derek on [derek@isis.bm](mailto:derek@isis.bm) if you’d like a copy, it is a very interesting read!



Dawa Thapa, Pralhad Dhakal and Andrew Every in Nuwakot, Nepal.



Pralhad and Kimber holding a consultation group in Dandaphaya, Humla.



Pralhad offering Dashain ‘tika’ and ‘Jamara’ with blessings to the kids.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### Key Financial Details for Q4, October – December 2009

#### Income

In Q4, 2009 a total of \$75,773 was raised, bringing the total funds raised over the three quarters in 2009 to \$112,693

The majority of the funds raised for Q4, 2009 came from memberships and individual events.

#### Expense

The total expenses for this quarter was \$30,520 and below are the major areas of expense.

\$13,667 was sent to The ISIS Foundation, Nepal towards supporting the INGO for their work the government, building partnerships, monitoring project outcomes and discretionary funding.

\$9,077 was provided to AMRIT, to cover the costs of medication and transport for over 2,000 people in Humla.

\$4,089 was sent to HCS in Yalbang towards the running of the school, building of infrastructure and the hostel operational costs.

An additional \$3,000 was spent on the purchase of a motorbike and camera for project monitoring in Humla. This will be used by the ISIS Humla Manager, to be recruited in 2010.

#### Balance

As of 30th December 2009, the balance of funding available in KatKids accounts was \$335,797. This included surplus funding from 2008 which is now being allocated to other ISIS projects in Nepal.

## EVENTS

### Save the date for the KatKids 2010 Christmas Market!

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November, Mount Saint Agnes School Auditorium, 5.30pm onwards.

The Kathmandu Kids Club is bringing you Christmas early! Shop for unique Christmas gifts and treats at our market stalls filled with goodies from Nepal and Uganda. Haggle with the best of them for authentic one-offs during our auctions! Get into the spirit with mulled wine and Christmas carols. Enjoy happy hour drinks whilst rocking to the live music of the “Knock Ons”....and so much more! We look forward to seeing you all there! All net proceeds will go directly and undiluted to ISIS Foundation projects!

We are still in need of sponsorship for this event, if you'd like to find out more then please email Nicola: [nicolaj@kathmandukidsclub.com](mailto:nicolaj@kathmandukidsclub.com)

## OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

In July we made the bold leap to The Centre on Philanthropy (COP) and now all volunteer information will be held on their database. Goodbye excel spreadsheet! Our hopes are to reach and recruit more volunteers, better manage our events and provide a simpler means for you to keep your profile up to date.

You should by now have received an e-mail from COP with an ID and password and some quick instructions. Please do take a few minutes to logon and have a poke around.

We have some events in the pipeline so keep an eye out for e-mails asking for your help in the near future. We simply can't do it without your time, effort, ideas and enthusiasm.

If you have not had an e-mail from COP or have any questions or suggestions, please contact Lorraine on 505 3740 or [lmconachie@northrock.bm](mailto:lmconachie@northrock.bm).



## ISIS Trek for Kids Humla 2010 Team Members

Alex Conyers	David Pierson
Caitlin Conyers	Adam Power
Iona D'Souza	Nick Pritchard
Judith Landsberg	Derek Stapley
Steve Martin	Mark Stapley
Neil McConnachie	Steve Thomson
Jennie Lee O'Donnell	Calista Todd
Barrie Trimmingham	

The fifteen team members of the ISIS Trek for Kids Humla 2010 have been training hard for their trek in the thin air and high altitudes of the Himalayas of Nepal this October. The team will be departing September 30 for their trip which will highlight an eight day circuit in the remote Humla region, home to many of the projects The ISIS Foundation supports in Nepal outside of the capital city of Kathmanudu. "The team is really coming together and we're really excited about seeing the kids and to get started on the trek" says Jennie Lee O'Donnell, Chair, ISIS Trek for Kids Humla 2010. While the majority of this intrepid group are based on the island, four members of the team are located outside of Bermuda ,including the US, Scotland and Dubai. Each trekker seeks to raise a minimum of \$10,000 in sponsorship and the team's ultimate goal is to raise \$200,000 for Kathmandu Kids Club to support The ISIS Foundation's work in Nepal.

Are you a trek enthusiasts or simply an armchair trekker? Curious about the trekkers and what they are experiencing? Check out the trekker section of the KatKids website to view biographies of the trekkers, information on their training and the hazards of high altitude and their required kit list.

<http://kathmandukidsclub.com/take-action/isis-trek-for-kids-humla-2010/>

You can donate to any trekker online through the KatKids website, scroll down to elect donation type: "campaign: followed by trekker name. Or if you don't want to play favorites just donate to the trek as a whole by selecting "Campaign" <http://kathmandukidsclub.com/take-action/how-to-contribute/donate-online-now/>

Please support the trekkers as they Trek for Kids!