

Penguin, 24th April 2020

Namasté,

A greeting that becomes more powerful over the last couple of months and might be conveyed globally. 'Namaste' which is articulated with a slight bow and hands pressed together, palms touching, and thumbs close to the chest at a safe distance of 6 feet to respect each other's divinity. With this courtesy the 'so called' differences immediately disappear. Although Nepal is located at the centre of the Himalaya's, isolated from everything, to me it has always felt like coming home. That warm connection brings us weekly in contact with our friends and host family located in southern Nepal. Thakur and Sharada are taking care of 12 children in their hostel. Shiva, Himali, Puja and Ayesha are still being sponsored by our School Rise Foundation.

Nepal is in a total lockdown. Statistics about the pandemic are unknown. Due to the lack of social welfare, food and fresh drinking water, Nepal is heading into a humanitarian crisis. Puja's parents have lost their house. As local labourers they are dependent on daily income and are not able to afford their rent. Other labourers are walking great distances coming back from the capital Kathmandu to return to their villages. The community is supporting each other in the fight against poverty.

In response to a conversation with a local school, Thakur (friend and contact person) and his brother Krishna situated 20 underprivileged families and offered them food and drinking water. In normal circumstances food has to be distributed by local authorities. Due to corruption any money to them



Thakur and his brother Krishna

would partly disappear and the delivery process will be postponed by weeks. Fortunately, we can always appeal to; Thakur to distribute food. Loaded with a fancy 'tuc tuc', it did not take long before he got caught in the first police road block. "Don't worry brother, I just tell them our story. I know all police men, they are my brothers." Despite three reprimands the delivery service went without any more hitches. Like always, the gratitude is enormous and the personal stories are heart breaking.

One of the families told Thakur they lost their son by a tiger attack while collecting firewood. The grief was so enormous and sadly led to the father committing suicide.

Another man fell off his roof which led to a spinal injury. A few weeks later his wife passed away. He is now struggling to take care of his little son.

The consequences of the worldwide pandemic are huge. In Nepal they are currently more concerned about hunger and poverty.



Mother and children who lost their relatives

For \$30, - we can support a family with food and drinking water for at least 2 weeks. We are aiming to support 20 families.

Your contribution is warmly welcome. Each dollar will directly be spent on food for the affected families.

Our bank details:

School Rise

BSB: 017-500

Acc: 2946-66878



Shiva and Himali together with mother.

We would be grateful for your support if you wish.

Sarvin & Wiebren for School Rise