

BMS World Mission - Transforming lives

The Douglas Family have enjoyed a private visit home to celebrate with their Mums on their 70th birthdays. It was great to be home and share with family and friends and of course to rest a little after the hectic summer. They are now back to the latest drama in Nepal – fuel shortage!

In their last news they told us about the protests that had followed the signing of the new Constitution; sadly many are still unhappy, both inside and outside the country. Protests continue in the south and west, over 50 people have died in these demonstrations and businesses have had to close down. Nepal's border with India has been closed for a month, it is landlocked! (This message came 25th October). Over 90% of the produce consumed in Nepal is imported by land across the Indian border and up the small arterial route into Kathmandu; rice, vegetables, construction materials, clothes and most significantly – oil and cooking gas. Usually over 450 oil tankers enter Nepal every day. Over the previous 4 weeks only a handful had been allowed in, less than 1% of what is needed to keep the country running.!

Nepal blames India for blockading the border – India denies this and blames the Nepali protestors. Whatever the truth, there seems a stalemate with little sign of change. It's eerily quiet in Kathmandu, the usual buzz of taxis and motor bikes has virtually ceased, school buses are unable to run due to lack of fuel, many Nepali schools have closed as have restaurants and hotels and hospitals are running out of essential supplies. One taxi driver told them he queued for 4 days to get petrol for his car and was only allowed just over 2 litres at 5 times the normal price!

October is normally a Festival season and families have been trying to celebrate together, feasting and

making puja/sacrifices. What is happening now Festival is over? Their neighbours have run out of cooking gas and are trying to gather wood to use. Soon load shedding of electricity will increase again – how long will it last? It's not long before the cold weather comes; what then? The normally gentle and resigned Nepalese are angry; they ask, "Haven't they suffered enough and life is hard enough without this?"

Analysts say this could have a worse effect on the economy than even the earthquakes, for a country reliant on tourism this second blow to the industry during the peak season could be disastrous. It seems for the most part the Western press is not interested, Asian squabbling is less glamorous than earthquakes but long term the results may be nearly as harmful.

Angus, Helen, Caleb, Charis and Esther are fine, they have well stocked cupboards, spare gas cylinders and can walk or cycle nearly everywhere they need to go, but you can imagine how they are feeling when they see what is happening with their neighbours. They ask that we Pray for softening of hearts and political will to solve these disputes, also to help in raising awareness of the situation, that foreign powers can exert a little positive pressure in Nepal's direction. They finished by saying – remember, Our God is a God of justice, who opposes the proud and lifts up the humble and oppressed.

AIM International – Sharing Jesus in Africa.

The Tjiwana family send their latest news from Namibia – Three TEAM members arrived on the 15th October to start with the 'long awaited TIMO TEAM'. They have had a one week orientations and language learning course; it was great to hear the Team practising their 'clicks' (difficult language). The new deadline for the



The girls at their party

remaining five Team members to join them is 26th November but on the 3rd there was still no news of their visas coming through, please keep Praying. At the moment the first three are experiencing living with 'host families'.

Family News – They are all keeping well. Sally and Sarah celebrated their 3rd Birthdays on the 4th October and they invited all the children in their village to come and share! They had a great time singing, playing and dancing. Jorma and Yochanan have been healthy and are growing well.

Sad News – Mr Kxao Boo a San Person, Tsumkwe Community and Clinic's Ambulance driver was bitten by a black mamba snake whilst travelling on duty. His son was with him and drove as quickly as he could to Tsumkwe. The nurses tried to help him and had him rushed to the nearest town (3 hour drive on gravel roads!) but sadly he died. He was related to the chief of The San People and that is where one of the Team members is placed.

Prayer – For the children to keep well and grow stronger each new day. For Zeka and Anita, wisdom and strength as parents and leaders of the Team. For the visas for the rest of the Team to come through on time. For all the Team as they seek to comfort and serve the grieving family in a God honouring and culturally appropriate manner.

Rosemary Croft.