



## BMS World Mission – Transforming Lives



News from The Douglas Family

They are well into winter there in Nepal and by all reckoning it has been a hard one. Not only has it been cold, a fresh load of snow fell on the low hills the week 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The border with India is still largely closed, resulting in scarcity of cooking gas, diesel and petrol. Kathmandu has seen many of its few trees felled for fire wood – for most the choice between being able to cook today and having clean air and trees tomorrow – is really no choice at all.

They are all well, but obviously feeling the cold; I guess they have those extra winter woollies out! Angus has been overseeing the demolition of KISC sports site; he is putting together a proposal for leasing a new long term site. Helen is well into her Masters Degree in Medical Education, doing it part time by distance learning. She is then putting it into practice teaching medical and post grad students, and ever busy with Church and local activities. Caleb, Charis and Esther are now into their third week of term and enjoying everything, especially athletics and cycling!

They send belated thanks for all the Christmas goodies, Caleb and Charis sending little notes. They had a good time at Christmas with their Church Fellowship, singing carols to their neighbours and sharing with Helen's

dad, the BMS Action Team and staff from KISC. It was difficult with cooking because of the power problem, but the candles added to the magic!

They are now in the middle of the dry season and as most of Nepal's electricity comes from hydro power, that means less electricity. Power is timetabled to be on for 4 hours per day plus about 6-8 hours at night. However, with less gas to cook on there is more demand for electricity. This dramatic increase in demand has been too much; transformers have been blowing up regularly 5 to 10 every day across Kathmandu. The result – no power for days until they had been fixed.



*Removing a wrecked transformer*

They have been somewhat sheltered from these hardships, having solar and inverter backup to provide at least a light or two when the power is out, (but this was not strong enough to cook on). Unfortunately their inverter and battery died. The strain of reduced voltage and increased use was too much for it, so they, like most in Nepal were plunged into darkness at 6-30pm each night. Kind friends lent solar lanterns, wi-fi and even electricity from a wire strung between two houses so that Helen could complete her online Masters assignment.

They always like to share what they learn from all that happens to them. The

coming of light brings with it warmth, security, hope, perspective, joy and comfort, dispelling the fears and anxieties that breed in the darkness. In the dark is where danger, fear and evil deeds lurk (they were burgled one night as they slept, and felt small aftershocks too). Turning on the light dispels all these things. The impact of Jesus saying 'I am the Light of the World' has become even more real to them this winter. They now have a new battery and inverter, they have light when they need it, they don't want to forget in the 'Light' the lessons they learned in the 'Dark'.

They are grateful for the many Christians who are bringing the Hope and Light of Jesus in practical ways to the people of Nepal – Higher Ground, INF, UMN, Samaritans Purse, MAF, their own Crossways Church and many others – taking warm clothing, blankets and shelter to those still living in hardship in areas devastated by the earth quakes.

They end their greetings by reminding us that we are ALL here to bring the light. Hope, comfort and joy that Jesus offers to those we meet.

Please continue to Pray for this precious family in all their ongoing work for the Lord.

The world desperately needs Prayer: every year BMS staff and mission personnel set a day apart to Pray together for all their work. Even if you are a little later, please join them. Angus and Helen too remind us that it will be KISC anniversary on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February and there is a Global Day of Prayer arranged for this.