

# Rise and Shine

News from the Wrights

November 2011

## **“You are the light of the world.” Matt 5v14a**

Carpets were beaten, windows polished and floors were swept as our neighbours prepared their houses for a much hoped for visitor. At Tihar, the festival of lights, local people believe that if they clean their houses and light a path into their home, Laxmi, the goddess of wealth may pay them a visit. They are hoping she will bring them riches for a prosperous year. The festival is colourful and vibrant with music and fireworks and it feels like a three-day long party.

It can be hard to feel excluded from the party and we decided that we would run a fun event for the children at our Nepali church. In amongst fun games, glittery crafts and energetic songs we used Matthew 5v14-16 to teach the kids about how God will come and clean up our lives ready for His Spirit to come and live in us. With His Spirit in us we are ready to shine in the world and He gives a wealth of blessing, not just for this year but for eternity.



Fourteen children came, of which four were guests of our regulars. We were delighted to see two of the guests again on the following Saturday for 'Sunday School'.



## **“A city on a hill cannot be hidden.” Matt 5v14b**

This year Nepal has taken a national census. We are told, preliminary results suggest there are around 2 million Christians, which means they now represent approximately 5% of the population. The church is showing significant growth and that cannot be ignored!

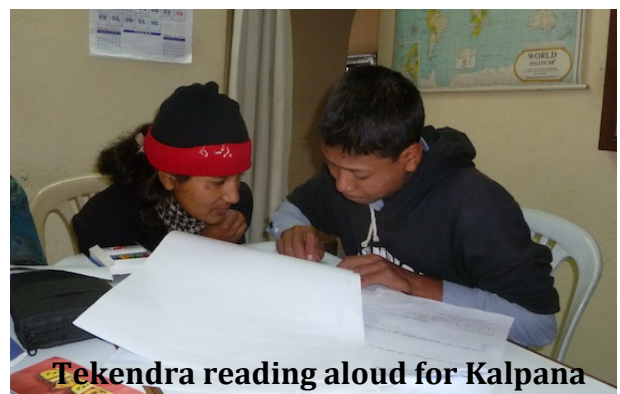
*Praise God for the continuing steady growth of the church in Nepal.*

## **“Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.” Matt 5v16**

This week is the last week of term for the current batch of students at the Bible College where I teach. I'm working with them on inductive Bible Study so that they will be able to continue to study the Bible for themselves without the help of other resources.

One student is partially sighted and it was a blessing to see other students work alongside her to help her study.

Another student fell in a fire during a childhood epileptic fit. He was not rescued for several hours



**Tekendra reading aloud for Kalpana**

by which time he was burned through to the bone on both legs. After nearly five years of treatment (which, amazingly, saved both legs) and rehabilitation he was able to go to school and passed his School Leaving Certificate. He has struggled emotionally to come to terms with his past and has had anger issues throughout his teenage years. Going to college has been an important part of his spiritual and emotional development. He will be returning to his village home to live after many years in hospitals and in foster care in Kathmandu.

*Please pray for these students as they return to their homes across Nepal (and one from Bhutan). May they take what they have learned in their time in college and spread the light of the gospel in their homes, churches and communities.*

In the Teenage Group at church, the young people have been having a go at leading the class themselves. It has been great to see them take the responsibility seriously and I have been pleased with the way they are helping each other, particularly in the way they support those who find reading in Nepali difficult. We are pleased that two of the group have just been baptised.

*Please pray for these young people that they will grow in their understanding of their faith and that they will be bold in their faith when they are at school and with friends.*

*Praise God for the way the group is developing but please keep praying that they will become more confident to discuss in class.*

**“In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matt 5v16**

Some time ago Tearfund published a manual for churches to encourage them to be involved in disaster management in their communities. Paul is looking at ways to get that manual translated into Nepali. He hopes to be able to use the manual with churches to encourage them to reach out to those around them both spiritually and practically.

*Please pray for a good translator and for the time and opportunities to use this manual well.*



**We all enjoyed escaping Kathmandu for a trek in October.**

***Thank you for your prayers,  
Sarah, Paul, Jack and Asha***

**STOP PRESS.....**At 2.45pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. a bomb exploded outside UMN office. No-one was injured and there was no damage to property. A second, seemingly discarded, device was also found by security forces shortly after. It seems the intent was to shock rather than to injure as the bombs were packed in paper. In amongst the paper were leaflets from the Nepal Defense Army - this is the organisation that bombed the Kathmandu Catholic Church a couple of years ago, killing 3 people.

We'd appreciate your prayers for security for UMN and Christian organisations in Nepal. Pray for those that planted it too.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Thank you to Roger and Frances Meagor who have offered to mail our newsletter to those who receive a postal copy. Please contact them if you have a change of address or you would like to be added to our mailing list.

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We are sent by the Methodist Church of Britain to work with the United Mission to Nepal. If you would like to contribute towards our support or the work of UMN please contact us directly for details, or email: [wcr.asiapacific@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.asiapacific@methodistchurch.org.uk)