

Ekerö 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## **Hello, Namaste and Thashi Delek**

In this newsletter you can among other things, read about the latest news from the school home, about one of our new sponsors, New Hope, and about the local elections in Nepal. But the most positive thing is that we now have a short video from school to home. Gustav Nord, who was on our trip to Humla in the fall of 2016, has made a movie of about 10 minutes from our visit.

## **Latest news from the School home**

At the School home, we have now just started two major projects. One is to build a second floor on the latest built house. With that we will get more space for existing activities and we can also be able to receive more children. We have also started the work to ensure access to water. The current source does not seem to recover so we need to go further up in the mountains to find water. Both projects are made possible with help from the Family Olofsson Foundation.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that our teacher, Naki Lama, who has been with us since the years in Kathmandu, had got a child. It was gratifying. However, it means that she now leaves us and as a teachers in the children's school. She and her husband will move to a village very close to the border with Tibet. We and all the children will really miss Naki. She has been a very important person for all children and not least to all the girls. Naki is replaced by Pema Kunchen Lama, a man from our village. He takes over the role as a teacher at both the School home and the school.

Sometimes they have their meals in the open air.

The older children work as waiters.

To cover up the loss of Naki as an aid mainly to all girls and the young children we have formally hired a "woman caretaker". It is our site manager Lakpas, wife, Namtul Lama, who already knows the kids, and now when her own children are older have more time to work at the School home. It basically means no additional costs as we now have no costs for our health clinic, NCC.

The drought in the spring has made that several of our Apple trees have died. The combination of drought in the spring and very rainy time at the harvest has led to a generally low harvest in Humla. Given that many already, with normal harvests, are near-starving in Humla, this is bad news.

The monsoon rains that are now causing problems in India and southern Nepal have not significantly affected Humla. A few small landslides and a wounded bridge due to high water flow have been reported by Chembal. With a better supply of water to the School home next year we will hopefully be able to take better care for the trees we intend to plant next year.

You can see Gustav Nord video from our visit to Humla in fall 2016. Just click on the attached link: <https://vimeo.com/209726942>

### **Our boys who have passed grade 10**

In previous newsletters we told you about our four children, this year only boys, who passed class 10 and the national exam that allows them to further studies if they want and can finance these. One of these has received a State scholarship, why the cost of his studies almost halved. We have his financing ready as well as for one more.

This means that the two boys cannot continue their studies and are still in Humla. We hope to be able to find any companies or individuals who are willing to support at least two years of study for one or two of those who still lacks support. The cost per student per year is expected to be a bit over 15 000 SEK.

As said before KMCH will not take financial responsibility for any further education for our children. Our focus is to support their school attendance in the school in Yalwang. However, we are trying to help them to get sponsors. The picture shows when our four students are leaving the School home and everybody is saying Goodbye.

### **Our new sponsors/partners**

In our annual report and previous newsletters can read that we in 2016 received support and help from two new organizations. These are New Hope Foundation the travel industry's children's Fund and The Society for Street Children in Nepal. We informed of the Association street children in Nepal in the last newsletter. In this newsletter we will tell you a little about New Hope and of their support to us. **New Hope** was founded in 1988 after that some persons from the travel industry have been in Lhasa in Tibet and seen children living in difficult circumstances. (I got the similar impression during a hike through Humla in 1999. Dirty children in tattered clothes and several with bloated stomachs.) When they returned from Tibet they started in New Hope.

The Association decided not to pursue their own projects so they tried to seek cooperation with an already established relief organization. Since year 2000 New Hope has chosen to focus on smaller and more "grab able" project run by smaller organizations or by individuals around the world. Today they support twelve projects in seven different countries.

Notably is that New Hope does not have any employees but relies on volunteer work. By & 2 of their Statute clarifies that approach. The philosophy corresponds well with how we think and try to work in KMCH Support Group.

New Hope is supported by individual donors and companies in all industries. Since its

inception in 1988, the Association has collected more than 30 million SEK. More about New Hope can be read at [www.newhope.se](http://www.newhope.se)

KMCH got year 2016 support for the purchase of stationery, drawing materials, textbooks and medicine for children. All these products must in principle be bought in Kathmandu and be transported by air to Simikot, the capital of Humla. In Simikot they are loaded on horsebacks for a couple of days walking to the School home. You can understand that this means that the prices not only for these products will be clearly higher in Humla than elsewhere in Nepal.

A small stock of school supplies. It takes a lot to serve 50 children.

View of the School home with one of our kitchen gardens in the foreground.

This year we have once again received support for the purchase of educational materials. We have also received grants for purchase of seeds for our greenhouse and our kitchen gardens, as well as to supplement the earlier plantings of Apple trees and also to expand with new plantings. Because there is no food for sale in Humla it is the economic and from a health point of view, important that we can enrich the children's diet with vegetables and fruit from their own plantations. To manage these also gives children a practical knowledge.

For a small organization that KMCH is stimulating to feel a support for its efforts from an association with the momentum and visibility as New Hope. We thank and will do our best to live up to the demands on us.

## **Local elections in Nepal**

In the last newsletter we told you that Lakpa, our manager of the School home, had been elected into a local Assembly in Humla. In May, June and September, there have been local elections in Nepal. The first elections under the new Constitution and the first local elections in 20 years. According to the new Constitution, the country is divided into seven Provinces, which in turn are divided into Regions. Humla is a region the province no. 6. (See map). Each region is divided into Municipalities. The School home is situated in Namkha Rural Municipality, which is the largest in area but smallest regarding to residents, 3 900 residents of 50 000 in Humla. Each Municipality is further divided into Wards, consisting of a number of villages. Lakpa is elected into a Ward, consisting of the villages of Yangar, Yalwang and Chala.

The election was conducted in three rounds. In May the elections took place in provinces 3, 4 and 6, in June in provinces of 1, 5 and 7. Elections in province, no. 2 took place on 2 September.

The result – excluding province 2- has been a success for the CPN-UML, which is the joined Communist parties. The second largest party is so far the Nepali Congress, NC, and the third largest party is the Maoists. Parties. They have 44%, 36% and 14% respectively of the so far allocated places in province parliaments.

In Humla the Maoists became the largest party. This is also true for Namkha Municipality. This is surprising considering that we have heard about the Maoist previous actions in Humla. An analysis of that remains to be done. On the 26<sup>th</sup> November and on the 6<sup>th</sup> December there are elections to the Parliament.

Greetings from The Board of  
**KMCH Support Group**  
by  
Hans

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