

Happy Easter season! Happy Spring! (Northern hemisphere) Happy New Year! (Nepal – the year 2080 has now begun – as of April 14!) And – happy end of tax season for the U.S! 😊

It has been several months since we have communicated with everyone. We really enjoyed hearing from so many over Christmas and it was wonderful to celebrate with friends and family here in the Midwest. We actually were in a deep freeze over Christmas and were thankful to get to church – we appreciated a place to stay and a wonderful feast with our cousins Patty and David. Thanks!!



We are not sure where the months of January, February, and March have gone... and now April is half over. We spent much time thinking, praying, talking and praying some more, and have finally decided that we will start the process to return to Nepal for another year or two from the end of September. It was not an easy decision, but it seems that the work God has in mind for us there is not yet done. (Or, maybe the work God needs to do in us isn't finished!) We would appreciate your prayers as we start the process of another transition – and packing, sorting and arranging everything that needs completed.



We have so enjoyed being near Debbie's parents over these past months. Eating lunch together almost daily, driving back and forth with Dad to choir, singing together at church, and being part of a weekly bible study with mom. Also, attending the small, but mighty Springfield church on Sunday evenings! Debbie made a trip down to Gulf



Shores, Alabama with Mom and Dad to visit Uncle Phil and Aunt Faye – it was a beautiful place and a great time together...even though the building we were in lost water for a day! (Made me think of Nepal!)

Les continues to work hard at the Crossroad Medical clinic – 3 days a week in Harrison, and 1 at 'Over the Rhine' in Cincinnati. He is quite busy and is always encouraged when a patient improves after following his advice. I know he will be missed there. He will work through the end of August so he will have been there for a full year.



We have enjoyed several visits with our wonderful grandchildren (and we like their mom and dad, too!). Mostly up in Michigan, but they have come down recently to be with us on what they call "the adventure farm". They are growing up so quickly and we love being part of their lives when we can. We also have been able to get out to Vegas and CA to see Rachel and Les's mom, and it is always a pleasure to catch up with Debbie's sister and family when we are there.





Debbie will play in her final band concert for this season in a couple of weeks. It has been so wonderful to be back in western music again. We love the church choir, and Debbie even did a handbell solo one morning – that was a challenge!!

We keep in touch with our friends in Nepal – it is just amazing that we can now video chat with them for free!

(When we first went to Nepal in 1990, we had to book a call to the U.S. – at the cost of about \$1 a minute for the cheap rate!) Technology can be wonderful.

I would like to share a story that was told to us recently by the head of the Social Services department in Tansen. He will be retiring soon – after working almost 30 years at the hospital. He will be very missed.

Guna, a 7-year-old girl, was playing near the open fire used for cooking when some of her clothes caught on fire. She was burned by the flames. Her mother was away from the house cutting grass when the accident occurred, and a neighbor found her to tell her. (In poor village homes, the cooking place isn't designed for the safety of children. Many times, the mother who is primarily responsible for the children is also busy with other tasks and unable to keep a close eye out).

Guna, crying and in pain, was going to try to find her mother, but another neighbor kept her. The mother and her friends took Guna to the local medical shop (about 30 minutes' walk from the house) where they were told that her burns needed more care than they could provide. One of the neighbors booked a jeep and sent Guna and her mother to the Mission hospital for treatment.

Guna was admitted to the pediatric ward and started on IV antibiotics. She needed skin grafting as her burn was very deep. She also had a lot of physiotherapy. She stayed in the hospital for more than a month.



Guna lives with her mother and 2 siblings. Her father went to India to work, but ended up marrying another woman and leaving his first family without any help. Guna's aunt was able to give them a small plot of land with a small house for them to live in, and her mother works another person's farm – and gets 50% of the food grown. They struggle to get by. Fortunately, their school fees are taken care of by the government as they are so very poor.

This little girl was able to be treated, loved and cared for because of gifts given to the hospital fund for poor patients. When she was discharged, they were also given clothing since she only had one set of clothes when she came for help. Guna's mother was very thankful that she didn't have to bear the burden of a huge loan to pay for her daughter's treatment! (For the curious – her bill came to a total of \$835 for all the surgeries and the stay in the hospital with all the meds, food, etc that was provided. So – a small gift goes a long way in Nepal!!) And – your prayers go even further.

Thank you for your love and care for us. We know that your prayers keep us going. We pray for you, as well, and look forward to times we can be together. Keep in touch! Love, Debbie & Les