

Dear

How are you? How was 2021? Yes, another very unusual year and let's hope that 2022 will be an improvement. For me, although there has been much uncertainty, I thank God that we are still moving forward.

Here is just a summary of what has happened and what you have helped towards. Although there has always been a hope of returning to Nepal, it has not been realistically possible. More about that later. Also, it was not possible to attend a conference in the United States due to the covid restrictions.

When I was last in Nepal, I was often saying that it would be good to have some time to get on with a number of background projects which involve much time with a laptop - I didn't expect it to turn out quite like it has, but the opportunity has certainly been there.

The main Gurung project has very much been put on hold since the start of the pandemic although it has been possible to make and upgrade a few tracts. The team has also been involved with making a Christian film in their mother tongue. Sadly, the wife of the pastor fell asleep with probable covid.

Work on the Bible for Children has been productive. I've managed to upgrade all of the original images for the story books and I am now working on a few remaining stories, which are OK, but if possible, better to improve. This is about 1300 images. The organisation has also updated its current 374 languages with the drawings.

It has been a real blessing that a past contact from a minority language group in the Everest region has been very enthusiastic about the stories and he completed the translation earlier in the year. I've now made all of them into files for printing. Such was his enthusiasm that he was able to record all of the stories using his smart phone. I've now made a reading app with 46 out of the 60 stories.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Bible for Children asked me about the possibility of help out with another organisation called The Mailbox Club which is a series of lessons for children. This would be to convert paper stories into electronic format, but I'm waiting to see where that will head.

The other main project of the year has been The Ancient Path booklet. I have been able to make several reading app versions of the booklet including one in Vietnamese and another in Burmese. The latter was quite a challenge due to not being able to read the script and the words not having spaces between them, but it was good to be able to work with someone over the internet despite the problems in Myanmar. These apps are available on Google Play Store.

Fortunately, the people who originated this booklet were able to stop over in the UK for a couple of weeks on their way to Nepal to meet people about getting more languages translated and recorded. This is especially for people groups that haven't really been reached. It was really good to be able to meet in person at Paddington last month.

There has been good feedback about the booklet with people asking when can they have it in their own language.

A pastor I know in a town where I am based has been using the Nepali version with his food ministry and people are coming to faith through it - Praise the Lord!

Thank to your support I have been able to pass some of it on to different places. I've just mentioned the pastor and his food ministry. We have been able to buy the absolute basics, rice, lentils, oil and salt. Many people in Nepal are daily wage earners so when there is a lockdown, many people lose their daily income. There is also some ministry help.

A project that has developed this year is the daily reading book, A Farmer's Year by Angus Buchan. These are very straight forward, practical and encouraging daily readings. Using Google Translate, I have been able to produce a draft Nepali translation of the entire book with each page emailed to someone in Kathmandu. He is then editing the Nepali and sending it back to me. He has now checked up to December but has been away in his village for a month without internet

connection, but he has just arrived back in Kathmandu and hopefully we can continue. Because of your support, I have been able to pay him an honorarium for his work, and he is very grateful for that. Ideally, if there is first, a good Nepali translation, then that can be used as a basis for other minority languages.

You may recall that I have connections with a YWAM project called King's Kids and we've been able to help them on some of their children's outreach trips to villages. This is usually to help with transport costs or buying materials for the children. One recent trip supplied a number of jackets for the cold weather. They have also been able to print and use some of the children's booklets.

I mentioned at the beginning about the possibility of returning to Nepal. This has been such a challenge on two fronts. Everyone is familiar with the issues regarding covid. I had really hoped things would have eased up by now. As I don't have the ability to stay on an annual visa like before, I could only go on tourist visa and I had hoped to go in January, just for a month. However, I would need to know that I could travel on exact dates and that there would be no need for isolation at either end. (I have had three vaccinations). At present there is much hassle with all the testing, plus, not having direct flights means that there are extra considerations for the transit countries. Now there is the Botswana-Omicron variant. I have just received a new 'British' passport after several weeks.

The other more significant issue is my parents. It is a real blessing that they are able to live in their own house (where I am staying), but it is a fragile situation. My father has dementia, but thankfully is fairly content, but my mother has to be his carer - cooking, washing, making sure he has the correct medication at the right time. My mother is not as strong as she used to be and has a heart condition that requires a kind of pacemaker. If anything happened to her, my father would not be able to manage on his own. This is why I would look at only being away for a month (to start with) and know that I would not have to isolate, or worse, quarantine for ten days at great expense. I hope this has given you a picture of where things stand at the moment, and as a donor, I wanted to write a letter to you personally rather than make this more general.

Thank you again for your prayers and support. Sorry there are no calendars this year. If you have any comments, questions or concerns about anything I have written, please feel free to do so.

I really wish that it will be possible for you to have a blessed and meaningful Christmas this year.

God bless

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Links:

Bible for Children <https://bibleforchildren.org/>

The Mailbox Club <https://mailboxclub.org/>

The Ancient Path <https://global.liveglobal.org/resource/ancient-path/>

App on Google Play <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.liveglobal.ap.nep>

