

Dear ones,

Nov. 6, 2016

It's the most beautiful season in Nepal - we have enjoyed absolutely spectacular mountain views every day for the past couple of weeks. We can especially appreciate them now from our home at the top of the hospital compound which we moved into just a year ago. God's creation never fails to amaze us.



It's been over 3 months since our last letter. We appreciate hearing from many of you - and for your prayers. We are also thankful for those who read our blog and who often leave encouraging comments. Even though I don't respond to you all, your comments and emails are very much appreciated. Check it out if you haven't already -

<https://dornnonnepalmission.wordpress.com/>

The monsoon season this year was a good one - in the sense that we had lots of needed rain. It wasn't good for the people who lost homes, land or even their lives in the floods and landslides that always seem to be part of a monsoon season. We are thankful for the needed water - and our new 1 million liter rain storage tank here on the hospital compound is full!. This should be a big help to us in the dry season.

We flew to the U.S. on Sept 2 and were there just over 3 weeks. We SO loved seeing beautiful little Miriam - Les was smitten from first meeting! Luke and Laura kindly welcomed us multiple times into their home during our stay. We also enjoyed time with Rachel and many friends in Ohio, with Deb's parents in Indiana, and with Les's mom and sister in California. It was a busy 3 weeks, but we got to celebrate Rachel's birthday with her, and had a nice party for Deb's mom's 80<sup>th</sup> with lots of family. It was too short for all that we wanted to do - and each time we return to Nepal I have to grieve again the distance between us and loved ones.





Enjoying "tummy time" with Miriam,  
Celebrating Rachel's birthday,  
California with Les's mom  
Deb's mom's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party.



We returned to Nepal in time to see Hannah's musical production at her school in Kathmandu. They did the show called, "Honk, Jr." Honk is the story of the ugly duckling set to music - Hannah was the music director of the program. She and the kids did a great job - and since we arrived in KTM early on a Wed morning (after about 24 hours of travel) and stayed awake for the show that evening, we can guarantee it was very entertaining.



On the Thursday, we rode the mission bus back to Tansen - this trip only took 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours as compared to the 13 when we went into KTM at the beginning of Sept. The road conditions have worsened here over the months.... Poor Hannah won the prize for the longest trip, however. She came out to see us and spend a week of her vacation time with us in early Oct, and her trip here took 18 hours! To travel less than 200 miles. She was pretty wiped out when she arrived, but safe!



We were straight back into work after getting home to Tansen. Jet lag doesn't seem to get any easier, but we kept on as best we could! The hospital continued to be very busy through much of October - even with the Hindu festivals that take place during that time. We just finished the last big festival which is called Tihar - also sometimes known as the Festival of lights. It makes for a beautiful evening walk as all the houses are decorated with lights and candles - kind of like driving around to see the Christmas lights in the U.S. But - here they are putting out the lights to attract the attention of the goddess called Laxmi so that she will come into the house and bless the people with riches and prosperity.



As the weather is now turning colder, we are entering the season where burn injuries happen more frequently. We recently had a little baby - less than a year old - who crawled into the cooking fire and got badly burned on both legs before the mom could get to him. Unfortunately, even though the doctors here fought hard to save his life, including amputating both legs and working to graft skin onto the wounds, he wasn't able to rally and died of complications. There was also an older lady whose sari caught fire as she had her back to the fire - and by the time she could notice and get the long cloth away from her, she had been burned over 65% of her body and wasn't able to be saved. These tragedies occur

much too frequently as many people in the villages continue to use open fires to cook. Just today Les had a patient in the out-patient clinic who had burns over 10% of her upper body - this time it was because boiling milk had spilled over her. Because they live far away, and leaving work behind in the village is difficult, it took 2 weeks for her to come to the hospital. She will have to undergo some difficult procedures to clean her burned areas, take antibiotics to deal with the infection, and then have skin grafting to promote healing. Our hospital is one of the only places outside of KTM where burns patients are treated - but it is a long and difficult process. One reason they can come here is our Medical Assistance Fund (Free care for poor patients) so that they don't have to bear the burden of the cost of many nights in the hospital, and surgeries, etc, as they try to get well.

We appreciate those of you who support the work here with prayers and giving. For our U.S. based friends and family, in case you are looking for a place to give this year, please mark your calendars! UMC #GivingTuesday is Nov. 29. (UMC is United Methodist Church - our sending agency.) Last year, thanks to the extravagant generosity of supporters, nearly \$2.8 million was raised on UMC #GivingTuesday to fund projects all over the world. Some of these gifts allowed us to continue to help the poor patients and the burns patients who come to Tansen hospital. UMC #GivingTuesday is part of an international movement to extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season. It offers an opportunity to start off the holiday season with giving instead of getting by supporting organizations like Tansen Mission Hospital that "GIVE LIGHT. GIVE LOVE. GIVE LIFE." 100 percent of all gifts made through Advance number 13421A (Tansen Mission Hospital) support free care for poor patients and equipment needs. You can also give to our salary support (Les - 10919Z, Debbie - 10920Z) at [umcmmission.org/give](http://umcmmission.org/give)



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Give light • Give love • Give life

Give to any of the more than  
800 Advance projects and more than  
300 missionaries around the world on  
UMC #GivingTuesday, Nov. 29, 2016.  
Thank you.

May this coming holiday season find you well. We give thanks for you!

In Him, लेस (Les) and देबी (Debbie)