



## President Report September 2008

Dear Dharmik Supporters,

Lucille Ball (American radio and motion-picture actress and comedy star, 1911-1989) is quoted as saying “If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it.”

I’m usually the one who gets asked to do things and I normally do them. One of my jobs is to get this newsletter out, and I am very sorry that it has taken this long to get it together. Last year, after we came home from Nepal and Mary-Louise and I felt inspired to tell others about the problems in Nepal and how we can all help, I set about creating reasons to be in Nepal. As I said in the last newsletter I have created an IT software business in Nepal and am also growing coffee. The business has been such a work load, that I have been in Nepal for about half of this year. The paradox is that even though I am physically in Nepal, when I’ve been there I’ve had very little time for Dharmik and have had huge work loads in IT.

Now Lucille Ball also said “I would rather regret the things that I have done than the things that I have not”. So in that sense I’m now getting more control over the IT and I’m finally writing my part of the newsletter.

Thank you very much all sponsors and donors for your patience and kindness. Your committee is run by volunteers and we all have challenges fitting our Dharmik duties into our busy lives. It was so amazing this year that Nicia took two months off work to give her time to Dharmik volunteering in Nepal, and she achieved a huge amount and has left a legacy for years to come. Apart from all the physical changes she lead on the ground she also created the portfolio of all the sponsored children for each sponsor. I am so thankful to her. She is now in Paris doing exciting work for Marie Claire magazine. Read more about Nicia in her report in this newsletter.

Another person I really must thank is Mary-Louise. She has raised a huge amount of money and attention for Dharmik. She lead a group of 10 women on a fund raising Trek in the Himalayas in April, she is regularly talking with groups such as Rotary with great results and most recently she has opened a shop in Milton selling Nepalese products and donating significant amounts to Dharmik. Without her efforts our ability to make a difference would be much less. She also has a report later in this newsletter.

I also want to thank Verena who is in Nepal now helping us upgrade our formal procedures and process, and Julie who is keeping us on track with our AUSAID certification and advising us on early childhood issues.

We have had some major challenges in Nepal this year.

SAI home continues to sail along and Nicia's visit along with her friend Jason's help was fantastic for those children especially. All the girls are now attending a school where they are receiving individual attention and performing well. All females are routinely disadvantaged in Nepal in entrenched ways. We made a conscious decision to send the girls first. Next April we hope to have enough funds to also send the boys to the better school. Their current school does not have the resources to properly assist students who are either above or below average. Facilitating better education is a key way we can affect long term change. The rescued twins Ganga and Jamuna are thriving in the Sai family environment.

CCRC is a work in progress. An American organisation FTIA, was helping CCRC before we met them, and now we are working with them and they are channeling their donation via us. I met their CEO in Kathmandu in May and together we met CCRC and explained the agreement we had made to share resources and get the best outcome for CCRC.

We are in the middle of a transformation there, starting with the children's environment, staff and diet. We now have a store room with two months of healthy balanced food and we buy fresh fruit and vegetables on a daily basis. We have a new team and Yuzeena is working with them to achieve a better environment for the children and babies.

CPWD is in an interesting state and we will have more news on their situation in the next newsletter. (SEE Nicia report)

Bal Mandir is another work in progress....

Our focus now is all about process improvement. We have employed Swikriti Thapa who is in our office creating forms and processes and procedures and then making sure we follow them. All our meetings are now minuted and we are producing systems for every aspect of our operation in Nepal. Swikriti is working in our new office in the Thamel area which is being funded by Narayan. We are hoping to attract tourists to our office to inform them of the work we are doing in Nepal.

Best Regards,  
Mark McIntyre.  
Kathmandu October 2008

