



Next Generation Nepal

December 2011 Newsletter

REUNIFICATION AND HOPE IN 2011

NGN Reunites 14 Children from Infamous Children's Home Mukti Nepal with Families



Manish reunited with all of his children once again in Kathmandu.

When Manish, an impoverished father of three who was separated from his wife, sent two of his children to live at a home in Kathmandu, he thought he was acting in their best interests. "Little did I know, [the woman running the home] would make a business of it," he said.

In April of this year, NGN welcomed 20 scared and malnourished children,

including Manish's son and daughter, into Karnali Home 1. Previously, the children had been living at the infamous children's home Mukti Nepal, where they all shared one room in constant fear of the brutal beatings regularly dispensed by Mukti's owner. Once at Karnali, the children questioned then-NGN

Country Director Julien Lovera. "A few asked me whether they would still be beaten, whether they would still go hungry, and if they could play football," Lovera recalls.

Since these trying beginnings, the efforts of NGN's reintegration team, Sandup Lama, Samjyor Lama, and Gyala Lama, have resulted in 14 children being reunited with their families.

"It's really a big achievement for us," says Sandup. "Because now they can grow in their own community with their own family."

The NGN team has affectionately nicknamed this group of children, "the Mukti Kids". In Sanskrit, Mukti means "release," and in modern usage is used to denote freedom from suffering. With the help of NGN over the last seven months, these children are now exploring the incredible freedom to just be children.

Reunification Efforts

20

Search Missions

75

Days Outside Kathmandu

1,000

Interviews with Villagers

14

Families Reunited



Elsa Brule and Sharon Prince in Nepal on a recent trip with NGN.

"Home to Humla" Matching Grant Program Through December 31, 2011!

The Holiday Season always reminds us that there really is no place like home. **And this year, your gift to NGN will go even further toward helping the most vulnerable children of Nepal realize their dream of going home.**

Thanks to the generosity of Elsa and David Brule and Sharon Prince and the Grace Farms Foundation, **every dollar donated to NGN by Dec. 31st will be matched!** Your donation could have a lifetime impact on a lost child in Nepal.

You can see how your money helps a child realize that dream and donate directly here, or check out our toolkit for ideas on how you can hold your fundraiser!

Reuniting the Lost Children of Nepal with Their Families and Culture

www.nextgenerationnepal.org

Through the Eyes of a 6th Grader

Jackson Freed reflects on his recent trip to Nepal with NGN



Jackson Freed, a 6th grader from Bronxville, NY, traveled to Nepal this October with NGN Founder Conor Grennan and some of NGN's most passionate supporters. He has also helped to raise over \$1,600 for NGN. GO JACKSON! This is his story in his words.

When I first got to Nepal, I was in shock. It was so different from the United States. I can't imagine what it would be like to go without Conor and Liz there to guide you. Note to self: when traveling to Nepal, if you are a man, cut your hair short. About six times I got asked whether I was a boy or a girl- three times from the kids from *Little Princes*.

The kids from Little Princes are really cool. I mean it. They can make a kite out of a broom, newspaper, tape and string. They can launch a kite from a roof, let it go out about a half a mile, and then bring it back to the roof. When I first got to meet the kids, it was like having your favorite character from Harry Potter actually speak to you.

After about three days in Kathmandu, we got on a plane to Humla. It wasn't really a plane that you would get on in the United States. It had duct tape around the exit window and you had to climb over rice bags to get to your seat.

When we got to Simikot, Priya, from

Little Princes, gave me tika and a silk scarf – which I have in my bedroom right now. Priya is a beast [Editor's Note: "beast" means somebody who is awesome, and spectacular in every way.] We had a race and she won, but just by a foot! At the small temple in Simikot, there were a bunch of rocks about eight feet high. One of them was tilted, so Nishal (also from the book) and I ran on the side of it for around seven steps, and then tried to find a way to fall that wouldn't hurt too much. Nishal did it on the first try.

Everyone kept saying how amazing it was that we were playing. To me, it wasn't that amazing that I was playing. Because that is basically all I do except when I am doing homework or sleeping. To me, it was amazing that they were playing, because the kids from Little Princes have had a pretty tough life. They are either orphans or separated from their families. Some of them were beaten by traffickers or they have seen kids die.

I realized when I got back home (and had a hamburger which was AWE-SOME) that I didn't need new stuff. So for my birthday, I asked my family to donate to NGN instead of giving me a present. They did that and it made me feel good. My friend Ellette made a big donation for my birthday and that made me feel really good too. I also raised money selling things at Church to help NGN find a way for trafficked children to get back home. That's all I have to say, make a donation to NGN!!!



RESULTS CHANGING LIVES

470

trafficked children have been reconnected to their families

122

children have been rescued from destitute situations

88

family-finding missions have been organized in 27 districts of Nepal

69

children have been permanently reunited with their families



"I feel so happy now. I just feel nice all the time and so proud."

-- Sita, 14, was rescued by NGN from Mukti Nepal in April and now lives with her older brother and sister. Doing well in school, Sita loves math and science, playing badminton, and dreaming about what to be when she grows up.

You can make a difference in the life of a lost child in Nepal this holiday season.

www.nextgenerationnepal.org

Finding Families

Samjyor Lama, NGN Reintegration Manager, on a miraculous reunification

Samjyor Lama has been working with NGN since 2010 and has been responsible for over 70 cases. Here, he talks about his most rewarding case to date.

One of the biggest challenges we face as reintegration managers is dealing with children who are so young that they do not have the proper information we need to find their families. This was the case with Arjun and Sushila, two children rescued from Mukti this year. Gyala Lama (NGN Reintegration Manager) and I took the case, but began with conflicting and confusing information. We had the names of two potential districts, several villages and the father's name. We went to search for the family in two districts, near the India border. We later found out that we had the wrong village and family names. But we did not give up. We spent nearly a week searching – sometimes by walking, sometimes by rickshaw. Whoever we found, we just kept asking and asking about these two children. But we found no answers.



Samjyor, Sushila, Arjun and their father.

Our last option was to look somewhere else. Written on a single sheet of paper was the name of a village in a mountain district far away. To get there, we spent 24 hours on a bus, then another day hiking through the mountains. When we reached the village we were looking for, we spent nearly two days going to each house. On the third day, we nearly gave up. But a man approached us. He had been in a neighboring village when he had heard that we were asking about the family of two children from an orphanage in Kathmandu. It turned out he was the father we had been looking for!

There are no words for how happy we felt at that moment. It was the greatest result I've ever achieved working practically. In school, I worked really hard, but it was all theory. This was working in several districts without proper information and trekking through mountains to bring a family back together. It was a great, great achievement. If we had given up, we wouldn't have found the father, and then these children would never have been reunited. It is an important lesson about never giving up.

Holidays in Nepal: Dasain & Tihar



Children at NGN's Karnali Home 1 in Kathmandu celebrate Dasain and Tihar, the biggest holidays in Nepal. On the left, children light candles for the offerings. At right, a boy receives a tika, or blessing, from his sister.



Going Home:

The Importance of NGN in Simikot



A boy rescued by NGN on his way home to his family.

In 2010, NGN opened Karnali Home 2 near Simikot, the district headquarters of Humla. Since opening, KH2 has played an integral role in supporting and housing 37 children as they began the process of reunification with their families. The importance of this transitional space for children returning to Humla is best summed up by Farid Ait-Mansour, NGN's Nepal Country Director.

"The reunification of a family is a complex and long process, especially for the children having been separated at a young age, from a region which is dramatically different from the rest of Nepal," Ait-Mansour said. "Having the children in a transit home in Simikot permits them to take incremental steps to re-learn their dialect, culture, village life, and most of all, re-build the relation with their family; and one of those important steps is going home for the holidays."

In October, all of the children living at KH2 were able to go home to celebrate the holidays of Dasain and Tihar with their families for the first time! NGN is committed to continuing to growing KH2 so that more children can experience the joy of going home.

**Questions? Comments?
Contact Us!**

info@nextgenerationnepal.org

With your support, NGN has reconnected 470 children with their families!

www.nextgenerationnepal.org

Holiday Giving: Step by Step

3 STEPS to getting children **Home to Humla...**



...which step will you help them take?

*Every gift made to Next Generation Nepal by December 31, 2011
will be matched by two of our generous donors.*

This holiday season, consider the impact you could have on the life of a lost child in Nepal.



Next Generation Nepal preserves family unity and strengthens communities by reconnecting trafficked children with their parents and culture in post-conflict Nepal by searching remote regions to find families of displaced children; reconnecting these children with their families; caring for children in transitional homes that offer safety and security during the reconnection process; and strengthening local communities to support the safe reunification of children with their families whenever possible, in partnership with local and international organizations.

www.nextgenerationnepal.org