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Newsletter of 10th January, 2009

Namasté,

On behalf of the whole Karya team, we thank you warmly for your support during the year 2008, which allowed us to bring back a smile on many Nepalese children's faces.

We wish you an excellent year 2009, full of happiness to live and share.

2009 begins with many projects for Karya. Julien will share with you the last mission in Humla in December that particularly allowed us to make a first evaluation of the educational system of this district.

Pupils of the high school in Pontcharra will give you a summary of the week which they organized in their high school in December. We thank them for their initiative.

Finally, Karya is taking responsibility by getting more involved with the organization Next Generation Nepal in order to expedite its projects of reunification in Nepal.

Enjoy your reading!

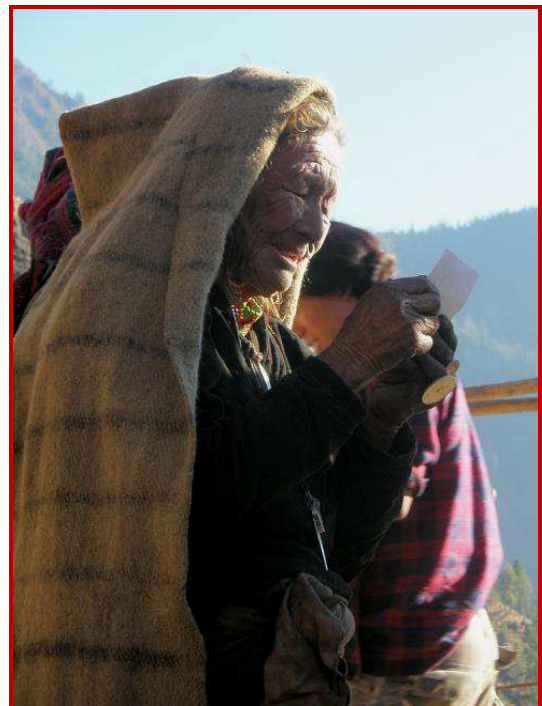
Adeline,
For the Karya Team.

➤ Mission in Humla

Adapted from Julien's report

Within the framework of our actions linked to the project of reunification, which we are carrying out in collaboration with the NGO Volunteer Service Nepal (VSN), we organized a trip to Humla. There, we visited the relatives of the children currently living at the children home of VSN.

The team consisted of Sandup and Julien, working for Karya, and Prakash, working for VSN. As for all our trips before, porters who know the ways in this district accompanied us.



A grand-mother looking at the picture of her grand-daughter not seen for many years.

• Reunification Project

We visited the families of 15 children whose reunification seems to be possible. At this stage, the objective was not to assess their situation anymore thanks to the work already done by Galjan, but just to inform them of their child's return, probably in April 2009.

For all these families, we took the time to explain the reasons of this reunification. We explained them that in our eyes, it is extremely important to have a daily relationship between child and parents in order to guarantee the child's psychological well-being and to allow him/her to unfold untroubled. Moreover, we emphasized that it is also the government's wish to reunify all children living in children homes, if they do have families, in order to vacate places for the dramatic number of orphans living in the streets of Kathmandu.



A mother who is listening happily to the letter of her two sons read out by Sandup

Whenever it was possible, we stayed overnight in some of the families' houses to extend this time of mutual exchange. It seemed important to us to take the time to listen to them about their feelings concerning this project and the return of their child - often having left their houses many years ago.

Generally, the families' reaction was positive. All of them were very interested in their child's living situation, showing great confidence in the work done by our NGOs during the last years. All of them accepted their child's return.

Nevertheless, many family members expressed their worries, especially concerning their financial situation. Indeed, this district is one of the poorest of the country and another mouth to feed means to

search for another source of income, sometimes meaning even more work in the fields so that everyone can get something to eat.



Discussion with a family

Poverty in these districts also gives rise to another fear, concerning the child's adaptation to these new living conditions. Indeed, the gap is wide between the living conditions in Kathmandu and the ones in Humla. We do fear that the children will have a difficult time in the beginning. But will their parents' presence not a compensation big enough for these material losses? We do think it will be.

Moreover we were able to reassure the families through the fact that our NGOs wish to keep in touch with the children after the reunification in order to support their further development. Furthermore, we are currently thinking about the best way of supporting the families during this transition period.

• Visiting families where no reunification was possible

We also wished to meet those families to whom we could only deliver pictures and letters. For some of them, these letters were the first sign of life of their children or their grand-children since they had left for the capital.

To watch pictures of their babus (kids) with their school uniforms created an intense moment of emotion and relief for these relatives who sometimes didn't have any certitude concerning their child's well-being for years.

Prakash, then, had to answer to a flood of questions from the parents and villagers surrounding us to satisfy their thirst of knowledge.



A child's father asking Prakash many questions.

We took many pictures and collected letters for the kids who, in turn, were expecting them impatiently.

- **Schools assessment**

The aim of this trip was also to assess local schools in Humla, at least those located near the villages of the children living under Karya's and VSN's responsibility.

We were able to work with school principals and teachers thanks to our contacts in Humla.

We can tell from these evaluations that there is a big lack of training material. Although school books are provided by the government, schools can hardly offer any notebooks for the pupils to write something down. Pens and pencils children have to buy for themselves, sometimes having to walk to the next village where you can find such material.

We could also talk to the principals about problems concerning work organization or the management of teachers working for the schools. Indeed, there seem to be major shortcomings in these professionals' training concerning basic teaching but also regular attendance. Contrary to the what we know in France, there is more need to check teachers' absenteeism than pupils'.



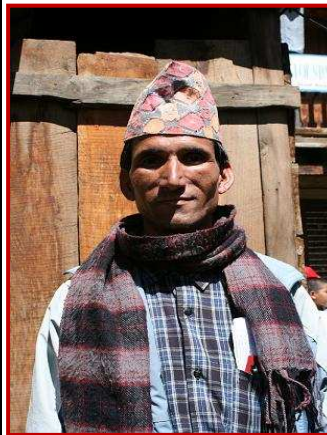
School in Lali



These contacts were interesting and allowed us to come back with new ideas concerning possible projects that we can try to set up to support these people.

➤ **Nepalese week in the high school of Pontcharra, Isère, France**

Article from the pupils



Teacher in Jaira



Decay of the school in Lipni

“We are some pupils studying in upper sixth in the high school Pierre du Téraïl in Pontcharra, France. We discovered Karya last year thanks to our chemistry and physics teacher, Anthony Job. We felt concerned by the current situation in Nepal and wished to increase other pupils' awareness. We organized a solidarity week at school dedicated to Nepal, with an exhibition in the entrance hall, informing about the country and the work of Karya. Additionally Adeline prepared and presented two slide-shows and we sold tea and coffee from Fair Trade in aid of the organization. We also sold some “kilometers” during the summer holidays. These activities were gainful and we transferred the sum of 60 Euros to Karya. For us, this action-week was the first approach to humanitarian aid and we appreciated it. We wish to have another opportunity to experience this again. Also we would like to thank Karya and everyone who helped us to carry out this project.”

➤ Partnership with the organization Next Generation Nepal (NGN)

Since its creation, Karya is working closely together with an American organization, Next Generation Nepal (NGN), represented by Conor. Since the beginning, Karya and NGN have the same objective: these two organizations are fighting for the lost children of Kathmandu, so that they can find their families again.



Today the partnership between the two organizations is becoming stronger. From now on, Karya is committing itself to carry out NGN's projects of reunification in the field. For its part, NGN will raise funds in the US to finance these projects of reunification.

➤ Christmas carols in Ireland



During Christmas holidays, Dave and Nicola, previous volunteers at the children's home, participated in a concert of Christmas carols.

Thanks to this, they collected 500€ for the organization. Many many thanks to the singers!

➤ Postcards selling

The selling of postcards has been a great success during this Christmas and New Year's period. There are still some postcards left to write to your friends all year long, but do not wait too long! To order the postcards, you just need to contact us via Karya's email address.

(8 postcards size 4x6 inches and 8 envelopes: 10€, carriage costs: 0,87€).



Set of 8 postcards

The whole Karya team wishes you a very happy new year

How to help those children...

Karya depends on sponsors to run its projects.

Here you can see what we can do with your donations...

- **Basic food** for a child for one month: 23 €
- **Education** in private school for a child for one year: 120 €
- **Total expenses** for a child for one year: 800 €
- **Water** for 25 children for one month: 60 €
- **Rent** of the house for one month: 150 €

Every Dollar can help us in Nepal!

If you wish to help us:

- **Internet (credit card):** safe donation with PayPal from our web site:
<http://association.karya.free.fr/>

- **Cheque:** to send to Karya at:
KARYA
57 Route de La Plaine
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Do not hesitate to visit our website or to contact us to get more information concerning our actions.

Thank you for your support!!!