

Andy and Jenny Saunders

Mud and Mountains

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Andy relaxes by getting out of the city on his mountain bike. The last couple of weeks have included fearsome landslides, deep mud, slippery, algae covered slopes, and a few wonderful mountain views. Since arriving back, our experiences at work have also included treacherous moments, times we felt stuck in the mud, and some hopeful high points.

WORK

Jenny: There are lots of changes going on in Elijah Counselling and Training Centre right now, including an office move to new premises within 2 weeks! Please pray for grace, love, unity and wisdom in all this rebuilding and resettling. And also pray for one of the counsellors who is exhausted and close to burnout.

Andy: Most students have adapted to Zoom teaching and Moodle online learning very well but there are a couple of students who seem to have lost their focus because they have had so long out of the spiritually supportive environment of the College. Pastoral support is much harder on the phone/laptop.

We had an online accreditation visit from the Asian Theological Association and we have been given provisional accreditation for one year. A number of deficiencies were noted and a plan to address them before the end of the year is being put together. Our Principal has successfully completed his PhD and will be returning to Nepal in November. We very much feel the need of his experienced leadership and consensual style of management.



PERSONAL NEWS

It was great to get back to Nepal! The journey and quarantine went ok and Jenny is sleeping much better. We have re-connected with many Nepali and ex-pat friends, meeting outside in between the monsoon rainstorms.

We recently watched a whole tennis match together. (Andy normally watches on his own). Jenny was really challenged by Emma Raducanu's phrase; 'Take one point at a time.' Trying to stay in the present moment rather than worrying about what's ahead. Nepali people are very skilled at living in the present moment. We have a lot to learn from them.

The next research visa is looking hopeful and a retired professor whom Jenny previously worked with has agreed to supervise the project again. The new head of the masters counselling course has invited her to advise him about setting up supervision practice and training in the department - a wonderful opportunity!

She has 2 training groups teaching the Supervision foundation course in parallel. The challenge will be when they join together to teach the advanced course. Christian and Hindu organisations don't usually collaborate. Christians are fearful of compromising their faith and keep themselves very separate.



NEPALI TIMING

In Nepal everything happens best at the last minute. There is a flurry of activity and focus and energy. It is pointless to try and make things happen before then as I learn over and over again.

On the evenings of Monday 20th to Friday 24th September our next supervision foundation course is being led by the new team of trainers. They are three enthusiastic and professional Hindu counsellors, and it is a joy to work with them. They are organised, prayerful and so excited to be part of this project. Here is how the registration process went.

11/9/21 Course is advertised online.

16/9/21 No applications at all.

17/9/21 Only 2 have signed up so far which I find unnerving but the energy in the team in the present moment is quite remarkable.

19/9/21 We now have 8 signed up participants.

20/9/21 We now have 11 signed up. Course will start in 5 hours...

Please pray for:

Our research visa to come through.

The Christian and Hindu counselling organisations to start working together.

A good break, trekking over the national holiday.

That with the return of the Principal NBBC will be able to move forward positively into 2022.

And pray too that we may have that Raducanu ability to stay in the moment, not worrying too much about the mud or the landslides, but focussing on the task in hand.

Thank you for your continued support - it means a huge amount to us.

Andy and Jenny

If you would like to support Andy and Jenny Saunders by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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