

Friends of Himalayan Sherpa People

An Update on Our School Project



This was an inspirational year for our school construction project. Through the generosity of the many Eastern Sierra donors and additional funding by a Korean Monk living and teaching in Nepal (Young Bong Lama), we made incredible progress. Your donations both purchased the land *and* allowed building construction to proceed. The end result was that the school was finished and classes began in April of this year! The children of Phapre and the surrounding villages now have a school with a wooden floor, windows, and individual classrooms. While we may find these “improvements” essential, they are a true gift to villagers that had only an unheated two-room building with drafty openings for “windows” and a dirt floor.

The materials for the building were either carried to the village via porters (no roads!) or were collected and harvested from surrounding forests. Boards were hand cut in the forest and carried to the school site; stones were quarried locally and fit into place for the walls. Mud was used as the “mortar”, doors and windows were built and fit on site. The roofing material, nails, glass and materials that could not be harvested locally were bought and transported by truck from Kathmandu to the road end then walked two days to the school site.



This was an entire village project; men, women and kids participated in the construction. While the main building has been completed, interior walls, ceilings, and some flooring

remains to be finished. But, the children of Phapre now have a well-lit, five room classroom building that can accommodate their different grades rather than the two “room” borrowed house that all 75 kids crowded into.



The new five classroom building



Some of the kids that used the old house as their school building prepare for the day

Thank You for your interest and support!!

What Does the Future Hold.....

The school is nearly complete with remaining work to include interior finishing, final flooring and any remaining detail work. The addition of heating will bring the building up to a standard only dreamed of by Phapre villagers.

Like in many remote settlements, heating and cooking is traditionally done over an open fire. While this will remain an important component of village life, the lack of adequate venting of smoke presents a clear health hazard. The Friends of Himalayan Sherpa People (FHSP) are going to use school heating with a ventilation stack as a demonstration stove with the hopes of promoting this simple life saving improvement throughout the village.

On-going operations, the eventual construction of a library and clinic on the school grounds and promotion of ventilated heating & cooking will remain goals of FHSP. Watch for the launch of our new website at friendsofhimalayansherpapeople.org and the date for our winter fundraising event after the new year.



The Kingurding Monastery in the Phapre region
with a background of Himalayan Mountains

Nepal Today

Nepal was one of the few remaining absolute monarchies until 1990 when the royal family agreed to a *constitutional monarchy*. Rival political factions could not govern and in 1996 a splinter communist party launched an insurgency. In 2006 the UN stepped in and along with the Nepal government forged an agreement which integrated the Maoists into the political process. Today they are a legally recognized political party.

November 19th of this year brought elections to Nepal. The new government is charged with drafting a constitution for the country.

Not unlike many other fledging countries, the **Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal** is a work in progress.

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