I arrived in Nepal a day after the anniversary of the first earthquake of April 22nd 2015, (the second one was on May 12th 2015). Over 9,000 people lost their lives and thousands lost their homes and livelihoods. The tragic consequences of the 2 earthquakes permeated every aspect of my visit. It was constantly the central topic of conversation as people described the terrors they had experienced, and their subsequent losses. In Kathmandu city and beyond, the devastation was evident. Piles of bricks and rubble lie in the streets where houses and whole buildings have collapsed. Buildings in the centre of the city are being propped up by wooden support posts. Electricity poles stand precariously at 45% angles. People are living in makeshift iron-sheet houses, or simply under plastic sheets, on the ruins of their houses, trying to piece together some kind of a life with their meagre resources. Daily, the newspapers recount stories about the government’s, “out of sight, out of mind” approach to the disaster. Still thousands of people in the remote areas are living in shanty towns without proper shelter, bracing themselves for the next weather changes or epidemic. Warehouses remain full of sacks of rice and other, now rotting, foodstuffs, which have never been distributed because of appalling lack of organisation /coordination. It makes one wonder where the millions of relief monies have ended up. This is my 7th trip to Nepal and never has the shocking disparity between the rich and the poor been more apparent. I took with me the final sum of monies donated specially for the earthquake victims, and placed them in the care of Pastor Ashok, who lives in Mensel, Gorkha, a remote village on the road leading to the first epicentre. I have known him for 5 years, for he attended the 2nd Mission School, and since that time, he has faithfully served in his local village community. Today, his small house-church has grown to over 60 in number. His whole village was destroyed and they are still living in corrugated iron shelters or under tents. This sum of money was received with heartfelt gratitude and will be shared amongst the neediest people in his small community.
This was my 7th trip to Nepal, and this is the 6th Mission School we have partnered with and served at with Pastor Krishna and his team. There is a huge harvest field in Nepal. Although over 32 million gods are worshipped, many Nepalese, (in spite of much persecution,) are recognising the life-saving uniqueness of Jesus Christ. The goal of these small Mission Schools is to teach and disciple young, impoverished Christians, mainly from remote areas in the Himalayas, so that they can return to their villages to spread the Gospel. The Mission schools are 5 months long including a field trip. It has been thanks solely to donations that all these schools have been able to run. As usual, I taught a full 2 week block, reviewing in depth, the foundations of the faith, and also taught them how to share their faith by using simple visual aids. (I bring the pre-cut cardboard for these tools, and at the school, the students paint and finish preparing them.) As usual, I had a wonderful class of young students, all of whom, in spite of big challenges, are enthusiastically prepared to serve the Lord wherever He leads them. They shared their different stories about their conversions, and many of them found the living God because Jesus has healed them, (or a member of their family.) Their faith is vibrant, and, as usual, it was a privilege to teach to them, some of whom have received only a very basic education. The ‘Word of God is living and powerful’, and it is always a joy to witness how the Holy Spirit is working within the hearts of each pupil. The teachings on the ‘Blood of Christ’ and the ‘Power of Forgiveness’ impacted them deeply, and many shared on how the Holy Spirit had convicted them of the necessity to forgive, from their heart, a family member or a friend.

Inspired by Don’s suggestion, I took a packet of radish seeds with me, to plant as a ‘visual tool’ to illustrate (1 Cor.3:5-7). 2 days after my arrival, the seeds were planted by my eager students. The soil looked so poor that, in all honesty, I wondered if they had any hope of growing!
Don had said that they could take up to 10-14 days to grow. How little faith I had! After 6 days- Look! The seeds were growing in seemingly very poor soil and this encouraged me so much concerning the Mission School work we are involved in here, in Nepal. How wrong we can often be when we allow outward appearances to affect our judgment. For the first time, illustrated notes of many of my classes were distributed to the students. During the last 18 months, with the help of Don, Pastor Krishna, and 2 very dear partners, these teachings have been edited and translated into Nepalese. (Pastor Krishna has now expressed his desire that a proper book should be made containing all these teachings, so that it can not only be used at the Mission School, but also in many other places in Nepal. It is likely that we will need to work on this big project during the coming year.)

The Mission school was badly damaged during the earthquakes, but donations have permitted the building to be restructured, reinforced and repaired progressively. The school was held on the ground level of the building as the rest was still under restoration. Many of the houses surrounding the Mission School were very badly damaged by the earthquakes, and a neighbouring field has been transformed into a brick making-enterprise; obviously a much needed commodity in the aftermath of the tragedy. God willing, the 7th Mission School will begin in January 2017, and we are encouraged to announce that we have received the first donation towards this next school.

Finally, last but not least, I had the joy of spending precious time with the ‘Little Feet Children.’ Since the earthquakes, 2 of the little girls returned to live with their relatives, and the rest have been living in Pastor Krishna’s and Pabitra’s home. 7 older children are already living in this home, and a new room has been added especially for the ‘Little Feet’ children. I visited their school, situated very near the orphanage, and was able to directly pay this first term’s tuition fees.
I also took them out on a shopping spree to buy needed items such as shoes and school bags, but also some treats, including party dresses! When we got back to the home some of the children did a little fashion show in their new dresses! I was also able to take them all out to a restaurant where they had a taste of European style food, (pizzas, chips, burgers, fizzy drinks and ice-cream.) Of course they loved every minute of it, and finished all their food. They were so grateful for everything and one of the youngest ones said. “Very, very thanking you ...”

Don joins me in thanking all of you for your prayer support, and also for your generous donations, without which none of this work would be possible. Pastor Krishna and all his team also join us in expressing their sincere gratitude. We would also like to express our appreciation for the help we received from the 'Kerith Group' in the preparation of the cardboard “Visual Tool Packs”, for the students.

We will be shortly sending out our annual New Dawn News letter in which we will be also sharing about the ongoing work in Rwanda and Kenya. More details concerning the Mission School work can be found on our website: runwiththeword.net / The work concerning the Little Feet Children’s Home is featured on a-newdawn.org

Don and Jennie Waterman, 118 rue des Bleuets, 46130 Estal, France
Telephone : 00 33 (0)5 65 11 43 55
00 33 (0)6 11 14 12 99