

Friday November 21<sup>st</sup>

You have probably seen by now the dates that I have associated with the days is all screwed up. I lose track of all of that because it really is of no concern at times.

I slept good last night, rising at 6 am. I washed myself in a cool morning shower which got me even more awake. The shower last night was warm as there are some really old solar panels on the roof that still function well. Kara was also up and by 7:30 we were in the bazaar for breakfast. Sahadev found us and said that only Kashi, Suroj and Krishna would be going to the schools with us, he had to teach today. We would meet them at the hotel at 8:30.

We loaded up the school supplies and headed to the bazaar. I called Nafeeza's father to further clarify the situation and then met with Nafeeza. She was leaving within the hour. I wished her well and told her to call us if she needed anything and to keep us informed of her travel back.

Our walk to the first school, Tribhuran Primary, took about an hour and ½ and was all dirt road, up and down but not the challenge as yesterday. The head teacher there was Madhav Bhattarai, the same as my last visit there in 2004. The school serves 72 students with 3 teachers. Kara was staying here with Kashi and Krishna and would be teaching English to the students. She also had one of the class letters from Cheat lake Elementary in Morgantown to have a class respond to. They actually wrote it in English, unlike the others I have. She enjoyed her time there but felt inadequate because of the language barrier but everyone said she did fine and she enjoyed the experience. We left toothbrushes, first aid kit, a soccer ball w/pump, and pencils for the students. I also left Dave Roger's puzzles for each teacher to share with the students. The principal figured it out quite quickly!

I was moving on to another school another hour plus from here with Suroj and the principal there, Kedhar Bhattarai whom I had met several nights ago. I have never been to this school. As we were heading out they indicated we were taking a short cut and we went straight up and over the damn mountain. It was brutal, reminding me of last night's journey. The fact is that Kedhar walks to his school every day from Bandipur, a two hour trek and the students that are in high school in that village walk to Bandipur everyday.

We finally arrived at the school which sets out on a small point on the mountain. We were met by two rows of 4 students each which ringed our necks with flowers and Namastes! The school is Jharghaun Primary with 128 students and 3 teachers. I got a chance to find the water spring and wash a little of the sweat off of me and cool down a little. In a while I was asked to go into the class rooms, four of them, classes 1 -5. Each student...every student stood and gave me a flower and an orange, it was overwhelming! They were so sweet, full of smiles and shyness.

Suroj went into two classes with me and shared two of the letters from Cheat Lake, explaining what we wanted to do. They were agreeable but this would be done at a later date and mailed to me. I photographed these two classes to add to the letters when completed. The students then

lined up outside in about 8 rows and we handed out toothbrushes, WV pins, left a first aid kit, soccer ball w/pump, and pencils. I got a group photo with the students doing a Namaste with hands together. I said my goodbyes to them and thanked them for their wonderful welcome.

We then walked into the village to one of the teachers homes where she had prepared out lunch of traditional Nepali food. I also had one of the small, red and dried hot peppers..wow! I asked about bees and she showed me her beehive on the upper porch and then gave me a spoon of the honey. Very strong and tasty. I tried to leave her some of my bounty of oranges as a thank you but she pointed out two orange trees in her garden!

We walked back to Tribhuarn School the same way we came so I got another mountain workout! When we arrived, the school was just closing and Krishna had drawn a crowd of teachers and others watching him trying to solve one of Dave's puzzles. They were having fun with his attempts.

We headed back to Bandipur and had not gotten far when Kashi pointed out a woman cooking on her porch. He stated she was making the millet wine (whiskey) and I asked to go up and see. She was cooking and distilling just like back home only here it's legal. There were two pots on top of each other with the millet cooking in the bottom one. She was too shy for a photo.

We arrived back in Bandipur about 4:30. We had a cool drink before heading to the room to shower and refresh. We also ran into Sahadev's father, what a pleasure to see him again. He is such a kind man and we are looking forward to visiting their home tomorrow. We had moved into one room with me invading the space Kara had to herself so that we could save the expense of a room.

At 6:30 we went back to the bazaar to meet with Sahadev, Kashi, and Suroj, for dinner. Krishna also joined us as did another of Sahadev's friends whom I had not met before. Kara and I had a veggie burger, Nepali style and this particular café had terrible food. It was very greasy and not hot when served but the beer was cold. Sahadev and the rest were drinking rum and eating buffalo meat bits, telling jokes, and some folks still trying to figure out the puzzle. I gave one to a young boy of about 11 and he solved in almost immediately. Krishna was still trying....

So we headed back about 8:30. Nafeeza had still not called Sahadev to say she arrived in Kathmandu. Another great day here, see you tomorrow.

Peace

