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Subject: Katmandu 2

Good evening from the home of the "Monkey Temple", aka the "Buddha Eyes Temple".

This morning we had breakfast with Sahadev and his friend from Bandipur but can't remember his name. Very quiet fella, hard to engage him in conversation. Sahadev and I discussed the purchases that need to be made for the Bandipur schools and where we would be getting everything. We decided that we would buy the physics lab equipment here and the first aid kits supplies and soccer balls in Dumare, close to Bandipur.

We first went to the world heritage site of the "Monkey Temple" or Buddha Eyes. This sits at the top of a mountain above Katmandu and is actually a Buddhist village surrounding the temple. You have to walk almost straight up about 500 stone steps to get there, a pretty good huff and puff. True to its name there are a lot of monkeys running and jumping all over the place, a number of them with babies hanging off of them. The main temple is domed with Buddha Eyes facing the four directions and is rimmed with prayer wheels which I circumnavigated. There is another temple with a large statue of a golden Buddha inside and on each of its sides were either deities or former Dali Lamas. You could overlook the city on all four sides but it was smoggy as usual with none of the mountains in view. There were quite a few shops located underneath the houses selling Tibetan and Buddhist artifacts, paintings, statues, beads, masks, singing bowls, prayer flags, etc. It was an exhilarating experience to be there, go in the temples and say a quiet prayer for peace.

From there we went to the scientific equipment supply house. It took us about 2 hours to get it all together. Much of the time spent was in having microscopes set up for us to view and play with for quality and then having the 3 page invoice hand written out. We will pick up the equipment tomorrow on our way out of Katmandu.

Our next stop was back in our hotel area in Duhar Square, another world heritage site. This area has about 6-7 temples dating back 4-500 years and showing a mixture of architectural styles from Nepalese, Tibetan, Indian and Chinese, quite a mixture. Some of the interior design reminded me also of the Inca styles. I actually bought something from a vendor there, 2 pieces that are old from Tibet, both handmade and used by either monks or a family. These are the things that I prefer, older, functional items but jewelry does have an attraction also.

OK...gotta go. Need to take care of some things before heading to bed. Thanks to those who have dropped a line, sorry that I can't answer them all. Take care.

Peace

chuck