

Monday November 17, 2008

This is a day we had to ourselves as a number of Rotarians were headed to Kathmandu to see the Rotary International President in his first visit to Nepal.

I spent the first 3 ½ hours of the day in an internet station writing the journals that I sent that day for the previous three days. Kara made a few calls and hung out resting while Nafeeza went off with friends she had met.

Kara and I walked to the river in the early afternoon for a few hours. We got our feet wet, collected rocks and built a few stupas in the river. We had a small group of three young boys that hung a few yards from us just watching. Kara had bought some cotton candy earlier at the market and gave it to the boys, they were thrilled.

We ended back at the hotel, relaxing for the afternoon. We had tea later that evening with one of the Rotarians, Rajin, a teacher of 15 years whose school we visited the first day. He told us that in his home village he has planted 3000 shade grown, organic coffee plants. This is a new crop to Nepal and must be grown above a certain elevation. His long term plan is to be a coffee farmer.

The news on Nafeeza was that I ended up calling her father based on info that I had gotten from in an email. Nafeeza had been providing a skewed version of our journey in relationship to her "hardships". I quickly straightened that out with her father and then when she returned from her days activities I met with and confronted her, providing a mirror for her to reflect upon from my and others perspectives on her attitude and behavior. We had gone thru this once in India and it was becoming redundant. She was to speak with her father and discuss options.

Ok, enough of that. Here is something that I have forgotten in other emails.

Dave Rogers, a Rotarian from Grafton Rotary and master wood craftsman who makes puzzles had given me about 60 hand-crafted puzzles for the children and others here. I have begun to selectively hand these out for folks to solve and they have been enthusiastically received. Only one person so far has figured the puzzle out on their own. Thank you Dave and Grafton Rotary.