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Namaste honoured donors, sponsors and well-wishers.



2020 has arrived and it is winter (!?), So ideal to finalize the administration after months of stay in Nepal, finish the accounting, work out project proposals, set up school activities, tax certificates unsubscribe and prepare this newsletter for you, our backbone, the sponsors who make it all possible to make our dreams come true.

* Shortly after sending our previous newsletter, a tornado (1st time) hit Nepal: a few weeks later we repaired 7 schools so that they had a roof in time before the rainy season started.

* We and the Bsurre team, led by Doctor-Dentist Jan Dryhoel, have already set out 7 times to offer free medicine and dentistry to the underprivileged. Reinforced this year with Dr. Jos Vanhullebusch and their resp. companions that allowed us to treat twice as many patients as well as much more thoroughly and thus increased our impact.

* In our new project school "Shree Ambika Secondary" near Hyangja we installed a real lab with 25 computers and the toddlers also got a lot of news. A model school that we would like to help further.

* The Chinnebas school complex is finished and we immediately built a meeting room for the very lowest caste: the Dhalits. Unfortunately, our project partners of the Kerun Schoolprojects association are also calming down. We will miss them but we will continue for a long time. Needs are bothering us, but we have two. And yet, little by little on the way to an ideal world, isn't it?

Many greetings from the duty editor Paul Vande Moortel, chairman, as well as from Nita Buduja Pun and Dr. Jan Dryhoel (Bsurre).



In this newsletter:

Reinforced Bsurre-team.



Extra water for Siling.



Yet another computerclass.



Inauguration Chinnebaschool.



Tornado: Bsurre was FAST.



A tornado creates havoc and so we had to go.

On March 31, a tornado struck in the south: unseen in Nepal (climate change?!) and hit brutally a narrow random strip of land with many dead and injured. Houses, trees, fields and electricity poles that were torn apart. As were schools, their iron roofs blown away.

So we go there too. After the experiences in the 2015 earthquake, we were able to tackle it efficiently and firmly. With only a single but welcome emergency grant from the Province of West Flanders, we repaired the roofs of seven schools.

After the initial wave of solidarity from mainly Nepalese themselves with food aid, clothing and temporary tents donated by China, drinking water supplies by the Red Cross and Plan International, we discussed with the local crisis committee (especially the Red Cross there) where there were gaps in the aid. Immediately we received a list of all affected schools, the number of dead and injured children, etc. We could start immediately.

They guided us to the affected area where we navigated between the destroyed houses, bushes and fields. The army was at the scene making temporary shelters, a pleasant surprise. After all, it was only a few weeks ago and the spontaneous help had dried up.

The view was still unreal, a narrow strip of sometimes barely a hundred meter where everything was completely destroyed. An empty strip between perfectly upright houses and intact rice fields. Bunches of bamboo pulled out like weeds as by a giant hand and thrown to aside. Some neighbours got lucky, the other next door had absolutely nothing. Bizarre. Fate? Climate change?

Cash in hand, accompanied by a Red Cross post responsible, we visited a local distributor where we ordered metal corrugated sheets. Two tractor-trailers were immediately loaded and sent to the local Red Cross departments of Bara and Parsi districts. The Red Cross provided the most affected schools with a safe and watertight roof before the annual monsoon started.

The last Red Cross post in Parsi already had a connection with Belgium. The "Belgian Red Cross" had recently financed the construction of a workshop space and meeting hall. What a coincidence, but we were very welcome: those Belgians. It was a pleasant meeting and collaboration. Things get moving fast with a local anchored partner

However, it appears that some things were learned after the earthquake: especially the erected crisis committees, which were set up at the time and which still exist today, where all-important actors are represented, are now working together purposefully and efficiently. That way, nobody got in each other's way and fewer people got forgotten. And, the children were again able to go to a safe and dry school.



Our 7th tour again with a reinforced Bsure team.



Nurse Shanta Pun and Doctor Jan Dryhoel.

This year we received extra support from a retired doctor from the Lions Club Meetjesland, which enabled us to increase our impact seriously. Doctor Jan Dryhoel arrived a little earlier and so we went with Shanta Pun, our former nurse who had a school holiday, this time 600 km east to a help center run by the Belgian CPCS for which we also visited other help centers last year. Now, however, all the way to the east, in the pouring rain and with a few bumps - on the jeep - where we sometimes thought we could just simply be washed away.

Unfortunately, fate struck and Jan's brother died after a short but terminal illness. We were then just back at our base in Pokhara to stock up on new supplies and start another tour. Torn by a sense of duty to family but just as much to his waiting patients, I then decided to take Jan to Kathmandu at night for dinner on our first plane. I drove all night with a thermos coffee so early the next morning Dr. Jan could immediately leave for Belgium. In this way, he and his family could say goodbye with dignity.



Bsure-team, ready to go

But it wouldn't be Jan if he jumped back on the plane the day after the funeral and we could start for the first time in Bhakimele (see below). We have had to disappoint two villages, but we hope to make up for this with a longer stay next year.

And then, our reinforcement arrived: Doctor Jos Vanhullebush and his spouse Ann Van Der Vurst and also nurse Lieve Neiryck from UZ-Gent who was also there after the 2015 earthquake. In order to avoid the endless long journeys we mainly stayed in the Myagdi area for this part because our pick-up was full as our currently employed nurse Sasina Pun also joined our Bsure-team. During our stay, we also said goodbye to Shanta Pun, our former nurse who unfortunately was summoned by her husband to join him in Japan where he works and for which she stops her bachelor studies too. We are going to miss her.



Chitre, village committee in attendance of our arrival.

With our team and numerous local spontaneous volunteers, sometimes medically trained, we treated about 3000 patients in 6 villages, driving 4800km of which 2800km truly off-road (XL).



It turns out that we urgently need a solid mobile ultrasound and ECG device to better assess the patients.



Our supply of FREE medicine

Before Dr. Jan and Dr. Jos present their story, let us to thank all of them for the wonderful sacrifice to dedicate themselves to the rural population in the Himalayas. So THANK YOU to the Bsure team, the Nepalese staff and volunteers, Inge Bracke of CPCS and the Lions Club Meetjesland and other sponsors for their commitment.

An English doctor's couple will be joining us next year, so we promise.

Don't be too fast, Bsure!



Waiting on our local guide for our next scheduled medical camp.



Near Chitre, our medical post: no matter how beautiful the landscape is, you literally have to drive over the roadworks.



Report of Dr. Jan Dryhoel:

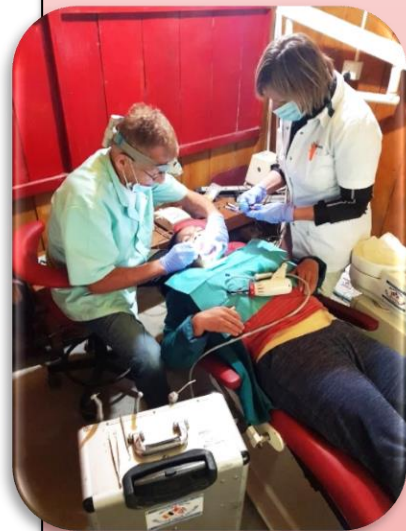


With a heavy heart, I left for Nepal on 25/9 for my seventh mission. My youngest brother, 64 and an ALS patient, had just been admitted to the clinic. They feared the end. I was therefore in serious doubt to leave Belgium. But work in Nepal was planned, and in the worst case scenario I could return.



Upon arrival we immediately left for Itahari, Eastern Nepal to work there for 3 days in a CPCS aid post. We got there in a late monsoon, but we were able to work well there. The 600km back to Pokhara we only reeled in two days. Busy track, dangerous to drive at night ... etc.

Back at our headquarters I received bad news from Belgium, and the same evening Paul made sure that I could return to Belgium as soon as possible. Our schedule fell apart, many villages had to be canceled, but we were promised that we would not forget them the following year. After a sad week in Belgium, I flew back on 13-10.



Without much loss of time we drove to Bhamikele to continue our program there. Nice location in a new construction school, but a little lack of basic facilities, such as water and electricity. It was running and flying to Pokhara (again having to drive at night ... dangerous), because the next day Doctor Jos, Ann and nurse Lieve arrived. Our team was therefore considerably strengthened and we were able to get to work. Doba, Chitre, Dana, Ghorka ... one post after another. Hundreds of patients seen, helped and sometimes forwarded for further care. Even now, months later, we follow up on two sick patients.

With a colleague, our local nurse Sasina from Chitre, and a few helpers, work went smoothly. We were able to treat a larger number of patients with 2 due to division of labor than if I were alone. (A hint to attract more volunteers ?!). Most complaints we see there are mainly skin diseases, osteoarthritis in women due to the heavy field labor and the up and down of the mountain trails, many stomach complaints due to the one-sided and sharp nutrition, and earplugs. Of course the classic colds in children and newborns as well as the hundreds of removed teeth and dental roots.



The trips were quite a challenge, since we were 6 with luggage, medical equipment and a generator. But we are quite used to it by now. Lots of home-stay and the occasional local hotel. In short, it was a whole adventure for the newcomers, but no one complained. Although occasionally a real "warm" shower is good.

After 3 weeks of intense work together, and after a day of rest in Pokhara we went to Kathmandu. Halfway we worked 3 days in a beautiful village high on a ridge located in the Gorkha district. To end up in Kathmandu. After another day of sightseeing in, among others, Durbar Square, where people are diligently restoring with foreign aid and the large temple complex Pashupatinath with a combustion site for the deceased, we flew back to Belgium in early November.

It was a total of 6 intense weeks. Some thousands of patients were helped but unfortunately we were unable to treat many due to time constraints and specialized equipment. As we laboured continuously, Paul was sometimes forced to collect spare parts and medication in far away Pokhara. A special thanks to our chairman who is always willing to transport us to the most remote villages at night and in the morning. And given the state of the roads!



For next year we already have reinforcements from two English doctors, and hopefully others will also feel the calling.

And after Dr. Jan reports Dr. Jos:

The president of our Lionsclub introduced me to an early-fellow student, Dr. Jan Dryhoel. He had already been to Nepal 6 times to provide medical and dental care in remote mountain villages. At the request of the chairman whether I was comfortable doing 'hands on' work, my wife and I did not have to think long.

On October 16, 2019 we left together with Lieve, Jan's girlfriend, loaded with heavy bags full of medical equipment, towards Kath-mandu. To save time, we immediately flew to Pokhara, 200 km west of Kathmandu (6 to 10 hours by car depending on traffic).

In this base material and medicaments were checked after which we left by truck via "hopping and colliding" roads towards Doba.

A beautiful and authentic village, where no tourists come, only footpaths and stairs made of rocks, a car could not enter. We had to walk a bit, luckily helped by eight tough men and women who brought our bags and boxes up to a room that we set up as a "medical post" located on a small square that served as a waiting room. With the help of our partners and the local nurses Shanta and Sasina we were able to provide the many people with the necessary care. We rarely had electricity and it became pitch dark at 6 pm, the mobile phone also usually failed. We stayed on the spot in a 2 out of 3 wooden room with a large window... without glass. We learned "basic" living and sleeping, washing ourselves with the icy mountain water. We stayed there for 3 days and after (obligatory) thanksgiving we left for 3 days to the next village of Dana and then to Chitre via the inevitable bad roads. Fortunately we had a very good and experienced driver Mr. Paul, non-profit organization chairman, who took us everywhere safely.

Our last post in Ghorka was the epicenter of the 2015 earthquake. In those remote villages, judging by their clothing and footwear, there were many poor people. Jan and Lieve had their hands full with dental treatment. My wife and I worked as in our former general practice, but with more primitive means, sometimes minor surgeries also happened. The people were once thoroughly examined and treated, the NGO provided support if further investigations in a hospital were necessary. Since people lived far from a city, this was no easy task for them. Some had never even seen a city before because everything had to be done on foot.

The stay among the Nepalese and the work we could do there was a very challenging and educational experience in a beautiful country. Signed Jos Vanhullebusch.



A completed project: the (re) construction of a school complex in Chinnebas:

In April we travelled to Nepal together with the leadership of the Kerun school projects association to inspect and officially open the final phase of the years of renovation work. It was nice weather and good weather. For six years



we worked on the school here to rebuild a complete lower secondary. Another 4 community houses were built nearby, a small cooperative local bank was supported and the earthquake damage to the houses and schools was repaired. We think we have made a real difference here in these villages.

However, we are not leaving completely: the real challenge now is to provide quality education. That is why we send volunteer teachers here every year, with our educational boxes, who temporarily teach the local staff advanced educational techniques.



Unfortunately, our partners of the Kerun association stop. After all, we are all getting older. We would especially like to thank them for their years of positive cooperation and we wish them all the best.



Our new project school: The Shree Ambika Secondary School

Our new project school is doing well. In full expansion and packed with new initiatives. Thanks to their 3-year British Council Award, they receive a lot of new substantive input. Teachers go on courses and they now have a sister school there, as in India, to exchange their living world and get a broader view of the world.

We also do our bit. After providing nursery classes with carpet, pillows and interactive TV, we have now also donated 25 computers and a printer to the school to create a full-fledged IT class for their new upper secondary they started this year. This year class 9 (cf. 2nd degree), next year 10 will be added and so on to 12 (cf. 6th secondary). Since they want to focus high on technical directions, a solid computer lab was recommended and thanks to an allowance from the Province of West Flanders, this has been successful. We are still looking for sponsorship for custom furniture and hope to find it this year.

And so, at the official handover of the computers, we were met at the school gate by a music band and showered with garlands. It was a pleasant reception with singing and dancing, the children and teachers made a long line from the pick-up to the school to pass the computers from hand to hand. Later we brought a television, printer and storage cabinet. A speech was given in English this time as this school is now an English-language school with all courses thought in English.

We are also planning to introduce a first Nepalese school bus on electricity, but an initial proposal from a group of young Nepalese engineers is so expensive that it may not be feasible. A "normal" bus costs € 20,000, the electric one would cost at least € 72,000!

We also visited it with a Canadian professor, retired IT specialist. Of Flemish descent and left for Vancouver at the age of 14 because he supposedly had no future here at school?! He has however studied there for Civil and Industrial engineer. Also holds a pilot's license and currently chairs an inter-university IT integration working group. Somewhat bizarre story, right. Now we hope with this distant "cousin" of ours to get some quality improvement of the technical directions and maybe have some ideas about our electric bus problems.

Many poor children here. For example, we have a brother and sister who recently became an orphan. They now stay with their grandmother who is also a widow and has no real income. Fortunately, we have found an ex-volunteer teacher from Sweden who will support them further in their studies and maintenance



Our water project in Earthquake epicentre.

In Siling, a lot of work was done to expand the water supply to three more villages. Six kilometer pipes and an additional eight 5000 liter water tanks were installed. In plastic, but really earthquake resistant, easy to maintain individually and more importantly: expandable according to need. Because it is impossible to predict the capacity actually required in the future. So too much wild guessing.

Seven villages now have access to spring water. This still has to be filtered, because especially in the monsoon season this water is periodically contaminated with surface water from the then swirling stream next to the source. Fortunately, we have just received an allowance from the Bruges Fund for Development and Cooperation and we will install it on site in April-May.

The villages involved will take care of the maintenance costs - which are minimal - in order to provide safe drinking water for hundreds of families in a very sustainable way.

Meanwhile, 4 years after the devastating earthquake and where the entire village was almost flattened, the village is busy rebuilding their houses. With an allowance from the government for a meager € 2,400.00 (!?). And therefore mainly with remittances from family members working abroad, contemporary houses sprout everywhere in the village. Small because of the money and the government inspector who imposed a lot of building restrictions in exchange for the subsidy. It takes some getting used to the modern - rather boring - building style, which completely removes the 'Bokrijk' feeling that these old villages had. Fortunately, they decorate the facades with bright colors. Also positive is that they provide a final or better sanitary indoors and also in the kitchen a gas stove with smoke extraction, which significantly improves the quality of life.



30.000 liter storage near the source.



29.000 liter and 19.000 pumped up to distribution point in Siling.



After their normal working hours the villagers work at the project site.



40.000 liter extra storage capacity for seven villages in Manakamana V.D.C.





Bhamikele school: finishing construction.

Not much to report besides the fact that we are waiting for an allowance from the Province of West Flanders to continue. Now that 2020 has started, we hope to be able to transfer funds soon so that we can start with the completion and implementation. The sanitary block also has to be constructed and we also hope to make the school a bit greener by, for example, planting flowers on the roof frames, but we are still looking for some budget for that. Meanwhile, 2 teachers from the American Peace Corps are working and we have held a medical camp there for 3 days. All schoolchildren also came under the microscope of our diligent on-duty doctor cum dentist Dr. Jan Dryhoel.



Our very first project in Chitre: de Shree Lali Gurans Primary school.

The number of students continues to decrease here, so it is time that all schools in the area work better together. In Ghorepani or an hour away on foot but now only 15 minutes due to the construction of a road (earth road is true) we discuss with that village to send the children from there to our school.

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Mean while...in Belgium...

To collect money for our Study and Emergency Fund, we hold numerous workshops and fundraisers in various schools and at North-South festivities such as the 'Feest in 't Park' and the Oxfam gift fair in Bruges, 'Couleur aan Zee' in Middelkerke and our Nepalese snacks at the North-South festival at Den Bruul in Leuven.

This year we were also a guest at the Sint-Rembertschool in Torhout, the primary schools GBS De Mosaïek in Roosbeek-Boutersem, the VBS De Leeuw in Zedelgem and the GBS in Sleidinge and in Sint-Michiels. Because awareness is also important here in the country. Interested parties: visit our site via this link: <http://himalayanprojects.brugseverenigenen.be/ActiesinBelgi/Educatiefenactiematerial> for a complete overview of our offers.



Primary school in Zedelgem



Our info-booth at events



Primary in Sleidinge.

News from our other joint ventures: Visit their website for more news.

- The Aasha Project association helps in EDUCATION: In Dadhikot, Kathmandu, there are children who do not go to school, or send them to the cheapest government school. Aasha helps by paying school bills.
- The Aasha association also gives MICRO CREDITS: we give interest-free loans to poor people, families or communities who want to start a business and lack the capital.
- Aasha does EMERGENCY AID: Through gifts and interest-free loans we help many families from Dadhikot rebuild and build a house after the 2015 earthquake. Many people are also affected by the monsoon floods in the plains. We help by donating goods, food and emergency funds. Sometimes people come knocking on the door for an invoice that cannot be paid or a sick family member.
- More detailed information? See: www.project-aasha.webnode.nl.
- Nepali Child vzw supports an orphanage in Balaju, Kathmandu (see: www.fcwc.be).

Our plans in Nepal for 2020:

- Interior and finishing of the secondary school in Bhamikele, Myagdi district.
- 8th tour with the Bsurre team led by Dr. Jan for free medical camps, this year supplemented by a retired couple from England.
- A small primary school in Hyangja gets some help.
- New applications are examined and project sites visited.
- In Siling (7 villages) we install a filter for potable water.
- We also manage our schools and medical post and help through our Study and Emergency Fund.



Our plans in Belgium for 2020:



This year we have the school promotions in our regular schools in Zedelgem, Torhout, Sleidinge and Sint-Michiels.

We also hold workshops in VBS in Roeselare and VTI in Bruges. Stand work includes a food stand at the Leuven Wereldfeest on 7/6 at De Bruul and an information stand at the Feest in 't Park in the Minne water in Bruges on 27/6. Furthermore, our information booth also at Dunia in Koksijde on 12/7, Couleur aan Zee in Middelkerke on 13/7 and the Oxfam Gift Fair in the Bruges Halls (Market) in mid-December.

Important update: as of March most events have been cancelled because of the Covid 19-virus. So also for our projects this means a huge financial setback as well.

And a special thanks as well tot he following:

Kerun society, Primary schools: VBS De Mozaïek (Roosbeek-Boutersem), Sint-Rembert School (Torhout), VBS De Leeuw Zedelgem, SBS Sint-Michiels, sportsclub 'Rap & Vrank' (Evergem), Lions Clubs 'Meetjesland', City council of Bruges, Beernem and the Province of West-Flanders.



How your support can make all this possible:

Financial support is possible with a deposit on BE14 3800 1081 6783 BIC-code: BBRUBEBB (Tax deductible for Belgium citizens).

- Our regular sponsorship - preferably monthly - is the ideal way to support our operations, as we can then make an annual forecast and guarantee the regular operation of our school and medical projects. We suggest 20 euros per month, but another amount is also possible.
- A one-time deposit helps us make up for our fixed operating costs and purchase extras. For example, we can hand out a toothbrush with paste for 25 euro cents to the children during our Bsure camps.
- Benefit and fundraising activities: Do you want to organize something with your school, association or friends, acquaintances or work colleagues? Maybe your employer can also invest? We have a lot of didactic and decoration material. A Nepalese meal and / or workshops are possible. You can view and / or download our educational folder on the hima-layanprojects.org website. This income is used for additional investments and the purchase of educational and medical equipment. We also use it to fund our Emergency fund for urgent aid and the Study fund for higher studies.
- Make us heir in a mono or duo legacy. How? See our website, via your notary or also on testament.be.
- Why don't you become a volunteer? In Nepal we have a great need for doctors, dentists and teachers. Sense?

Already a sponsor?



Then you can help us further by making word of mouth, because we do not spend your sponsor money on paid advertising. Leaflets and newsletters are available on request.

More news on:

www.facebook.com/HimalayanProjectsVZW.

After this umpteenth newsletter and licenced by a newly issued six-year permit from the Ministry of Development Cooperation and Finance, an urgent call for support for everything we want to achieve. Lots of work to do in Nepal. Only, nothing is possible without your input. Our fixed operating costs in Belgium are minimal, barely 2.39% in 2019, we ourselves work as a volunteer. So think of us - or even better: THEM to work together towards an ideal world!

Closing remarks:



After wading through countless rivers we still have thanks, thanks, thanks! So a first thanks to all our sponsors, individual or groups, schools and institutions. Your support is essential.

Thanks too to all volunteers in Belgium, the Netherlands and Great Britain: Alex Van Maele, Hedwig Racquet and Eddy Goemans of the Kerun Schoolprojects npo and Dr. Jan Dryhoel, Dr. Jos Vanhullebusch, Lieve Neiryneck, Ann Van Der Vurst of the Bsure team, Jim Coleman and Barbara Porter of the Help NGO (UK), Project Aasha npo and Inge Bracke and staff of the CPCS.

A final thanks to a few Nepalese specifically: our ex-nurse Shanta Pun, our new staf Sasina Pun and Deepak Pun in Pun House (Headquarters Pokhara). In Belgium : our secretary Nita Buduja Pun and her sister Nar Kumari Pun.

And "last but not least" we wish you, your family and loved ones good health and good luck. Together we make: "Ripples in an ocean of mountains".

Namasté (good day), the Bsure team!

Doing good feels good.



Bsure-team-on-the-road.