



Next Generation Nepal

## NGN Newsletter

December 2006

### Dear Friends of NGN,

We've got some great news for you this month!

First of all, in the month of December we opened our children's home, less than three months after arriving in Nepal.

Second, the NGN team had remarkable success in finding the families of trafficked children in the mountains of Humla; it is a critical first step in reuniting children with their own families.

I hope you can take a few minutes to read about our adventures here in Nepal – after all, it is YOU who made all this possible – we rely completely on private donations from readers of this newsletter.

Please feel free to visit our website or contact us directly – you will find all NGN contact information at the end of this newsletter, including how you can make a contribution if you would like to help support our cause.

Thanks again for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Conor Grennan  
Executive Director  
Next Generation Nepal



Conor with Raj Kumar, one of the rescued children now living in NGN's children's home

## NGN finds families of trafficked children in the remote mountains of western Nepal

For three weeks in December, I led a four-man team into Humla, the poorest and most remote region of Nepal, trekking through the mountains from village to village, carrying photos and profiles of trafficked children. Our mission was to find the children's families, from whom they were taken years ago by child traffickers.



NGN's team trekked three weeks through the mountains to find families of trafficked children.

The search was extremely difficult, but yielded extraordinary results: of the 24 children who we knew had parents somewhere in the mountains, we found 24 families – every single family we were searching for.

From the moment our tiny plane landed on the dirt airfield in Humla, we were unsure how successful we would be. The region has been controlled by Maoists for the last decade – foreigners, and even most locals, were unable to enter southern Humla without being subject to attacks and heavy fines levied by the rebels. It had only been seven months since Nepal's revolution against the King (after which the Maoists had agreed to lay down



Villagers in Humla finally live in peace following ten years of civil war.

their arms and join the political process) and only weeks since the peace agreement had been signed. We were concerned that the rebels in this remote region would not abide by the truce after a decade of absolute power.

But times had changed. We not only received permission from the Maoists to enter the area, but even their assurance that we would

be given all assistance to help and protect the children of Humla in this new era of peace. For our team, more dangerous than the Maoists would be the network of child traffickers in the area; for our protection, we traveled with another four-man team, a group working for a different organization but with a similar mission. Together we formed a strong team of eight – seven men from Humla and me.

It soon became clear how parents in Humla could be completely cut off from their children in Kathmandu.



Upon learning what their child had gone through for the last years, there were tears....

The terrain is extremely challenging – it takes days to get anywhere, as there are no roads and not a single wheeled vehicle. The poverty is absolute – there is no electricity, bridges have been destroyed by the Maoists, most villagers are fed by the World Food Program, and homes are

made of mud. There is almost no medicine, no toilets, no glass. They are cut off from the world.

But thanks to our dedicated local team, we were able to find parents. We would enter a village (stared at by every man, woman and child) and meet with the village elders to help locate the father and mother. Once found, we would show the parents a photo of their son or daughter who had been taken years ago by a man demanding exorbitant amounts of money to put the child in a boarding school in Kathmandu. Instead, he simply abandoned the

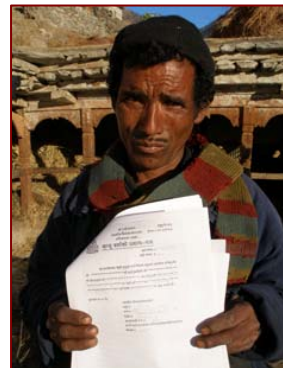


...but also smiles of relief and gratitude that their child was safe.

child in a destitute orphanage, from where we rescued them.

Upon a parent seeing the photo, there was instant recognition, followed by an outpouring of tears, smiles, and all the villagers wanting to see the photo of the miraculously found child.

In perhaps the most remarkable case, we found the family of a boy we



A father holding his own death certificate, forged by corrupt officials to allow traffickers to take guardianship of his child

had thought to be a true orphan – I even had death certificates for his father and mother. We were stunned to discover the boy's entire family alive, including siblings and grandparents, living in a small village called Jaira. The death certificates had been forged to allow the trafficker to take custody of the boy nine years ago. His crime led a 14 year old boy to grow up believing he had no family in the world.

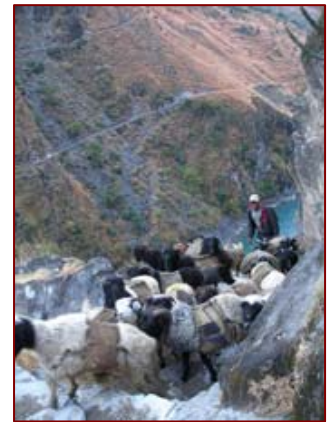


A father once thought to be dead writes his first letter to his son in nine years (with the help of the local primary school teacher).

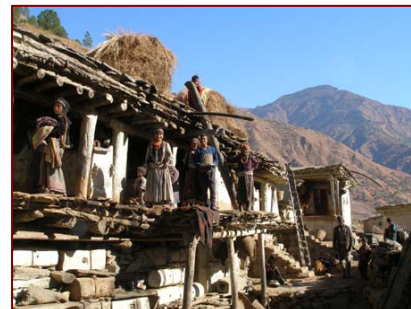
In a difficult but joyful moment when I returned, I was able to carefully tell the boy (with whom I am very close), that he had parents, brothers, and sisters, all who missed him terribly and were so proud of him.

Then, as I did for other children, I handed the boy a letter from his father. It was an emotional moment for a child who had been told his entire family was dead since he was 5 years old.

The sad truth was that the large majority of parents had no idea where their child was, had not heard from them in years, and had only received a vague assurance from the trafficker years ago that their child was in a boarding school. We had the difficult role of informing them that not only was their child not in any school whatsoever, but had been so malnourished that when we rescued them we had to rush them to the hospital just to keep them alive.



A shepherd transporting rice provided by the World Food Program along the cliffs of Humla



A typical village scene in Humla

The trip to Humla was also physically difficult. The mountainous terrain was unforgiving, we were snowed in for some time, then trapped on the top of

a mountain for five days waiting for a World Food Program helicopter that never came, then had to walk twenty seven hours in the last two days, even at night along cliff walls – it was critical that we reached Simikot in a short window of time when the snow was cleared (so planes could land) and before it snowed again (which would have trapped us in Humla for weeks). We made it; it's a long story.

But the end of that long story is that twenty four families have their children back in their lives thanks to our efforts and, most importantly, *solely*



from donations from readers of this newsletter which paid for 100% of this trip. Now we must continue to work to find ways of returning children

to their parents safely – a long and deliberate process – but

**Interviewing a mother to determine the child's family history and build a case against the child traffickers**

we have taken the first step to giving the children a future thanks to you!



## NGN Opens a Home for 26 Trafficked Children in Kathmandu

After months of preparation and fund-raising, NGN has opened its children's home! In cooperation with my very capable colleague from France, Farid Ait-Mansour (with whom I worked in the Godawari children's home) and his organization Karya, and operating within the legal framework of the Umbrella Foundation of Nepal, we opened our doors to twenty-six



**Dhaulagiri, the children's home opened by NGN, is now home to 26 happy and safe children**

in destitute orphanages in Kathmandu.

children, all of whom had been trafficked from different parts of Nepal then abandoned

We named the house "Dhaulagiri" after the world's seventh tallest mountain here in Nepal.

Twenty six children (16 boys and 10 girls) all desperate for love and attention, now have a safe home, are going to school, have new clothes (the few clothes they had needed to be thrown out as they were infested with lice and scabies), eat daal bhat twice a day, and have a live-in staff who are devoted to caring for them full-time.



**Ashok and Karma Lal, two of the boys recently rescued from a child trafficker**

Of our 26 children, 7 of them came from the rescue of the Hattigauda orphanage in Kathmandu, run by a powerful child trafficker, an abusive drunk with connections to government officials; the Umbrella Foundation was working on rescuing the children for many months.

The rescue of Hattigauda was legally complicated, and took several tries over the past months with police presence – it was even featured on the evening news and in the newspaper.



**Anita and Nisa, 2 of 10 little girls in Dhaulagiri House**

Two days before I arrived back from Humla, the rescue finally happened. Farid, who lives in our children's home and who takes the lead in managing the daily affairs of the house, and Jackie Buk (country director of Umbrella) were present for it, and did a fantastic job making the children feel safe and

welcome.

It was not an easy few days for the children from the rescue. In what turned out to be serendipitous timing, our three friends visiting from America, Kelly and Beth Caylor and



Liz Flanagan, happily worked as NGN volunteers to take special care of the rescued children during the difficult transition.

**Volunteers Liz, Kelly, and Beth hanging out with our kids – Sunita, Beki, and Unga Debi**

And after just a few days, the children were smiling and laughing and (as you can see) using Liz and Kelly and Beth as human jungle gyms.

As usual, the Umbrella Foundation, our local partners, deserve all the credit for helping to pressure the Nepali authorities to rescue the children and providing so many children with excellent care here in Kathmandu.



## NGN's Humla search reunites two trafficked children with their families

The trip to Humla to find families yielded some surprisingly immediate and positive results. Among the first fathers we found in Humla were the fathers of Dharma and Bijay, from a small village called Danda Faya. (Dharma and Bijay were two of the six rescued children featured in the November newsletter.)



**Bijay's father, who we found Humla, was reunited with his son just three weeks later**

Incredibly, from that meeting and the information I gave the fathers about their sons, they came to Kathmandu just a week later to find their children and take them back to their

home village. This all transpired while I was still in Humla.

In a great coincidence, I then met them in the airport in Nepalgunj, a transit point between Kathmandu and Humla, on my way back to Kathmandu. Dharma's father was bringing them home after a scary, and nearly fatal, year for them. As happy as they were in our

children's home, it was no comparison to how thrilled they were to be with their true parents and going home!



**Dharma and Bijay, returning home after surviving a very scary year with child traffickers**

There is still one child missing from the children that we rescued in October, featured in the November newsletter – Barke Buddha, who is about six years old. We continue to work closely with the government's Child Welfare Board to rescue Barke, who is being held in Kathmandu as a domestic servant. This particular case continues to be our top priority.

In Dhaulagiri, we keep one bed free, reserved for Barke.

## How you can help these kids...

NGN relies solely on donations from the public to support our operations

We operate on a **shoestring budget**, but we hope you have seen that a little can go a long way!

### Some sample costs:

- Basic **food** for one child for one month: \$20
- Basic **medicine** and hospital check-ups for one month for ten children: \$150
- The **full yearly cost** of supporting a child (including all food, school fees, school books, clothes, medicine, local staff, etc): \$1000
- A **four-week mission to find parents** of trafficked children, including airfare to remote regions and local staffing costs: \$2500

There is no minimum or maximum donation – every dollar helps!

## Donating is easy and tax-deductible:

**Online:** Donate securely using your credit card via Paypal by visiting [www.nextgenerationnepal.org](http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org).

**By check:** Please make your check payable to “Next Generation Nepal” and mail to:  
1 Wing Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Please visit [www.nextgenerationnepal.org](http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org) to learn more about our organization and sample costs, or contact us directly at [info@nextgenerationnepal.org](mailto:info@nextgenerationnepal.org).

**Thank you for your continued support!**