

Hump Day!

Description

Actually, tomorrow (the 26th) is our mission halfway mark! 274 days down, 274 to go. If we don't extend, that is. If we fall so much in love with this work and the Nepali people that we will want to stay here yet a little while longer — time will tell how it will all play out!

We are fully engaged now — and not just with humanitarian work!

To explain, let me first quote [Raffi](#), whose sentiments I love:

*All I really need is a song in my heart
Food in my belly and love in my family
All I really need is a song in my heart
Love in my family*

*And I need the rain to fall
And I need the sun to shine
To give life to the seeds we sow
To give the food we need to grow*

*All I really need is a song in my heart
Love in my family*

*And I need some clean water for drinking
And I need some clean air for breathing
So that I can grow up strong
Take my place where I belong*

*All I really need is a song in my heart
Food in my belly and love in my family
All I really need is a song in my heart
Love in my family*

The parts about love, of course, permeate everything we do. What it says about needing some clean water for drinking and “to give life to the seeds we sow, to give the food we need to grow” speak to our two projects currently in process. One is to supply by piping it from mountain springs, clean drinking water to 450 families in a remote village. The other is to give 257 families in another rural area the increased farming know-how and resources they need to provide food for themselves and sell the excess to the market, thus assisting them to be more self-reliant.

These two projects are in partnership with CHOICE Humanitarian, who we've mentioned before, the NGO that LDS Charities Nepal has been working with for years. Kiran is the CHOICE Program Director. In addition to his friendship (see below) he has energetically and eagerly supplied us with the

detailed proposals we need to engage this process of lifting and blessing lives. We look forward to working closely with him and other members of the CHOICE team, as well as with other NGOs (e.g., Days for Girls, also see below). Harmonious working relationships remind me so much of the musical experiences I've so enjoyed throughout my life.

Continuing, from a song I learned on my (first) mission, lyrics by [Sammy Davis Jr.](#):

*The world is made of music,
Never ending symphonies of sound surround us,
Miracles of melodies are found around us too.
It's a musical world, such a beautiful world!*

*Ding, dong, sing a song of spring and summer,
Spring song, summer song and all brand new.
I love music and I know that you do too.
It's a musical world, such a beautiful world!*

Why the musings on music? Because a handful of Kathmandu branch members have expressed interest in learning what we have to teach them about music. Conducting, piano, choir, etc. Next Saturday begins the adventure in learning for all of us. Wish us luck!

Speaking of halfway marks, in my personal study I'm a little over halfway through the Book of Mormon, in Alma 32. I love Alma! I love all the prophets in this great book, actually, but Alma's blend of mind and heart, of logic and feeling, really speaks to me.

The closing paragraph of Hugh Nibley's minimal statement on the Book of Mormon says:

"The Book of Mormon is the history of a polarized world in which two irreconcilable ideologies confronted each other and is addressed explicitly to our own age, faced by the same predicament and the same impending threat of destruction. It is a call to faith and repentance couched in the language of history and prophecy, but above all it is a witness to God's concern for all His children and to the intimate proximity of Jesus Christ to all who will receive Him."

To quote C.S. Lewis, with whom I'm in perfect agreement:

"I believe in Christ like I believe in the rising sun. Not because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

Of course, I still see imperfectly. I falter and stumble and mess up. But I'm trying to be like Jesus. I love Hugh Nibley's word-pair — "intimate proximity" — I love that this is claimable through meditation and prayer and repentance and living His commandments as I strive to receive Him and come unto Him. May we all so strive!





At our neighbor's birthday celebration. She and her husband run an international pre-school.



At our dinner invitation with Kiran and family. Kiran's mom (on my right) is the eldest sister of Bishnu and our branch president.



Maya at Days for Girls

The praiseworthy mission of [Days for Girls](#) is to increase access to menstrual care and education by

[...] mobilizing volunteers and innovating sustainable solutions that shatter stigma and limitations for women and girls.

Date Created

25 Jun 2023

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