

# THE FINAL EDITION

June 1, 2009



Sitting at Guru Lotus Restaurant watching the sunset over the hills and Lake Fewa in Pokhara Nepal.

Photo: Susan Smartt

## Logistics/Supporter Info

### 1) Ending Support:

Word Made Flesh (WMF) will accept donations up to 30 days after my last day (June 5th) to pay for my salary and my transportation home.

### 2) Discontinuing Auto-Deductions:

If you don't contact WMF to change to a new account, they will automatically discontinue your automatic deductions. I encourage you to consider supporting WMF Nepal, the community I have been serving with, as they continue to raise support to care for the girls and widows.

### 3) Where the rest of the money goes:

Any remaining funds in my account will be distributed to individuals and communities within WMF that are in need of support.

## Coming to an End Struggles, and Moving Home

The decision has come with counsel, thought, prayer and tears that I am sure will continue to flow. That is, the decision to leave Kathmandu and Word Made Flesh, and return to the states.

It has been a year of trying new things and finding fresh motivation, yet consistently returning to feelings of purposelessness, guilt, and failure. Added to that is my struggling health. Spiritually, physically, and emotionally I am at a point that it is unlivable for me in Kathmandu. Finally, it has become increasingly clear that the direction of the community is going a different way than my life is going. This has been hard to discern, because

the people in my community are such wonderful, loving, and caring friends. And they, like me, are trying to figure out how to best live this life in the way of Jesus. But while those are the same, our focuses, our concerns, and our hopes for the future are two very different things. So, while I leave them with sadness, I trust that God will lead all of us as we seek to serve and bless the world.

While it has been an intensely hard year, I am thankful for this time in Nepal, the struggles, the growth, the friendships and the ways God has used this place to change me.

In early June I will be on my way back to the states. I will

spend a week with my brother and his wife in Salt Lake City, before heading home to Minneapolis. I plan to be there for a couple months, reconnect with friends and family, rest, seek counseling, and gain some pounds. By the end of the summer I hope to be living in Chicago so that Susan and I can have, you know, a real relationship. Thank you for walking me these past 15 months, through the anticipation, the joys, the struggles and pain. Thank you for all of your support and love. The journey doesn't end here, though. So I pray you would continue walking with me.



Photo: Kara DeBruyn

*Left: Susan visited in April-May, and we got her a sweet Sari and went out for a fancy dinner. The picture here is taken after Rekha helped put the Sari on Susan at Karuna Ghar. Gorgeous, no?*

*Below: With Depa on the roof of Karuna Ghar while Calvin cooked us some amazing (water) buffalo burgers.*



## 15 Months A Time of Struggle, Growth

I first moved to Kathmandu, Nepal 15 months ago. Since then I have spent time with some amazing people. I have had the privilege of living alongside wonderful Nepalis who have given their lives to care for the most beautiful girls and widows I have met. If you are looking for pure and faultless religion, come meet my friends.

I have struggled to pursue ideals of simplicity, solidarity and community and consistently wondered how best to follow the way Jesus has shown us to live. Through that time I have had opportunities to volunteer at orphanages, homes for the elderly, homes for abandoned, abused, and trafficked girls. I have participated in ministry with boys who live on the streets. I have built friendships in the prison, in a slum on the streets, and I have been involved in prayer groups for the poor, specifically those sexually exploited and trafficked. All this I did in an effort to connect with God's heart for the poor and

oppressed, and to find the presence of Jesus in those the world has forgotten. It has been a year of exposure, experience, and learning.

This time has been incredible formational for me. It has been my first experiment with intentional community, my first significant step into relationship with the poorest of the poor and my first attempt at really adjusting to a new and completely different culture.

I have learned a lot. Most of all, I have learned a great deal about myself, some of my gifts, strengths and talents and some of the ways I hope to live in the future. I have also learned more about my inner self, my deep brokenness, my weaknesses, my insecurities and the ways I keep myself in control, safe, and affirmed by the world around me. Pray for me as I learn, grow and find my place in God's world  
Peace,

*andrew*