

February 2010



SAF Monthly Update



SAFOUNDATION

A Trip to the Front Lines in Butwal, Nepal

It always feels good to leave the pollution of Kathmandu. As you ascend out of the valley you literally can feel yourself drive out of the smog and into fresh air! As one of the travel books here said "don't spend more than 2 days in Kathmandu". I agree. The beauty of Nepal is outside of the cities!

Outside of the Kathmandu valley our eyes feasted on beautiful terraced hills, quaint villages clinging to the side of the foothills, old clay houses with immaculately kept yards, clean rivers and rhododendrons' coming into bloom. Four hours of winding roads later our bus emerges from the hills and into the Terai, the plains of Nepal. Before us life looks simple and slow. Girls on bicycles, kids strolling to school, women washing clothes in the river, farmers in the fields, cows, goats, chickens and pigs everywhere.

It is a perfect time of year to travel to Butwal, the small border town where our Recovery Home and Prevention programs are located, the air is not too humid and the mosquitoes have not yet woken up from their winter slumber! Compared to Kathmandu, Butwal is a clean, organized and quiet town. Even the streets have names!

Our beautiful recovery home is located on a quiet residential street on the edge of town. The rooms are bright and spacious and there is lots of room for the women to work in the handicraft program downstairs and attend the day program upstairs or play games. I was pleased to see lots of games and activities for the women to do like badminton or caroms (the national game).

All of the women seem to be doing very well! There are now 8 women living in the Recovery Home with two new participants who just arrived last week (2 beds are still vacant so please pray for those who have yet to come). It is always so interesting that one can easily see how long they've been there just by the look on their faces and the glimmer in their eyes. Those who have been with us for a while have such a pleasant demeanour about them and they are excited about the next step in life!

The purpose of this visit was to share with the participants what Phase II of the SA Foundation's (SAF) model looks like. They were

very excited to learn that SAF is committed to them for the long-term and that our support goes beyond the first year of recovery. A few of the women have been in the Recovery Home for more than 2 years and are anxiously waiting for us to open the Phase II program in Kathmandu.



Currently, we are still looking for 2 flats in Kathmandu. One will be a semi-independent residential house where the women will live together and the other will house the new handicraft training and employment centre and Global Wonders Kathmandu Store. As soon as these flats are found they will be furnished and the first program graduates will move in thus creating more space in the frontline house for new participants!

Please pray we find the right flats with understanding landlords and un-intrusive neighbours! If you would like to support these women as they enter the next phase of their recovery, start up costs for the 3 bedroom residential flat, handicraft centre and store is \$13,000 and annual operations costs for Phase II is about \$20,000.

For those women who are ready to venture out on their own and do not want to come to Kathmandu we have set up a Followcare Scholarship Fund to provide them with seed money to return to school or start their own small business. Some of the women have plans to start up a cosmetic shop or a tailoring business. The average grant to set them up in business is about \$600 and about \$200-\$400 a year for studies depending on their level. Please consider getting involved. These women need so little to get on their feet again, yet without this little boost they cannot do it on their own. By providing this scholarship fund we really can help these women turn their lives around and get excited about their futures. Let's get behind these women and help them to succeed!

The program in Nepal is affecting lives and changing paradigms! Thank you to all that have supported the SA Foundation in providing these necessary programs!

Blessings:
Naomi H.

Success story:

(Excerpt from recent Quarterly Report): One girl sold her piglets and arranged the money to pay for college admission. She is also involved in a monthly saving group. She is very proud to be able to continue her study. For her, to be educated is to open the gate of prestige, self-respect and prosperity. She shared that it was her dream to be highly educated and she has a hope with this Income Generating Program, her dream will come true. She added that without the support raised from this program, she, a village girl living in crisis couldn't have made it on her own.



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From Budapest...continued from January's Update

...It broke my heart to leave her there in that condition, but I would have hurt her more in the long run by making a crazy and impossible attempt at a rescue. I had to let her go to God and trust that He is watching over her....

To our delight God heard our prayers and she managed to escape through the help of a friend and is now safe in the only shelter in Hungary. However, there is still no long term solution we can offer her, only temporary shelter and a bit of safety. We long for the SAF model to come to Hungary - to give these young girls hope and a future as it takes more than a few months to heal the tremendous amount of hurt and abuse they go through.

Doncses Ildikó

The SA Foundation's Board of Trustees recently voted to add Budapest as a future program site in its 5-year strategic business plan. We seek your prayers and support! If you would like to know more about the Foundation's plans for this country contact Dominique M. or Carla D. at the coordinates below.

A Hurting Heart...

Have you struggled with repeated moral failures in your life? Do you find that you care too much or too little about what others think of you in your relationships? Do you find it easier to shift the blame or responsibility when you are wrong or do you own responsibility and promptly seek forgiveness? Have significant others caused you harm in a way that the pain touches all areas of your life? When confronted by authority figures do you get defensive or comply and feel used? In addressing the hungers (desires) in your life, do you turn to people, places or things other than God as the source of relief and satisfaction? Does your shame cause you to experience a sense of alienation from God and isolation from others?

These are just a few questions you might consider when deciding whether the Formation of Servants (FOS) is a program that could help in your growth process. The FOS is a tool for discipleship and personal growth that is available through the SA Foundation. It combines a study of key Bible passages with the 12-Steps of recovery. It can be done independently or in a group. The individual works through the material and reflects on the scripture, guided by the Holy Spirit, to address concerns in their own life. If done in a group, once their reflection is completed, they meet weekly with like minded people who are in the FOS program to share their work. These can be either geographically specific groups or a virtual group. For example, in Vancouver a group meets weekly. In San Diego, the GenerateHope team meets weekly. For those in other locations a web based forum is open for the same purpose. The web based/virtual group is made up of individuals from Budapest, Hungary; Mumbai, India; Kathmandu, Nepal; Lethbridge, AB, Canada; and Vancouver, BC, Canada who "meet" weekly online to share their work on the FOS and to respond to the work that others have posted.



One of the members of the Web Based group (RC) recently wrote this about the FOS and the Web Forum: "The timing for me to go through the FOS material is something that only God could have orchestrated. The day after I discussed the material with Steve and read through the first step our family was hit with a bombshell that really shook us. It brought all of my old junk back to the surface and I found myself in a lot of pain.

Reflecting on the first session prepared me in a real way for what I was about to go through. Just recently I began reading the posts on the FOS Web Forums of others who had journeyed through Step one. My heart that had been hurting began to feel comforted by others, who even though in different places in the world and different stages in life shared their heart in relationship to God. This was healing for me.

To be honest, I know that the process that I have signed up for will be long and will require me to give up my junk before God. I may call it junk but I really want to hold onto it. I pray for the humility and for the strength by the power of the Holy Spirit to uproot that which clings so closely."

As a friend of SAF International you may want to join the FOS community to gain a deeper appreciation of what the women we serve have to go through in terms of recovery. The revenue from the materials and program all go to the ongoing work of SAF in its mandate to serve sexually exploited youth, women and their children

Contact Steve L. to sign up for this program! Online web board support is made available with all registrations.
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Global Wonders will be online!

Coming in March Global Wonders handicrafts will be available in an online shopping cart!

Once the cart is live you will be able purchase these one of a kind handmade items from the comfort of your home and keep young women in the SA Foundation's Nepali project employed!

An integral part of the recovery program to survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking (or to those at high risk of being trafficked), the Global Wonders products are more than just fair trade - they give the opportunity for young women to learn transferable skills and to earn an income while participating in the Foundation's long-term recovery programs.

Every bead strung, every fiber woven builds the foundation of a new life free from abuse and degradation!

Stay tuned for a special email in March letting you know when you can shop!

And don't forget, hosting a home, office, church or school party is still the best way to provide a deeper level of education about the cause of sexual exploitation and trafficking!

Email us at globalwonders@safoundation.com to book a party today!



GET INVOLVED TODAY!

There are so many ways to get involved with the SA Foundation! Here are just a few:

1. Take the Communicar Seminar! This educational online course will provide you with a deeper understanding of how young girls become enslaved in the sex trade, and will educate you about the realities of exploitation and recovery.
[Click here to learn more!](#)
2. Many have joined the Monthly Donor Program! as a way to equip the SA Foundation to consistently provide the care and services needed by participants to exit the sex trade and build a new life for themselves and their children!
[Click here to sign up today!](#)
3. Give a tax deductible gift. Your support is greatly appreciated! Every dollar translates into lives being saved!
[Click here to give a gift!](#)
4. Donate your airline points! Travel is expensive, and yet a necessary part of our work. Any help you offer in this area is greatly appreciated! Contact us at the number below for more details on how to donate your points.
5. Organize a small (or large!) fundraising event! Supporters have put together fun runs, bowlathons, luncheons, dinner events and the list goes on! Contact Dominique at the coordinates below to get yours started!