

Hello everyone!!

The kids are back from their winter holidays which they spent at home. It is wonderful to see them all back with us. There are some new 5-year old faces staying with us in the hostel....a few impressions....

Son Kumar

With his big brown eyes and chubby cheeks does he quietly stand apart from the others and observes whatever is going on. His hands clasped together and wearing small gumboots that are repaired several times with small pieces of rubber pasted on them. He does not talk at all those first few days and he hardly plays. He comes from a family with 8 children that lives in a very small bamboo hut in a high and remote place in the mountains. It is very cold there in the wintertime...And they don't even have electricity or running water....

Hissel Zangpo

He is a lively little boy who is already very much at ease from the very beginning and seems to feel at home. In our daily evening prayers he sits full devotion with folded hands and his eyes closed. His lips are moving as if he knows all these prayers already...a lovely little boy!

Sangay Thendup

This little boy also comes from a high and remote place in the mountains. His dad came to bring him and as soon as he left Sangay started screaming from the top of his lungs...."I want to go home!!!!" It is heartbreaking to hear him cry so loud.... It lasts some hours but luckily the next day he feels okay.

Ingya Subba

He has a beautiful and fine face with very big brown eyes. He does not talk....he does not play...but simply watches everything from a distance. This will probably take some time and then he will open up. His family lives in a very small bamboo hut without electricity or water. Father, mother and 4 children sleep together in one bed with just a thin mattress and only one blanket....so lovely to have this little boy living with us....

Ran Maya Gurung

She is a sweet little girl with a cute face and her own will. Without any difficulties is she able to adjust to her new environment. She comes from a poor family with 5 that lives in a very simple house.

Soon another 2 new kids will come and live in our hostel: Dawkit Lepcha from a poor family with 6 children without a father. Another one is Chungy Lepcha, girl from a family with 8 children...they have difficulties to make ends meet....These are exactly the kind of children from families that can do with some support. It is so wonderful to be able to offer this!!!

Next to these 7 new children in our hostel do we also have 7 new 5-year old dayscholars from the village Bhuriakhop itself.

.....In the meantime one week has passed and the new comers that were so quiet and withdrawn show a smile on their beautiful faces from time to time or they speak a few words!! It is so beautiful to welcome these new kids in 'our family'!! They are immediately accepted by the bigger ones as little brothers and sisters. We are assigning a bigger student to every little one so that they can help the little ones in their daily routine of washing, dressing, brushing teeth, going to bed, homework etc. and in this way the children are looking after each other. It is so wonderful to offer them a warm and safe to live and to give them the opportunity to develop all their personal qualities!

In the evening, at the end of every day we sit in a big circle in the hostel to recite our prayers and mantra's....that is such a wonderful moment of the day. I sometimes ask the children to whom we will dedicate that day's prayers. Dicky mentions her father who recently broke 4 ribs, we pray for Jamyang our principal who has been sick for a week and a half and we pray for other sick family members. Then Bibek (9 years old) raises his hand with a big smile on his face: "Miss, I want to pray for Palla's pig!!" ...so lovely!! Palla is the 60-year old man who works in our kitchen and keeps a small pig but it has been sick for a while, only lying on his side and not eating for several days... this has been the first time that I have seen a skinny

pig!!

Like this there are so many precious moments every day....the beautiful sound of children's' voices doing their prayers....the new little ones that are becoming at ease.... the many colorful orchids.... the early rays of sunlight coming over the mountain.....a peaceful silence in the hostel at night when all the kids are sleeping.....the sound of running feet when the gong rings for breakfast...happy faces in the dining hall....and the beauty of simplicity....Life is uncomplicated over here...and at the same time so full and rich!!!!

Love and blessings from all of us!!!

Hedwig