



## Trustees' Annual Report for 2010

Charity Number: 1112841

Prepared 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011

2010 has been another busy year with several new initiatives gaining ground. We concluded a reorganisation of the Student Sponsorship programme, shifting the focus from Butwal to Pokhara. This has made logistics considerably easier and less time consuming. We also began the process of recruiting a part-time Administrator in Nepal. We felt the demands on our volunteers' time were becoming unsustainable and we needed to spread the load to keep up with growth. So we began advertising nationally in Nepal for well qualified candidates.

The Trust's 'Radio Guru' educational broadcasts on Annapurna FM to the mid-Western region were featured in Cambridge University's report 'Cambridge and International Development: The ideas, the people, the impact' which was launched at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The report also featured our new partnership with Addenbrooke's Abroad which cut mortality rates sharply in a large teaching hospital in Pokhara.

We were pleased to find from one of our Volunteers that we are now recommended for Volunteering and Internships by the Lonely Planet Guide to Nepal. We participated in the annual lecture by the Humanitarian Centre (and as a member organisation we continued to contribute ideas and recruit volunteers through the HC). We also participated in the Medsin Cambridge Volunteer recruitment fair, succeeding in recruiting several medical undergraduates to work in Nepal through the Trust.

On the fund raising front we did less well than in 2009. We raised £21,053 although in large part the fall from £35,517.21 in the previous year was due to the end of channelling funds to build a school for the Big Hills Project. So despite expecting there to be a major fall in people's willingness to contribute, in effect it remained static rather than showing the usual year on year growth.

The converted Land Rover Ambulance arrived in Calcutta but required additional paperwork so was delayed at customs. It was released and freighted by train to the Nepalese border and held up again requiring more paperwork and some modifications before being allowed through. It is registered in Nepal and has treated over 1,000 patients for free on health camps, dental camps, etc. The Trust has a Memorandum of Understanding with Gandaki Medical College, Pokhara to share the costs of putting on regular health camps.

We invited Dr Iype Cherian to present a joint talk at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Approximately 150 turned up to hear about the Mountain Trust and Dr Cherian's neurosurgical work there. The event was

supported by the Senior Tutor at Emmanuel. The Master of Emmanuel and former Cabinet Secretary, Lord Wilson of Dinton, agreed to become one of our Supporters.

The Internship programme has continued to grow steadily and the Trustees have decided to introduce a registration fee of £200 per person working with us in Nepal (no fee for working with us in the UK). This is to set a modest 'seriousness threshold' for enquirers and to cover the costs of hiring a good Administrator to handle the necessary logistics in-field.

The Trust's Facebook group has continued to grow and whilst most interactions on it are irrelevant to the Trust's work, several useful leads or contacts have resulted. One of these resulted in some exciting high altitude genetics research into hypoxia (low uptake of oxygen into tissues and blood). The Trust has partnered with University College, London, Oxford University, the Royal College of Irish Surgeons and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute under the aegis of the High Altitude Genetics Consortium. We are advising on ethnicity, cultural issues and helping put the team in touch with senior medics in Nepal. We helped gain the necessary permissions from the authorities and have recruited medical volunteers to visit high altitude birthing centres to take DNA samples. The purpose is to develop a genetic therapy for patients in maternity and intensive care units worldwide.

The Trustees feel that a certain amount of restructuring has been necessary to cope with the pains of growth. By the end of the year, it was felt that we had strengthened our position considerably and were ready to grow to the next stage.

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